



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee
2:00 – 4:00pm Wednesday 20 August 2008
Ministry of Transport
Level 6
Novell House
89 The Terrace
Wellington

Attendees:

Jeff Sayer (AREC)	Rachel Roberts (NZSAR Secretariat)
Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ)	John Seward (RCCNZ)
Rory Addison (MoT)	John Scobie (LandSAR)
FltLt Catherine MacGowan (NZDF)	Mike Davies (DoC)
Ted Preston (Contractor)	Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat)
David Waters (Ambulance NZ)	Mike Cuddihy (DoC Canterbury)
Dave Jane (DoC)	Erik Barnes (Antarctica NZ)
Brett Sullivan (SLSNZ)	Bruce Reid (Coastguard NZ)
Darryl Carpenter (MSC)	Colin Small (Coastguard NZ)
John Funnell (AIA)	Geoff Logan (NZ Police)
Gerry Prins (NZ Police)	Brendan Comerford (MOC)
Carl Van Der Meulen (DIA)	Zelda Coetzee (MoT)
Pete Dawson (NZ Fed Commercial Fisherman)	

1. Welcome

Duncan Ferner (NZSAR Secretariat Manager [SSM]) opened the meeting and welcomed new attendees Flight Lieutenant Catherine MacGowan, Dave Jane and Mike Davies.

2. Apologies

John Yaldwyn (AREC), Peter Williams (RCCNZ), John Fogden (CAA).

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the combined meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee and the NZSAR Council held on 28 May 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

- **Item 6: Class Review:**

The SSM reported that:

- a media statement had been prepared and released;
- the media statement generated almost no publicity;
- NZSAR documentation had been updated; and
- the new system had been published on the NZSAR website.

Members of the NZSAR Consultative Committee reported that:

- they had published and circulated the new system of classification internally; and
- they had updated their internal documentation.

5. Research and Reviews

5.1 Training

The SSM introduced and welcomed Ted Preston. Ted has started the review of the “conduct of SAR individual and collective training and its effectiveness throughout the sector”, as identified in the NZSAR Strategic Goals (2008). The Terms of Reference (TOR) for this review were circulated prior to the meeting.

Ted spoke briefly about the review. He said that advice from members would be welcomed, and he expressed the wish for the review to deliver good outcomes for the SAR community in general.

5.2 Volunteer

The NZSAR Volunteer Review draft TOR was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The review will be managed by the Secretariat with assistance from external contractors as required. General discussion was held. The Committee were noted that voluntarism in SAR was difficult to define and that this would need to be carefully considered.

The terms paid and un-paid were preferred and the terms professional and volunteer needed careful definition. The committee advised that the following additional items needed to be considered either as part of the review or separately from it:

- Gain an understanding of what motivates people to volunteer and what motivates them to keep volunteering;
- Gain an understanding of what motivates people not to volunteer or to stop volunteering;
- Examine the support of SAR volunteers by employers;

- Use of volunteer scholarships; and,
- Measuring the amount of sponsorship that goes into the SAR sector.

Action:

The SSM is to consider these items, redraft the draft TOR and circulate it to members by Friday 22 August. Members will then provide feedback to the SSM prior to the meeting of the NZSAR Council on Wednesday 27 August 2008.

5.3 Governance

A draft TOR for the review of NZSAR Governance Arrangements was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The SSM indicated that an external contractor would be appointed to conduct the review. The Committee agreed that the review is appropriate and timely. No additional items were recommended.

5.4 SAROP and SAR asset location

The SSM reported that Massey University GIS section is looking at the geographical relationship between SAROPs and SAR assets. This will inform decision makers about where SAROPs occur and the relationship to where SAR assets are located. The SSM is gathering information from members and requested those present to provide geographical information of asset locations in a GIS format (lat/long or map grid) where possible.

5.5 Class Review

Members generally agreed that the new category system was an improvement and that it was working well. There remain some legacy references to the old classification system in some documentation. Feedback from Antarctica NZ was very positive.

6. NZSAR Strategic Funding

6.1 Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008

The Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008 came into effect on 1 August 2008. This Act provides for the possibility of hypothecating some of the fuel excise duty paid by recreational boat users for SRA purposes.

6.2 Service Level Agreements

The SSM reported on the new two-year Crown appropriation to address strategic SAR risks. Three Service Level Agreements with voluntary organisations had been signed, and another under negotiation. In addition planning of the 2009 SAR conference has commenced and an additional staff member has been appointed to the

SAR Secretariat. Carl Van Der Meulen was introduced to those present.

Nigel Clifford reported on changes at RCCNZ. Physical Improvements were being made to the operations room and the recruitment of new SAR officers was progressing well.

