

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



Bravery and community service honoured at NZ Search and Rescue Awards

Embargoed until 9pm Tuesday 16 May 2023

On Tuesday 16 May 2022, the Hon Kiri Allan, Associate Minister for Transport will present the 2022 New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

These awards are presented annually in recognition of outstanding achievements within New Zealand's search and rescue region, which covers 30 million square kilometres.

Awards given in the Operations category recognise significant rescue operations that took place between 1 January and 31 December 2022.

Awards given in the Support category recognise the contributions of individuals to search and rescue in New Zealand.

One Gold Award and up to four Certificates of Achievement are awarded in each category. Twenty-two nominations were received for 2022, with two Gold Awards and seven Certificates of Achievement being awarded at this year's ceremony.

"The quality of this year's Award winners is exceptional," says New Zealand Search and Rescue Secretariat Director Duncan Ferner. "These people and groups represent the very best of the search and rescue sector in 2022."

"Some of these individuals have worked diligently, often for years, to ensure that people in distress have a higher probability of being found. Others have supported people to get involved in search and rescue. Others have headed out into atrocious weather conditions to rescue people at risk."

"Every one of them has sacrificed time with their family and friends to provide a vital service to New Zealand. Without their efforts, fewer families would be reunited or loved ones returned home."

Those receiving awards are:

Gold Award – Operational

The Gold Award for Operational Activity is awarded for a very significant contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2022.

Northern Rescue Helicopters
Northland Police SAR Squad
Police National Dive Squad
Maritime NZ Rescue Coordination Centre
The crew of Florence Nightingale
The crew of Pacific Invader
Kobe O'Neill

For the rescue of 10 people from the vessel *Enchanter* near North Cape / Otou between 20-21 March 2022.

Gold Award – Support

The Gold Award for Support Activity is awarded for a very significant contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.

John Munro

Locator Beacons New Zealand

For his commitment to search and rescue.

Certificates of Achievement – Operational Activity

The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for **Operational Activity** are awarded for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2022.

Dunedin LandSAR

Fiordland LandSAR

Wakatipu LandSAR

Wanaka LandSAR Canyon / Swiftwater Team

Paul Rogers

Southern District Police

Police National Dive Squad

AREC Southland

Action Helicopters

Southern Lakes Helicopters

Milford Sound Volunteer Fire Brigade

For the search for a missing tramper near Milford Sound / Piopiotahi between 27-31 March 2022.

Aoraki / Mount Cook Alpine Rescue Team

Otago Rescue Helicopter

For the rescue of two climbing groups from Aoraki / Mount Cook between 11-16 September 2022.

Pauanui Surf Life Saving Club

Paid Lifeguard Service – Tairua

Paid Lifeguard Service – Pauanui

Pauanui / Tairua SAR Squad

Waikato District Police

Coastguard Tairua-Pauanui

For the rescue of three adults and two children from the Tairua Harbour bar on 5 January 2022.

No. 5 Squadron Royal New Zealand Air Force

For the search for two missing boats near Kiribati on 23 May 2022.

Certificates of Achievement – Support Activity

The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for **Support Activity** are awarded for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.

Detective Senior Sergeant John Wilson – New Zealand Police, WanderSearch Rotorua, LandSAR Rotorua

For his service and commitment to search and rescue.

Rosie Musters – Coastguard New Zealand Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa

For her service and commitment to search and rescue.

Senior Constable Peter Cunningham – New Zealand Police

For his service and commitment to search and rescue.

Event details

Date: Tuesday 16 May

Time: 6.00pm

Venue: Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

The award recipients will be available for questions and photos from 5pm at the venue. Images from the ceremony can be supplied from approximately 9pm. Please contact Tania Seward to arrange this.

NB: If you wish to attend the awards ceremony please contact Tania Seward.

The event will be livestreamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oorK4ZfqgfE>

Media contact

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Notes to editors:

The New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Council was established in 2003 to provide strategic leadership to the New Zealand search and rescue sector. We help improve the overall co-ordination, cohesion, capability and leadership of search and rescue by working alongside the key organisations and individuals providing search and rescue services throughout New Zealand. For more information see nzsar.govt.nz

NZSAR is a separate agency to LandSAR, who provide volunteers for search and rescue operations throughout New Zealand.

Award recipients Kobe O'Neill and AREC Southland are not available for media interviews.

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