



# New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee

## Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee  
1.15pm – 3.45pm, Wednesday 10 February 2010  
Ministry of Transport  
Level 6  
Novell House  
89 The Terrace  
Wellington

### Attendees:

Duncan Ferner - NZSAR  
Carl van der Meulen - NZSAR  
Mike Sheridan - SARINZ  
John Funnell – AIA  
David Shearer - SARINZ  
Flt Lt Marc Bridgman - NZDF  
David Waters - Ambulance NZ  
Gerry Prins – NZ Police

Brett Sullivan - SLSNZ  
Mike Davies - DOC  
Brendan Comerford - MOC  
Rodney Bracefield - RCCNZ  
Bruce Reid - Coastguard  
Hadyn Smith - LandSAR  
John Scobie - LandSAR  
Amy Greig - MoT

### 1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen (Senior Advisor NZSAR) welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first for 2010.

### 2. Apologies

Jim Stuart-Black (NZFS), Colin Small (CNZ), John Yaldwyn (AREC), Jeff Sayer (AREC), John Fogden (CAA), Nigel Clifford (RCCNZ), Bruce Johnston (NZ Police), Roger Brown (MoT)

### 3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of the NZSAR Consultative Committee held on 25 November 2009 were accepted as a true and accurate record following some minor corrections.

### 4. Matters arising from the previous meeting

#### ***SLA Monitoring Report***

*Secretariat is to update the wording in the Coastguard NZ SLA report in consultation with Coastguard NZ*

NZSAR Secretariat informed the meeting that this has taken place.

## **Core Curriculum**

*Secretariat is to:*

- *Make amendments to the recommendations in line with Consultative Committee comments*
- *Forward the report to the NZSAR Council for approval.*

NZSAR Secretariat confirmed this has been actioned.

## **5. Service Level Agreement monitoring report for the Oct 09 – Dec 09 quarter**

*Summary of the LandSAR Report for the quarter*

- LandSAR provided assistance for 56 SAROPs
- 559 LandSAR volunteers used during the quarter
- 4,544 volunteer hours provided
- 82 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 76 people were rescued
- 6 people perished

*Summary of Coastguard Report for the quarter*

- Coastguard provided assistance for 178 SAROPs
- 1,268 Coastguard volunteers used during the quarter
- 2,263 volunteer hours provided
- 184 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 11 people were saved
- 127 people rescued
- 39 people assisted
- 7 people perished

*Summary of SLSNZ report for the half year period (Jul 09 – Dec 09)*

- SLSNZ provided assistance for 46 SAROPs
- 157 SLSNZ volunteers used during the quarter
- 261 volunteer hours
- 69 people were designated as being at risk during these SAROPs
- 5 people were saved
- 17 people rescued
- 46 people assisted
- 7 person perished

*Summary of AREC report for the quarter*

- AREC provided assistance for 16 SAROPs
- 34 AREC volunteers used during the quarter
- 205 volunteer hours provided
- 11 people designated as being at risk
- 4 people were saved
- 3 people rescued
- 3 people assisted
- 2 people unaccounted for

## 6. Sector Update

Carl van der Meulen (NZSAR Secretariat) presented his report dated 9 December 2009 describing his attendance at the FRSITO (Fire and Rescue Services Industry Training Organisation), Volunteering NZ and Water Safety New Zealand conferences.

Carl noted that the next Volunteer New Zealand conference will be held in 2011 and recommended greater attendance by SAR related voluntary based organisations. Carl will be in contact closer to the date of conference to ascertain interest.

David Waters (Ambulance NZ) received an email from Skills Active regarding training for managers of volunteers. The Committee expressed interest in this matter.

**Action:** Email is to be forwarded to the Secretariat by Ambulance NZ for circulation to the Committee.

### AIA

EMS workload has been less than normal over the summer months. A workshop for EMS pilots is to be held on 14 April 2010 in Auckland.

### SARINZ

SARINZ is undertaking research looking at SAR supply and demand issues to 2050 including best practice training models. SARINZ will be inviting comment from the sector on this research. SARINZ is also investigating the state of CIMS training in New Zealand, and conducting a strategic review of their role within the SAR sector. SARINZ is involved with the production of a second series of the TV programme 'The Missing'.

