



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee  
2:00 – 4:00pm Thursday 28 February 20087  
Ministry of Transport  
Level 6  
Novell House  
89 The Terrace  
Wellington

### Attendees:

Geoff Logan (NZ Police)	Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)
Graeme McKay (NZDF)	Rory Addison (MoT)
Rob Arlidge (LandSAR)	David Waters (Ambulance NZ)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)	Colin Small NZ Coastguard)
Bruce Reid (NZ Coastguard)	Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ)
Rachel Roberts (NZSAR Comms)	
Zelda Coetzee (MoT)	
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)	
Jeff Sayer (AREC)	

### 1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat Manager [SSM]) welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Consultative Committee of 2008.

### 2. Apologies

Mike Cuddihy (DOC), John Yaldwyn (AREC), John Scobie (LandSAR), Peter Williams (RCCNZ), Jim Stuart-Black (NZ Fire Service), John Funnell (AIA), Gerry Prins (NZ Police).

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee held on 21 November 2007 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### 4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

Those matters arising from the previous meeting are on the agenda.

## 5. Introduction: Manager RCCNZ

Nigel Clifford, recently appointed as Group Manager of the RCCNZ was welcomed to the meeting. He briefly introduced himself and expressed his intent to apply an open and cooperative approach to RCCNZ's relationship with the sector.

## 6. NZSAR Communications

**Annual Report and Link #1:** The SSM asked for feedback about *Link*, NZSAR's newsletter and the SAR Annual Report. Most feedback was positive. Bruce Reid suggested electronic distribution in order to ensure wider distribution. The SSM requested attendees to continue providing feedback and to contribute to NZSAR publications at any time.

**Action:** Members to continue to contribute to publications.

**Link #2:** The second newsletter is about to go to print. It includes a SAR events calendar and the SSM asked for input to the calendar.

**Action:** Members to advise of any additions to the SAR calendar.

## 7. New National Map Series

The SSM introduced and welcomed Robyn Nicholl and Graeme Blick from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to the meeting. They gave a presentation about the new Topographic Map Series, Topo50 and how it may affect emergency services. Good general discussion was held and attendees were encouraged to subscribe to receive regular updates. Graeme talked about a public communications and education programme in support of the launch of Topo50. He offered to present or provide presentations to raise awareness of Topo50 at meetings or conferences if required.

**Action:** SSM to send copies of the presentation to attendees.

Those who wish to subscribe may do so at:  
[newmapseries@linz.govt.nz](mailto:newmapseries@linz.govt.nz) or visit [www.linz.govt.nz](http://www.linz.govt.nz).

## 8. 2008 Proposed Budget Initiative

The SSM gave a brief overview on progress regarding the budget initiative and the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill, currently before the Transport and Industrial Relations Select Committee. The SSM said that he is working on the premise that the bid will be successful and stressed the need for joint service level agreements to be in place to manage funds, should they be approved. Maritime NZ and NZ Police will negotiate with agencies and NGO's in this regard. The SSM, Nigel Clifford and Geoff Logan informed the meeting that draft joint service level agreements are being prepared.

## 9. Beacons Campaign Update

An update was given on the 2007/08 beacons advertising campaign.

## 10. International Contact

A draft international contact paper was distributed and discussed. The paper includes various proposals for the NZSAR Council to provide leadership to the sector in order to give structure and coherency to New Zealand's international contact. Consultative Committee members endorsed the paper, subject to some amendments. They agreed to use the Committee as a forum to share information regarding international contact.

**Action:** Comment on the paper was provided. Erik Barnes is to provide specific wording relating to Antarctica NZ. The SSM will further develop the paper and seek endorsement of it from the NZSAR Council.

## 11. NZSAR Strategic Plan 2008 Update

The Consultative Committee noted the intent to redevelop the NZSAR Strategic Plan. Following general discussion, the Committee indicated a desire for the plan to better articulate the scope and nature of the sector, and for a high priority to be placed on goals relating to preventative SAR, SAR related research, volunteer issues, collective and individual training and the location and nature of SAR assets and a better description of the NZSRR to explicitly include New Zealand's Antarctic area of SAR responsibility.

