

put six-person teams into remote areas. State Emergency Service personnel, firefighters and volunteers were winched down to start an area search. At 4:45pm on 4 May, the four missing teenagers were found and guided to an open area for embarkation in the SouthCare helicopter which flew them to the *Albatross* medical centre. The teenagers had sustained scratches but no injuries. They were given RAN overalls and fed before being driven to Milton to meet their parents.

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Retirement of Fleet Air Arm's Hawker Siddeley 748s

The FAA's two veteran British-built HS748 turboprop aircraft were retired in June 2000 after 27 years of service. They entered RAN service in 1973 and were originally used for navigation training, communication and transport. In 1975, they were deployed to Darwin to assist in the evacuation of people following Cyclone *Tracy* and were awarded the Navy League of Australia plaque for this work. These same 748s were used during the 1989 airline pilots' strike to provide a service from Melbourne to Burnie, Tasmania. In gratitude for the provision of this important service, the City of Burnie presented plaques to be placed in the aircraft.



By the time of their withdrawal from service with 723 Squadron, each aircraft had flown more than 10,000 hours in a variety of roles. One was used for electronic warfare training and the other was configured for personnel and spares transport to support the first aircraft when deployed. They were the last RAN FAA-operated fixed-wing naval aircraft.

The RAN's two HS 748s flying low past Point Perpendicular, at the entrance to Jervis Bay, in the 1990s. The last fixed-wing FAA aircraft, they were retired in June 2000.