### Defence Force

Search and Rescue has been reasonably quiet over summer, especially for the rotary wing, but was slightly busier over the last few weeks for the maritime wing. Some aircrew have commenced NH90 conversion training.

### Ambulance NZ

Air Ambulance Search and Rescue Standard is due to be released this month. A South Pacific SMS symposium is being held 17 and 18 February in Queenstown.

### SLSNZ

It has been reasonably quiet operationally over last few months. The restructure and staffing appointments continue. SLSNZ is carrying out a review of SAR standard operating procedures and developing guidelines for SAR response.

### DOC

It has been reasonably quiet on Aoraki/Mt Cook over the summer. There is a trend toward more mid-level rescues from high-level rescues. There has been a focus on the Department of Labour led review of the adventure sector. DoC are looking at hazard management and mitigation of avalanches. DoC

reporting structures are being aligned with the existing Police reporting structures.

#### Mountain Safety Council

MSC had a lower than normal level of response to media queries over the Christmas period. The Outdoor Safety Code launch went well. Darryl Carpenter thanked all those who contributed for their efforts. There is ongoing work in developing an accord/agreement for using the code. MSC have also been busy with the DoL adventure sector review. The 2010 Avalanche Programme is being examined in preparation for the winter season.

#### Marine Operations Centre

Has been a reasonably quiet summer, the first in last three years where all previous records had not been broken. Retention of trained operators is positive, likely as a result of the current job market. There are also five newly qualified radio operators. The recording devices are currently being replaced.

#### RCCNZ

Increase in number of personal locator beacons being registered (700 in December 2009 and 600 in January 2010) with a large quantity being given as Christmas gifts. There is usually a spike in registrations after a positive media story. The increase in the number of PLBs is leading to changes in operations, with more land searches. A type new beacon is currently being tested, which will have an 'OK' messaging function.

The Air Observer and Air Observer Refresher courses are still being run. RCCNZ generally functioning well, staff levels remain static over last two years.

#### Coastguard

It has been a busy summer on the water. Experiencing less calls for urgent assistance but a slight increase in general calls. There has been an increase of CNZ activity on the lakes, which now account for 15% of CNZ activity.

The vessel replacement programme is nearly complete. Four new vessels are in the water, leaving only two vessels that need replacement. This will then be followed by a refurbishment programme for the vessels that did not require replacement.

CNZ are carrying out two research projects. One is an analysis of rescue assets around the coast, with the aim of identifying any gaps or overlaps. The second is a coastal public safety system, being carried out with SLSNZ and ACC, and is an analysis tool to review Coastal areas. It will produce a range of options to minimise risks and will be valuable for all marine sectors.

The online SAROP reporting is working well, with Units using the system to also enter non-SAROP activity reports. There has been a reduction in CNZ volunteer numbers.

## LandSAR

All LandSAR groups are now affiliated. December 2009 and January 2010 were both quiet months. The first complete application of the group analysis tool has been carried out.

There have been problems with the LandSAR website but it is being addressed. The Cave SAR groups are having their triennial exercise 26 – 28 February 2010.

Work on the team leader competencies is nearly complete. The trial worked well and it is expected that there will be a fully functioning system by 1 April 2010.

## Police

In general it has been business as usual for the Police. Currently in the process of updating a MOU with Coastguard NZ. There are some minor changes in the administration of operations, including migrating the database from Lotus Notes to Outlook.

The Land and Marine SAR Controller's courses will be run next week. Police will be involved with a large number of training courses and workshops for the rest of the year.

## **7. NZSAR Workshops**

### *SAR for people who Wander*

Purpose – To share ideas and improve the conduct, management, and coordination of SAR incidents for people who wander in New Zealand due to some form of incapacity

When – 21 & 22 March 2010 (Sunday and Monday)

Location – Auckland

### *Marine SAR*

Purpose – To improve the management and coordination of marine SAR incidents in and around New Zealand.

When – 16 & 17 May 2010 (Sunday and Monday)

Location – Wellington

### *Avalanche SAR*

Purpose – To improve the conduct, management and coordination of SAR for avalanche incidents in New Zealand

When – 1 & 2 June 2010

Where – Location is to be confirmed (Twizel)

NZSAR Secretariat is interested to hear suggestions for other workshops that the group may feel important to have. If you think of a workshop that would be useful to the sector, please let the secretariat know.