**Action:** More comment from Consultative Committee members would be provided before the next meeting.

## 12. NZSAR Class System Update

Nigel Clifford and Geoff Logan updated the meeting on progress on revising the class system. The aim is for a simple, practical and renamed division of SAR coordinating responsibility.

## 13. General Business

- **2007 NZSAR Award presentations:** The NZSAR Award presentation will take place at Parliament on 10 April 2008. All Consultative Committee members will be invited to attend. The Committee endorsed modest support by the NZSAR Secretariat for recipients to attend the ceremony.
- **Tax treatment of honoraria and reimbursements paid to volunteers:** The SSM had more information available for those who had an interest in this issue.

- **McAuley incident:** Nigel Clifford gave feedback on the Coroner's report on this incident. Copies of the report were available from NZRCC.
- **Drowning Rescue Database:** A researcher from Otago University is identifying databases related to drownings . The SSM had the survey forms available for those organisations who wanted to participate.
- **17<sup>th</sup> International Safe Communities conference:** Anyone interested in the conference could contact the SSM for more information.
- **Wanganui incident:** Geoff Logan said that a full debrief on the incident was planned for the following Monday, and that no comment would be forthcoming until then.

#### 14. Sector update

- **LandSAR:** NZ LandSAR will have its 2008 annual conference 21 – 23 November 2008 at Massey University Palmerston North. Internal governance issues are being addressed and core documentation is being re-ratified. The economic analysis of their contribution the New Zealand society has been released.
- **Maritime New Zealand:** Nigel Clifford emphasized his intent to apply an open and cooperative approach to RCCNZ relationship with the sector.
- **Ministry of Transport:** The MoT continues to work on the Land Transport Management Amendment Bill.
- **NZ Coastguard:** Coastguard noted that the summer has seen an increase in recreational boat usage but a decrease in calls for assistance. This was attributed to unusually calm weather and better educated boating populace. Approximately 13 000 day skippers have been trained. Now-casting instant weather reports have 85 percent coverage. At operational level, coastguard has had several successful meetings with NZ Police and RCCNZ to resolve operational issues.
- **Amateur Radio Emergency Communications:** An internal training programme is now complete.
- **Ambulance New Zealand:** A National Standard was nearing completion. A briefing from the Air Ambulance Reference Group was due to Ministers soon. The document contains no strong recommendations and deals mostly with governance. It was noted that ACC would re-tender for air ambulances in 2008 for implementation in 2009. It was also noted that is now possible to live track air ambulances.

- **The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council:** They have redesigned their business model and have introduced a research function. Some research output may be of value to SAR agencies. The Council intends to emphasize both increased participation in outdoors activities, as well as the skills to participate.
  - **Antarctica NZ:** Antarctica NZ noted an increase in tourism (land, sea and air) to Antarctica, increasing the probability of SAR incidents in the region. The summer season has now ended. The season saw approximately 350 people deploy to and around Scott Base with a further 4000 deploying as part of the US Antarctica programme. Antarctica NZ continues to work closely with RCCNZ, NZDF and the US Antarctic programme to improve systems and processes. Training standards and manuals have been established and deployed. These have been shared with other nations.
  - **New Zealand Defence Force:** NZDF experienced a quiet SAR time during the summer. They've recently had two requests for SAR response from Australia and particularly noted an operation to relieve an Australian Dornier SAR aircraft within the Australian SAR region. NZDF are changing the way that they interface with RCCNZ. A reorganisation within Joint Force Headquarters New Zealand will result in a change to Air Force Liaison Officer support to RCCNZ. P3K Orions are now approved to operate in Antarctica.
  - **New Zealand Police:** Points noted throughout the meeting.
  - **Aviation Industry Association:** Not present (represented by Ambulance NZ).
  - **New Zealand Fire Service:** Not present.
  - **Maritime Operations Centre:** Not present.
  - **Surf Life Saving New Zealand:** Not present.
  - **Federation of Commercial Fisherman:** Not present.
  - **Department of Conservation:** Not present.
12. **Proposed next meeting:** The next meeting will be a combined SAR Consultative Committee and NZSAR Council meeting, proposed for 28 May 2008.

The meeting concluded at 4:00 pm.