



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee
2:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 21 November 2007
Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand
Conference room level one
Avalon TV Studios Tower
Percy Cameron Street
LOWER HUTT

Attendees:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brendan Comerford (MOC) | Geoff Logan (NZ Police) |
| Graeme McKay (NZDF) | John Funnell (AIA) |
| Peter Williams (MNZ) | Rory Addison (MoT) |
| Rob Arlidge (LandSAR) | John Seward (RCCNZ) |
| Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ) | Duncan Ferner (Nzsar Secretariat) |
| Bruce Reid (NZ Coastguard) | John Yaldwyn (AREC) |
| Gerry Prins (NZ Police) | Rachel Roberts (Nzsar Comms) |
| Zelda Coetzee (MoT) | May Ioane (MoT) |
| Renny Van Der Velde (MNZ) | John Scobie (NZ LandSAR) |
| Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ) | Steve Cruickshank (NZ Coastguard) |

1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner (Nzsar Secretariat Manager [SSM]) welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of 2007.

2. Apologies

Mike Cuddihy (DOC), Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ), Jeff Sayer (AREC)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Nzsar Consultative Committee held on 15 August 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

There were no matters arising that were not part of the forthcoming agenda.

5. 2008 Budget Initiative

- **Update on Process:** The SSM gave a brief outline on the proposed SAR budget initiative for 2008. He outlined the assessed challenges and risks for the sector and noted that they will be incorporated in the 2006/2007 annual report.

It is envisaged the budget bid will be handed to the Minister of Transport in the coming week, with a decision expected around April to June 2008.

- **Hypothecation:** The SSM briefed the meeting on the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill as being a possible source of revenue for search and rescue training and activities. The Bill is open for submissions to the Transport Select Committee until 20 December 2007. The SSM explained the process on how to make submissions to the Transport Select Committee should the members so wish.
- **RCCNZ/Police organised Training & exercises:** Geoff Logan gave a presentation on a variety of joint SAR training initiatives should funding become available.
- **RCCNZ improvements:** Renny Van Der Velde briefed the committee on improvements to the RCCNZ should the proposed funding be made available. Key areas of focus are finalizing of Service Level Agreements (SLA's) and an improved Information Management System.

6. NZSAR Communications

The SSM introduced Rachel Roberts, Communications Consultant, and thanked her for the publication of *Link*, NZSAR's first newsletter. He explained the purpose of the newsletter and asked attendees to distribute it as widely as possible, and to provide feedback on its usefulness. The SSM requested attendees to contribute to NZSAR publications.

The NZSAR annual report was discussed noting the aim to have it delivered by mid December 2007.

Action: Members to provide good quality SAR photos to the SSM for future use as they become available.

7. Beacons

The 2007-2008 beacons advertising campaign was outlined and new brochures presented to the committee. Assistance was requested in distributing them appropriately.

8. NZSAR Award 2007

Two nominations were received:

- **Tasman Search and Rescue:** For the rescue of Dr Brewer from the middle earth caving system in August 2007. This was a large, complex and difficult rescue of 70 hours and involving 98 people.
- **Pukehina Surf Rescue:** A 6.1m boat rolled on Pukehina bar in very rough weather. Four people were on board, including two small children. Three people were trapped in the overturned boat for 20 minutes. The rescue was physically very dangerous for those involved. The rescue lasted an hour-and-a-half and involved three lifeguards.

Action: A non-conflicted subgroup was appointed to consider the nominations and make recommendations for the NZSAR Council to consider at their meeting on 28 November 2007.

9. NZSAR Stocktake

A presentation on the 2007 NZSAR Stocktake was made by the SSM and a lengthy general discussion was held. The SSM noted that the 2007 NZSAR Stocktake was a first attempt with improvement for future similar Stocktakes envisaged.

The Committee agreed that future figures must include those instances when SAR organisations monitor developing SAR incidents and plan ahead for potential SAR activities. In addition, accurate figures relating to the number of people at risk, the number of lives saved and the number of lives lost in relation to SAR incidents must be included in future stocktakes.

Action: Future NZSAR stocktakes are to incorporate data relating to:

- potential/preventative SAR incidents; and,
- lives at risk and lives saved or similar.