## **8. NZSAR Awards**

The NZSAR awards are being held after the joint Council and Consultative Committee meeting this year (21 April 2010), subject to the availability of the Minister. The event is in the Minister's diary. If the Ministry of Transport is not able to host the awards, another Minister may be able to host them in his place.

The cut off date for nominations was too late this year – it might be helpful to begin this process slightly earlier for the next awards ceremony.

The deadline for nominations for 2009 awards is 15 February. Nominations can already be received for next year's awards – submit them to the secretariat.

A subgroup is required to review the nominations and make recommendations to the Council. A priority list is required by 19 February – the Council meets to discuss this on Thursday 25 February.

NZ SAR Senior Advisor called for volunteers to be on the awards panel. The following members agreed to participate:

Rodney Bracefield – RCCNZ  
Brendon Comerford – MOC  
Bruce Johnston – Police  
John Funnell – AIA  
Mike Davies – DoC

The Secretariat Manager advised that he will be inviting an Australian Search and Rescue representative to attend the joint Council and Consultative Committee meeting on 21 April followed by the NZSAR awards ceremony.

**Action:** Awards subgroup to make Award recommendations by Friday 19 February 2010.

## **9. SAREX Plan 2010/2011**

Planning meeting scheduled for 10 March (all day) to establish national SAREX plan. The plan will be maintained by the NZSAR secretariat and will contain a list of SAR events – maintained online. It will provide SAREX guidelines, templates and other SAREX enabling resources for the sector.

## **10. Delivery of NZSAR Core Curriculum Report**

The secretariat is progressing the implementation of the Core Curriculum. Ted Preston is providing assistance. The secretariat thanked those who had contributed and had input into the report.

Topic 14: The secretariat will engage an appropriate contractor for the rest of the year to undertake this work. The role of the contractor will be to chip away at developing topic 14 courses/packages. The secretariat will be interested to hear of potential contractors to undertake this work. If you have someone appropriate in mind, please contact the secretariat.

## **11. Lottery Grants**

Lottery Grants Board funding of Search and Rescue organisations was discussed.

## **12. Strategic Funding**

The Secretariat Manager gave an update on the process of transitioning funding from Crown account (Vote: Transport) to section 9(1) of the Land Transport Management Amendment Act (2008). Once officials complete their work, the approval of the Ministers of Transport and Finance is required. It was noted that it was not realistic to expect any additional funding given the current fiscal climate.

The Secretariat will run a review of the SLA's including a value for money analysis in the second half of 2010.

## **13. General Business Items**

### **a. Land Prevention Messages**

The NZ Outdoor Safety Code was launched. The key messages were well received over the summer. There was discussion around other key messages for Marine/water environments, it was agreed a meeting to discuss integrating the messages would be a good idea. NZSAR will sponsor a portal type website with links to all websites and headline safety messages.

### **b. Water Safety Conference 26 – 27 November 2009**

Secretariat thanked those that attended this conference. It received positive feedback and was well run.

### **c. NZSAR Website**

Website appears to be successful – more useful and easier to navigate. Secretariat welcomes feedback/comments on the site. The Lessons learnt appears to be slow to develop. Secretariat is looking for ways to improve this area and make it more useful. A possibility is that it is not required and therefore should be removed from the site? The group agreed to leave it a while longer and see if it proves to become more popular.

### **d. Critical Incident Stress.**

Insp Gerry Prins (Police) reminded the Committee that counselling is available for volunteers of search and rescue organisations if they require it. It is acknowledged that some rescues can prove to be traumatic and some volunteers do require extra support.

#### 14. Proposed Next Meetings

21 April NZSAR Consultative Committee and NZSAR Council  
21 April NZSAR Awards Function for 2009

Meeting concluded at 3.30pm

Carl van der Meulen  
Senior Advisor  
Chair

<b>Actions</b>	
<b>6. Sector Update</b>	Email from Skills Active regarding training for managers of volunteers to be forwarded to the Secretariat by Ambulance NZ for circulation to the Committee.
<b>8. NZSAR Awards</b>	<b>NZSAR Senior Advisor</b> called for volunteers to participate in the judging panel for the awards nominations. The panel is to agree on nominations and provide a recommendation to the Council meeting by 19 February. Confirmed participants are:  Rodney Bracefield – RCCNZ Brendon Comerford – MOC Bruce Johnston – Police John Funnell – AIA Mike Davies – DoC