



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee  
2:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 12 August 2009  
Ministry of Transport  
Level 6  
Novell House  
89 The Terrace  
Wellington

### Attendees:

Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)	Rodney Bracefield (RCCNZ)
Roger Brown (MoT)	Gerry Prins (NZ Police)
Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)	Rachel Roberts (Outlook Media)
John Yaldwyn AREC	Zelda Coetzee (MoT)
John Fogden (CAA)	Brian Dobbie (DoC)
Amy Greig (MoT)	David Waters (Ambulance NZ)
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)	Colin Small (NZ Coastguard)
Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ)	John Funnell (AIA)
John Scobie (LandSAR)	Hadyn Smith (LandSAR)
Ted Preston (NZSAR Secretariat)	Simon Eichelbaum (NZDF)
Brendon Comerford (Kordia)	David Shearer (SARINZ)
Phil Pollero (NZ Coastguard)	
Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat)	

### 1. Welcome

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

### 2. Apologies

Pete Dawson (Commercial Fishermen), Mike Davies (DoC), Jeff Sayer (AREC), Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ), Bruce Reid (Coastguard) and Bruce Johnston (NZ Police)

### Absent

Jim Stuart-Black (NZFS)

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the previous combined meeting of the NZSAR Council and the NZSAR Consultative Committee held on 13 May 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **4. Matters arising from the previous meeting**

- **6.1:** Consultative Committee members to inform the SSM of any issues that their volunteers are facing with regard to insurance. The SSM welcomes more feedback.
- **8:** A section of SAR prevention is to be included in the NZSAR Plan. The SSM reported that this had been done.
- **10.1:** Consultative Committee members are to inform the SSM of any updates to the SAR SLA/MOU Map. The SSM reported that some responses had been received.

### **5. Service Level Agreement (SLA) monitoring report**

Carl van der Meulen gave an update on the status of Service Level Agreements with LandSAR, Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ. He gave an overview on the 2008/09 year.

#### **5.1 LandSAR**

- Statistics for both the quarter and the year were given for SAROPs, volunteers used, volunteer hours provided and number of people at risk, rescued and perished;
- A National Training Coordinator had been appointed (Ross Brown) and two Field Support Officers will commence in September;
- An online reporting system is about to go on trial;
- Some LandSAR groups are still struggling to get P130 details from NZ Police, especially event numbers;
- LandSAR have entered into a Community Partnership with TVNZ.

## 5.2 Coastguard

- Statistics for both the quarter and the year were given for SAROPs, volunteers used, volunteer hours provided and number of people at risk, rescued and perished;
- Statistics were provided for non-SAR activity for the quarter and the year;
- 32 New or refurbished rescue vessels have been completed over the last 16 months, including vessels in Hawke's Bay and Tauranga during the last quarter;
- The Coastguard unit at Cape Egmont has been terminated, and Maketu Sea Rescue has been accepted as a new Coastguard unit;
- The statistics show that almost half of people assisted by Coastguard during the year were assisted during the January - March quarter.

## 5.3 SLSNZ

- Statistics for the half year were given for SAROPs, volunteers used, volunteer hours provided and number of people at risk, lives saved, lives rescued, people assisted and fatalities; and
- Statistics were provided for the year for patrol hours, rescues, first aids, searches, preventative actions and safety interventions.

## 6. NZSAR core curriculum development update

A core curriculum progress report was distributed prior to the meeting. General discussion was held about the most appropriate way to communicate the work to the wider SAR community. The report was accepted and referred to the NZSAR Council.