7. 2009 NZSAR Seminar

The 2009 NZSAR Seminar was discussed. Its purpose is for the leadership of New Zealand's SAR sector to meet collectively, share ideas, network, to be informed on SAR plans, developments, new technology, and to celebrate SAR success. The suggested date for the seminar is a Friday and Saturday in May 2009. A venue is yet to be confirmed.

The SSM requested members' assistance with regards to attendance, presentations, nominations for NZSAR awards, and suggestions for the programme.

There was lengthy discussion about possible inclusion in the programme. Suggested topics included:

- Lessons learnt from the review of desktop exercises;
- Theme based workshops, e.g. Alpine SAR;
- Challenges in Antarctic SAR incidents;
- Ways to access funding;
- ACC and workplace compensation;
- Successful communication with the media;
- SAR 'coalface' stories; and
- Future trends in the tourism sector and their role in SAR prevention.

Invitations were recommended for SAR representatives from Australia and Chile as well as seeking appropriate political involvement.

8. General Business

8.1 Sector Update

- Maritime New Zealand. Poor weather had reduced the overall number of incidents. High profile incidents included a wrecked fishing boat with two lives lost, Australian mountaineers rescued after being trapped by heavy snow and a long range medivac. Work continues developing measures of competence and on scene coordinator training. The structure of RCCNZ may be revised. The relationship with Ambulance NZ has been enhanced by recent meetings. RCCNZ members will attend both the Coastguard and LandSAR conferences.

The Manager and a Senior SARO visited Chile at the request of the IMO to attend a workshop to improve Antarctic SAR Coordination.

- Ministry of Transport. Nothing to Report.
- LandSAR NZ. A new CEO should be appointed within two months. Planning for the introduction of the new Topo50 maps is well underway.
- New Zealand Defence Force. An upgraded Boeing 757 is now back in NZ service. This aircraft is a possible SAR platform and may also be used for Antarctic transport. A recent medivac out of Port Vila for the Pacific Air ambulance illustrated a number of operational lessons. Planning is underway for the upcoming Antarctic season and possible Antarctic SAR. A drop off in Pacific SAROPs was noted.
- Federation of Commercial Fishermen. The possible extension of the successful FishSafe program to include SAR was noted.
- Ambulance NZ. A recent report from a Parliamentary Select Committee recommended an increase in the number of paramedics.
- Department of Conservation. DoC has been unusually busy with SAR work in the period. The recent SAROP involving 6 Australians with a 121.5MHz distress beacon was illustrative. It was noted that had they been equipped with a GPS equipped 406MHz beacon, their rescue would likely have been much faster and with less risk. DoC has a strong preference for GPS equipped 406MHz beacons and wants that aspect to be promoted.
- Antarctica NZ. Antarctica NZ attended the workshop in Chile to improve Antarctic SAR Coordination along with RCCNZ. Other attendees included representatives from all the relevant RCC's adjacent to Antarctica along with the UK and USA. The Antarctic season opens on 30 September. There will be a large number of flights to Antarctica this season and a number of vessels. The annual Japanese whaling fleet and associated protest vessels are also expected.
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand. SLSNZ has been busy with year end reporting and finalizing member education and training reviews. Consideration is being given to moving training to an external framework. External education and communications efforts include the schools programme and the 'Piha Rescue' television programme. The Water Rescue Asset stocktake continues. The memorandum of understanding with Coastguard NZ is reaching operational level.

- Coastguard NZ. Coastguard is reviewing its certificate of competency and is looking at NZQA unit standards. The past summer season saw more boats on the water but less calls for assistance. All Coastguard vessels now have Trackplus for real time GPS tracking. This will be shared with coordinating agencies during SAROPs. Coastguard is investing in database and reporting which will be a useful management tool for the future. LGB funding may be reduced by 2/3 which will have an effect on the operation of the organisation. Six new boats will be launched in September and a total of eleven by the end of the year.
- Mountain Safety Council. The Outdoor Excellence and Volunteer Awards were promoted. An AGM will be held on 4 September. Efforts are being made to educate inbound tourists about how to stay safe in the New Zealand environment. MSC has experience with measures of competence and offered that experience to SLSNZ, CG and RCCNZ as they were addressing these issues.
- Aviation Industry Association. Sixteen full time EMS/SAR Helicopters are in NZ. A high level of SAR activity was noted. The EMS standards are being revised with Ambulance NZ. Most aircraft are now fitted with 406MHz ELTs. SAR Service level agreements with RCCNZ were sought.
- New Zealand Police. The annual Police SAR report is currently being compiled, however, provisional stats for the 07/08 financial year show a total of 1564 SAR incidents recorded by Police – 1492 Class 2 (Cat I), 72 Class 3 (Cat II) with a 50/50 split between land and marine. Class 2 (Cat I) cost \$2.3m and Class 3 (Cat II) cost \$174k, with \$700k spent on marine and \$1.8m on land. This amounts a total cost of \$2.5m and represents a 3% increase in activity with a 45% increase in cost.

