



# New Zealand Search and Rescue

## Search and Rescue Telecommunications Working Group (Land)

### STWG(L)

#### DRAFT

#### Meeting Notes

Thursday 12 April 2018, 1300hrs

Level 2, 318 Lambton Quay,

Wellington.

#### **Present:**

Stephen Ross (Nzsar) –Chair and Facilitator

Rex Aubrey (Nzsar radio consultant) -Scribe

Ian Newman (LSAR NZ)

Pete Corbert (LSAR NZ)

John Woolf (LSARNZ)

Don Robertson (AREC Wellington)

Alan Mundy (Surf Life Saving NZ)

Inspector John Pine (NZ Police)

Tony Hunt (NZ Police ICT)

John Lovell (Ministry of Civil Defence)

#### **1. Welcome**

Stephen opened the meeting and welcomed everyone referring to the agenda prepared by Rex and Stephen.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from John Yaldwyn AREC and Colin Hopkinson (DOC)

### **3. Acceptance of minutes from last workshop**

Stephen asked if everyone accepted and the minutes for the previous meeting held on the 26 October 2017. The minutes were approved by all.

### **4. Matters arising from last workshop**

5.a) Steve published NZSAR database and other STWG(L) activity on the NZSAR web site.

5.b) VHF coverage maps were provided for NZSAR resources-database with work continuing.

6. Rex obtained details and permission for analogue channels used by Surf Life Saving NZ to be used by NZSAR radios. Permission for the DMR channels to be used is not yet granted.

8. Voice recording of primary VHF channels discussed in agenda item 13.

9. Rex and John Y organised with Police to provide a SAR talk group to be used on the Wellington Police VHF digital trunk network.

12. AREC have organised and completed a national HF radio exercise held on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

### **5. NZSAR resources-database**

Rex talked about the technical issues with the fixed VHF repeater coverage maps and submitted a recommendation that a special workshop of selected technical members and the database developer be held.

#### **Action:**

Rex to arrange a special coverage maps workshop as soon as possible.

### **6 Annual AREC conference to be held in Dunedin**

The annual NZART conference will be held in Dunedin over Queens birthday weekend (2-3 June 2018) is an opportunity to maintain good relationships between NZSAR and AREC.

#### **Action:**

Rex and Stephen to attend the Annual NZART conference.

### **7 VHF radio channel plan**

Rex reported that LandSAR and Police have their own separate zone and channel plans for the Tait VHF handheld portable radios. These radios zone and channel plans are different to each other and a spreadsheet has been constructed by Wellington AREC to guide users to the required channels depending on what radio is used. This is considered to be an acceptable solution.

**Action:**

AREC groups around the country will be encouraged to construct their own spreadsheets with guidance from Don Robertson.

**8 Defence HF radio project**

Rex reported that there is no news from NZ defence on their HF radio project.

**Action:**

Rex to continue requesting updates from NZ Defence.

**9 National HF radio exercise**

John Woolf gave a report on the HF radio communications exercise held on the 1st April 2018. He reported that a good number of people participated. It was agreed that this national exercise should be an annual event held during day light saving change back to winter every autumn.

**Action:**

Stephen will ensure all participants receive a certificate of participation from NZSAR and the 'winner' will be presented with a PLB donated by LandSAR.

**10 STWG(L) Road show**

Rex reported that the road show has been carried out in Wanganui and Dunedin with good numbers attending. Rex stated that everyone was interested and fully engaged in the conversations with plenty of feedback from the participants.

**Actions:**

Rex is to provide written feedback to LandSAR on the feedback. John Pine to arrange Police SAR coordinators to contact Rex and arrange a date for the road show to visit their locations.

**11 Civil Defence VHF radio channels**

John Lovell reported that all HF radio equipment owned by Civil Defence has been decommissioned and is available for the AREC to collect for their use. He also said he could see no reason why regional councils would not provide access to their VHF fixed repeaters for SAR use.

**Action:**

John is about to carry out a nationwide audit of all Civil Defence radio equipment and provide coverage maps to the NZSAR database when they come available.

**12 GPS tracking of other radios**

Don Robertson reported that configuration setting to enable other models of Tait radios (including the Police TP9400) will be carried by John Yaldwyn in the near future.

**Action:**

Tony Hunt to arrange the loan of two TP9400 VHF handheld radios from Tait for John to carry out testing.

### **13 Voice Recording**

Rex reported that a survey of SAR groups was carried out before Christmas asking what voice recording was being used by SAR groups. Only 6 responses were received with Masterton and Dunedin having systems in place while nobody else used any sort of voice recording.

Rex reported that he has seen the Wanganui Coast Guard VHF marine channel voice recording system in action. The group asked Rex to put a proposal together with cost break downs and a recommendation for a nationwide standard for SAR group to adopt.

**Action:**

Rex to carry out a market search of voice recording software and make a recommendation on what product should be used. Rex to work with Tait to provide a technical modification to the TM8100 and TM9100 series of radios to enable connection to a computer for voice recording

### **14 Police monthly technical meetings**

Rex reported that he has a one hour meeting each month with the Police radio engineers. These meetings keep the Police engineers engaged and up to date with STWG(L) activity and what is expected from them.

**Action:**

Rex to continue to have monthly meetings with Police radio engineers

### **15 Surf Life Saving NZ**

Alan Mundy spoke to the group on progress with their DMR rollout.

**Action:**

Alan to provide Rex with a sample coverage map for the NZSAR database.

### **16 LandSAR progress report**

Ian Newman gave an update of LSAR radio activities.

**17 AREC progress report**

Don Robertson gave an update of AREC activities.

**18 Other business**

Rex was asked by Ian Newman to try and negotiate a better price for the TP9300 VHF handheld portable radio for LSAR.

**19. Meeting ended at 15:30**

<b>TASK LIST – STWG(L) Meeting (POST 26 October 2017)</b>			
<b>Agenda Item No.</b>		<b>Responsibility</b>	
<b>5</b>	Rex to arrange a special coverage maps workshop as soon as possible.	Rex	
<b>6</b>	Rex and Stephen to attend the Annual NZART conference.	Rex and Stephen	
<b>7</b>	AREC groups around the country will be encouraged to construct their own spreadsheets with guidance from Don Robertson.	Don	
<b>8</b>	Rex to continue requesting updates from NZ Defence.	Rex	
<b>9</b>	Stephen will ensure all participants receive a certificate of participation from NZSAR and the 'winner' will be presented with a PLB donated by LandSAR.	Stephen	
<b>10</b>	Rex is to provide written feedback to LandSAR on the feedback. John Pine to arrange Police SAR coordinators to contact Rex and arrange a date for the road show to visit their locations.	Rex	
<b>11</b>	John is about to carry out a nationwide audit of all Civil Defence radio equipment and provide coverage maps to the NZSAR database when they come available.	John L.	
<b>12</b>	Tony Hunt to arrange the loan of two TP9400 VHF handheld radios from Tait for John to carry out testing.	Tony	

<b>13</b>	Rex to carry out a market search of voice recording software and make a recommendation on what product should be used. Rex to work with Tait to provide a technical modification to the TM8100 and TM9100 series of radios to enable connection to a computer for voice recording	Rex	
<b>14</b>	Rex to continue to have monthly meetings with Police radio engineers	Rex	
<b>15</b>	Alan to provide Rex with a sample coverage map for the NZSAR database.	Alan	