



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee
2:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 19 November 2008
Ministry of Transport
Level 6
Novell House
89 The Terrace
Wellington

Attendees:

Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)	Roger Brown (MoT)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)	Colin Small (NZ Coastguard)
Rachel Roberts (Outlook Media)	Ted Preston (NZSAR Secretariat)
Zelda Coetzee (MoT)	Gerard Prins (NZ Police)
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)	John Scobie (LandSAR)
Brendon Comerford (Kordia)	Hadyn Smith (LandSAR)
Dean Lawrence (NZ Coastguard)	John Yaldwin (AREC)
Mike Davies (DoC)	John Funnell (AIA)
Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat)	

1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat Manager [SSM]) welcomed everyone to the meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee. He introduced Hadyn Smith, the new Chief Executive of LandSAR.

2. Apologies

Geoff Logan (NZ Police), David Waters (Ambulance NZ), Bruce Reid (NZ Coastguard), Justin Young (NZDF), Catherine McGowan (NZDF), John Fogden (CAA), Jeff Sayer (AREC), Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee held on 20 August 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Matters arising from the previous meeting are on the agenda for this meeting.

5. Research and Reviews

5.1 Governance Review

The NZSAR Council decided at its meeting on 27 August 2008 not to proceed with a NZSAR governance review.

5.2 Training Review

Ted Preston presented a progress report on the NZSAR Training Review. He acknowledged successes in the sector and spoke about the barriers to collaboration, the focus on interagency collaboration, SAROP fundamentals, training implications on national, district, group and individual levels, and the next steps of the review. He thanked all those who had participated in the review and welcomed continued engagement for information and advice.

5.3 Volunteer Review

A revised draft terms of reference for a proposed volunteer study was represented to the committee for comment. No changes were suggested.

6. 2008 NZSAR Award

A subcommittee from those who had not nominated candidates was established to review the nine nominations received for the 2008 NZSAR Awards. Gerard Prins (NZ Police), John Yaldwin (AREC), Darryl Carpenter (MSC) and Brendon Comerford (Kordia) agreed to consider the nominations by the end of the week. Their recommendations would be presented to the NZSAR Council at their next meeting.

7. NZSAR Secretariat Matters

7.1 NZSAR Seminar and Awards

Carl van der Meulen presented a draft programme for the planned NZSAR Seminar to be held on 15 and 16 May 2009 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Wellington. The programme will include the 2008 NZSAR Awards presentation at Parliament, a combined NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee meeting and workshops for Land, Aviation, Marine and Strategic Communications.

A steering subcommittee consisting of representatives from NZ Police, RCCNZ, DoC, Coastguard and AREC was established to assist the SAR Secretariat with planning the seminar. Nominations for facilitators of workshops and international speakers were requested.

7.2 NZSAR Statistics 2007/08

Carl van der Meulen presented highlights of statistics of SAR incidents from 2004 to 2008, from information supplied by the NZ Police and RCCNZ. Trends over the past four years include:

- A small but steady rise in the number of aviation related SAR incidents;
- A three year trend of a decreasing number of incidents coordinated by RCCNZ driven largely by a decreasing number of marine incidents coordinated by RCCNZ;
- A marked increase in SAR incidents of all types coordinated by the NZ Police within the greater Auckland area;
- A drop in the number of distress beacon alerts driven largely by reducing numbers of undetermined alerts;
- An increase in the number of 406MHz beacon alerts and a corresponding decrease in 121.5/243MHz beacon alerts. This is in line with the general changeover of beacon type prior to 1 February 2009; and
- A large increase in 406MHz beacon registrations in 2008 caused by the public taking action to change their type of distress beacon.

7.3 NZSAR Stocktake 2007/08

Duncan Ferner briefed the Committee about the 2007/08 NZSAR Stocktake. The data is more accurate than the previous attempt due to improved access to information. The stocktake was distributed and is available on the www.nzsar.org.nz website.

8. General Business

8.1 SAR Sector and international contact update.

Due to lack of time, there was no sector update. Duncan Ferner and Carl van der Meulen gave short feedback on their respective attendance at the SARSCENE conference in Canada and attendance at the annual Australian Search and Rescue Council meeting.

8.2 Satellite distress Beacons

- Duncan Ferner reported on the switch to 406MHz beacons. The advertising campaign is well underway and new brochures and posters are available for distribution. He asked for assistance to have brochures distributed as widely as possible. A survey of the campaign will be conducted in February 2009.
- The SSM raised his concern about various commercial satellite tracking devices that have similar functionality to distress

beacons. After discussion, those present agreed not to endorse any devices other than 406MHz beacons.

Action:

The NZSAR Secretariat will prepare a media statement to clarify the 'Search and Rescue' position on emergency distress beacons for use by NZSAR Committee members as appropriate.

8.3 Annual Report

Copies of the NZSAR Council Annual Report 2007/08 were handed out. Rachel Roberts and Nina were thanked for their work on it. The SSM requested those present to help distribute the report to the sector.

8.4 Technology

Duncan Ferner had a variety of brochures on new technology on display. Those interested were asked to get copies from him.

8.5 Newsletter

The next issue of the newsletter *Link* is about to go to print. Anyone who wanted to have dates of events included should contact Duncan Ferner or Rachel Roberts by 21 November 2008.

8.6 2009 Meetings

The SSM proposed the following dates for NZSAR Consultative Committee Meetings in 2009:

Thursday 19 February
Friday 15 May (combined with NZSAR Council)
Wednesday 12 August
Wednesday 11 November

The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm.

DR Ferner
Chair

Action Points:

Action	Responsibility
Provide advice on 2008 NZSAR Awards	Awards subcommittee
Prepare a media statement re satellite tracking devices	NZSAR Secretariat
Nominate NZSAR Seminar facilitators	Committee as appropriate

The following Update from the NZ Police was provided after the conclusion of the Meeting:

394 Incidents have been recorded in the Police P130 data base for the 08/09 financial year to date. 185 Are Marine and 209 are Land incidents.

The Australian SAR Council meeting in Canberra was attended by Geoff Logan and Carl van der Meulen on 13 and 14 November 2008. Items of particular interest were current practice for termination of SAR incidents and refresher training for those who receive infrequent exposure to SAR incidents. It was also noted that, although registration of 406MHz beacons is mandatory in Australia, their statistics show that 30% of beacons are not registered. On average it costs AU\$4,000 to respond to false/undetermined beacon activations. If New Zealand follows the same trend, non registration costs will be at least \$255,000. The cost in New Zealand is likely to be greater due to non-mandatory registration.

Following the LandSAR NZ conference, a Police Incident Controllers conference is being held in Palmerston North. Discussions will include Service Level Agreements, Channel 16 protocol and other items affecting partner organisations as well as internal issues such as the revision of Manual of Best practice.

Geoff Logan has taken up a new role with Police and a new appointment to the national SAR coordinator's role is awaited. Geoff would like to thank all those involved in the Consultative Committee for their assistance and cooperation over the past five years and wishes you all the best for the future.