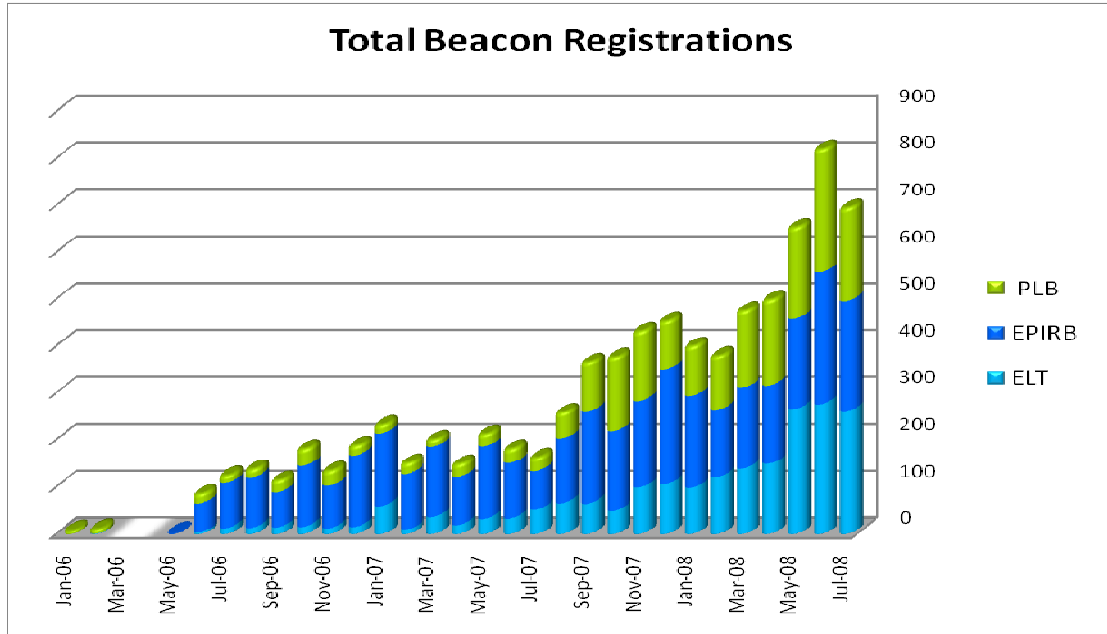
109 incidents have been recorded for the 08/09 financial year to date.

Police currently have S/Sgt Paget attending the Advanced Diploma in Public Safety (SAR Management and Coordination) course in Canberra

- Maritime Operations Centre. The quieter winter period is being used for internal training. The poor weather has affected the maritime radio network, particularly those stations reliant on solar power. Snow and cloud have reduced charging time. Changes in broadcast procedure and new technologies are being explored to address this problem. NZ now has a near national AIS system giving visibility of merchant marine vessels.

8.2 Beacons Campaign Update

The SSM reported that registration of 406MHz beacons was steadily increasing and currently numbers over 10,000.



The new draft advertising creative was shown.

LIFELINE: 406MHz

DEADLINE: 1 FEB 09

GLOBALLY, ALL DISTRESS SIGNALS ARE CHANGING TO 406MHZ IN FEBRUARY 2009. GET YOURS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

SWITCH TO 406MHz DISTRESS BEACONS
www.beacons.org.nz

Ministry of Transport
NZSAR
MARITIME NEW ZEALAND

BILLBOARD/DPS

8.3 NZSAR Website

Members were requested to visit the NZSAR website www.nzsar.org.nz to review their organisations' information. Updates and or amendments should be referred to the SSM.

8.4 Topo50 Maps

Members were reminded of the change to the new NZ Topo50 map series in September 2009. Those affected were encouraged to consider their transition plans this year; to survey their GPS's as some are non-compatible with NZ Topo50; to budget for new maps; and to consider likely effects to IT systems and databases. More information on NZ Topo50 is available on www.linz.govt.nz.

9. Other Business

9.1 NZSAR Awards2008

The SSM called for nominations for the 2008 NZSAR Awards. Nominations from the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008 will be considered.

9.2 Technology

Information pamphlets from Geratherm® Rescue Warming Systems were available for those interested.

9.3 Annual Report

The SSM requested members to provide input and photographs for the NZSAR Annual Report.

10. Proposed next meeting:

The next meeting of the SAR Consultative Committee was proposed for 19 November 2008.

The meeting concluded at 4:25 pm.

DR Ferner
Chair