## 7. Sector Update

- **RCCNZ**
  - The following courses are planned for this year:
    - Air Observer;
    - Air Observer Refresher (which will be conducted out in the Police Districts); and
    - On Scene Coordinator. This course is highly desirable and planned to be run later in the financial year.
  - RCCNZ management and staff plan to visit the regions more this financial year.
  - Rodney Bracefield is the RCCNZ contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **MoT**
  - MoT is working on LTMA Act Section 9(1) policy. Plan to have this completed by October 2009.
- **LandSAR NZ**

- The LandSAR Strategic Plan 2009 – 2014 has been completed.
  - The constitution is currently being reviewed. The plan is to focus more on LandSAR groups and less on regions.
  - Team leader competencies have been developed.
  - A new reporting system has been developed and is being deployed.
  - LandSAR has put in place death and disability insurance for its volunteers.
  - The LandSAR website has been redeveloped.
  - LandSAR is undergoing a capability assessment of its 70 groups.
  - Ross Browne is the LandSAR contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **Federation of Commercial Fishermen** Not present.
- **Ambulance NZ**
    - The joint Ambulance NZ/AIA Air Standard is currently out for consultation. Consultation period ends 30 August 2009.
    - David Waters is the Ambulance NZ contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **DoC**
    - Nothing to report.
    - Mike Davies is the DoC contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **Antarctica NZ** Not present.
- **SLSNZ**
    - Project Groundswell, the internal reorganization of SLSNZ, is coming along well with almost all regions agreeing to the proposal.
    - SLSNZ currently has an internal/process focus in preparation for the coming summer. Operationally, it is business as usual.
    - Project Beach-Ed has been very successful with over 30,000 school children receiving SLSNZ presentations in schools.
    - Brett Sullivan is the SLSNZ contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **Coastguard NZ**
    - The Coastguard conference will be held in Christchurch 25 – 27 September 2009.
    - Several new vessels have been launched and more will be shortly. 32 Boats have now either been launched or refurbished.
    - A radio room is being built in Whakatane.
    - One new unit has been accepted into Coastguard and one has left.
    - Rebecca Karl is the Coastguard contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.

- **MSC**
  - MSC website upgrade – rebuild of website; invitation to give feedback; request that colleagues ensure their organisations and links still present; and rebuilt site can be found at [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz).
  - Avalanche incidents – some recent high profile incidents; two fatalities; huge snow loading; HIGH avalanche warning; MSC advisory working well and can be found at [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz); and public education programme is continuing.
  - Visitor intention system review – MSC working with sector colleagues in the review and re-development of a robust, appropriate, easy to use access visitor intention system; steering group has tasked project team to proceed to phase 1 (review current, create options, provide recommendations).
  - Visitor risk management – MSC hosted sector collaboration meeting; four projects: 1. Agreed sector-wide key messages, 2. Assessment and refining sector preventative messaging collateral, 3. Organisation roles and collaboration for preventative education and messaging, 4. Research on participation and incidents to provide data and information for evidence based decision making.
  - Chris Tews is the MSC contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
  
- **AIA**
  - Nothing to Report.
  - John Funnell is the AIA contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
  
- **New Zealand Police**
  - Digital radio roll out is progressing;
  - The SAR chapter of the Police manual has been updated and is available online. The revisions place more emphasis on SAREXs and family liaison;
  - Police run training courses continue; and
  - The CIMS blue book should be updated by March next year.
  - Bruce Johnston is the Police contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
  
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- **MOC**
  - The winter period is seeing fewer incidents but longer ones;
  - Staff retention is improving with the downturn in the economy. The new staff brought in are now fully trained; and
  - The MoC is currently looking at a variety of technical issues.
  - Graham Turner is the MOC contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
  