10. Sector update

- **NZSAR Secretariat:** Work continues delivering the objectives in the NZSAR strategic plan, focusing particularly on resources, communications and metrics.
- **New Zealand Defence Force:** NZDF AFLOs have responded to 12 calls by RCCNZ so far during 2007 for Class 3 SAR events but have only had to launch aircraft on four of those occasions. In some cases, aircraft were prepared for flight but the SAR situations

were resolved before launch. This may be attributed to the continuously improving capability of the RCCNZ.

- **New Zealand Police:** Further to the Police P130 Land and Marine SAR Incident Reporting form upgrades, final drafts of an electronic learning tool, Epiplex, have been completed. Word versions of the Lotus Notes templates have also been drafted and will be made available to partner organisations when completed. It will be possible to attach these Word versions to the Police forms and should ensure more complete capture of information. Police have held conferences for Police SAR Incident Controllers in the North and South Islands. Useful discussions were held and attendees were generally pleased with the SAR activity that had occurred.

Police thanked No. 3 Squadron for their continued support for SAREX's throughout the year as squads benefited greatly from that assistance. The last Air Ambulance reference Group meeting was held on 13 November with Mel Smith and Henry Dowler due to attend the Council meeting next week. A report to Ministers was expected early in the New Year. Deodar III is currently undergoing sea trials and is outperforming its anticipated capabilities. It left Wellington on 21 November 2007. Police reminded attendees that December through to February and April (Easter) were particularly busy months for SAR as shown by statistical records.

- **LandSAR:** NZ LandSAR will have its 2008 annual conference 21 – 23 November 2008 at Massey University Palmerston North. Sponsorship will be needed to make the conference a success. NZ LandSAR has recently contracted an economic analysis of their contribution to NZ society.
- **Maritime New Zealand:** The departure of Chris Raley was noted. The development of service level agreements is a high priority. Staff levels remain low at RCCNZ.
- **Ministry of Transport:** The MoT is working on both the initiative and the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill
- **NZ Coastguard:** The vessel replacement programme continues, North Shore Coastguard has recently taken received of a new vessel and a further 9 will be delivered over the next 12 months. Coastguard vessels are trending towards smaller and faster boats. It was noted the boats generally are getting more affordable which may lead to an increase in boat ownership in New Zealand.
- **Aviation Industry Association:** AIA noted that the installation of 406 MHz ELTs in aircraft is increasing. The development of joint service level agreements will be warmly received.

- **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications:** An internal training programme is nearly completed. This was linked with a stocktake of personnel and assets.

11. General Business

- **SARSCENE 2007:** Geoff Logan briefed the committee on his attendance at the recent annual Canadian SAR conference.
- **Australian SAR Council Meeting:** The SSM gave a presentation on the Australian annual SAR conference, which he and Geoff Logan recently attended in Melbourne.
- **Biofuel:** The committee noted that bio-ethanol was unsuitable for use in boats but that bio-diesel did not present any problems.
- **NZ Maps:** A new set of NZ maps with different grids will replace current maps in 2009. This may present problems for SAR in late 2009 and will have to be managed carefully.
- **Venues and dates for 2008 meetings:** There was some discussion about changing venues for 2008 meetings. The general preference of the Committee was for meetings to be held in Wellington, with opportunities to visit other centres and organisations to be arranged.

12. Proposed next meeting: 27 February 2008

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm.

Antarctica NZ submitted the following update following the meeting.

Antarctica New Zealand. Antarctica New Zealand has finalized two major improvements to Antarctic incident response and SAR:

- Antarctic Search and Rescue Training Manual & Instructors Training Curriculum. A comprehensive manual and instructors handbook has been written to promote the highest level of training and standards for responding to technical SAR operations. The manual has been accepted as the key training standard by Antarctica New Zealand, the US Antarctic Program, and the Australian Antarctic Division. The acceptance of this training package will allow safer and more efficient responses across the Antarctic continent. This manual was developed in consultation with the Search and Rescue Institute of NZ (SARINZ).
- Incident Management & Pre-plans Handbook. A full rewrite of Antarctica NZ's incident management system is now completed. A quick access handbook has been developed to help command team members to respond to any incident type. Continued work is occurring to clarify the response roles of RCCNZ, Antarctica NZ and the US Antarctic Program when responding to SAR events in Antarctica and specifically with in the NZSRR.