- **SARINZ**

- SARINZ is running a large number of courses, more than ever before; and
- NZOG sponsorship has allowed SARINZ to initiate a report into the impact of SAR.
- Dave Shearer is the SARINZ contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
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- **CAA**
  - Growing interest in flight tracking devices. The technology is maturing quickly and promises to be a very useful adjunct to 406MHz ELTs; and
  - Increasing development in UAVs. Some may eventually be applicable to SAR situations.
  - John Fogden is the CAA contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **AREC**
  - A joint SLA with AREC has now been reached for the 2009/10 year;
  - AREC is working on reformatting its reporting system to align it with the SLA requirements;
  - AREC has seen more of its members conducting SAR training;
  - The SLA has allowed reserves to be spent on updating a number of HF radios around the country; and,
  - AREC is assisting the preparation of the NZSAR Land Communications workshop.
  - John Yaldwyn is the AREC contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.
- **NZDF**
  - A very busy period, with a number of 3 Squadron call-outs or alerts domestically, and a series of 5 / 40 Squadron SAROPS in the maritime environment;
  - The first of these was in early July – an outrigger ferry with 50 people on board capsized on 13 July in the vicinity of Tarawa, Kiribati. NZ HiComm only became aware by accident on 16 July and a C130 was dispatched. A P3 was re-tasked from a NORPAT on 17 July and coordinated body recovery. Earlier notification would definitely have saved lives;
  - Further searches included an accidental 406MHz activation near Tuvalu, a red flare sighting near Va'vau, and the Princess Ashika tragedy commencing 6 August, involving two P3's and further NZDF support with dive teams and a support vessel deployed to Tonga;
  - Lastly on 10 Aug a P3 was dispatched to Tarawa to search for an overdue fishing boat with three people on board. On 11 August the boat was located with all alive and well, and a rendezvous with the Kiribati patrol vessel effected. In this case prompt notification and quick action led to a successful result;
  - This high rate of effort highlights an on-going issue that will be present over the next 18 months; stretched resources as both 5 and 40 Squadrons undergo fleet upgrade programmes. There is

an increased risk that P3 SAR coverage may not be continuously available with two aircraft simultaneously undergoing modification. While 40 Sqn endeavour to continue coverage with C130 there is some risk of short periods where neither is available. Careful management will minimize the risk; and

- On a more positive note the Navy has taken delivery of their In-shore Patrol Vessels, and these are in the process of working up crews to the required level of capability.
- Simon Eichelbaum is the NZDF contact for the next step of the Core Curriculum.

- **NZFS** Not present.

## **8. Environmental risk assessments Beach to Peak**

DoC and SLSNZ gave a presentation on environmental risk assessments, the methods they employ and how they go about mitigating risk in the environments they assess. The methodology they employ was of great interest to the Committee as it can be utilised in a number of environments.

## **9. Planned NZSAR Workshops**

The SSM outlined proposed NZSAR organised workshops for Hoist Operators, Land Communications, Dementia and Marine SAR. The Committee welcomed the initiative and supports their purpose and objectives.

## **10. SAREX Discussion Paper**

A discussion paper about improving the coordination of major SAREXs was discussed. The paper was strongly supported by the NZDF, RCCNZ, Coastguard and LandSAR. NZ Police voiced some concerns. Several suggestions were made to improve the paper before it was referred to the NZSAR Council.

## **10. General Business**

### **10.1 Good Practice Guide**

The ACC sponsored Drowning Prevention Strategy has identified the need to a good practice guide for water rescue. The Committee supported the initiative and offered assistance in its development.

### **10.2 NZSAR Annual Report**

The SSM requested those present to provide images for publication in the Annual Report.

### **10.3 NZSAR Website**

The NZSAR website has been redeveloped with additional functionality. The SSM welcomed feedback.

#### **10.4 Air Operators Workshop**

RCCNZ briefly spoke about the success of this workshop.

#### **10.5 NZSAR Resource Database**

RCCNZ briefed the meeting on the ongoing development of the database.

#### **10.6 NZSAR Awards**

The Committee confirmed that the format remained suitable and should be continued for the 2009 awards (to be held in April 2010). Nominations throughout the year were invited.

#### **10.7 Conferences**

- The FRSTO Conference will be held on 19 - 20 October 2009 in Rotorua; and
- The Water Safety Conference will be held on 26 - 27 November 2009 in Wellington.

#### **10.8 Other business**

No additional items were raised.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 25 November 2009.

The meeting concluded at 4:20 pm.

DR Ferner  
Chair