

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa ●●●●●●●●

NZSAR Consultative Committee Minutes

Tuesday, 13 February 2024, 9.30am to 12 noon

3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

Present

Name	Agency
Andrew Greig (chair)	NZSAR
Gavin Walker	WSC
Don Robertson	AREC
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Justin Allan	RCCNZ
Scott Cardwell	NZDF
Rob Hewitt	NZSAR
Andy Kent	SLSNZ
Brendon Comerford	MOC
Daniel Gillis	AMAS
Liz Smith	NEMA

Name	Agency
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR
Callum Gillespie	CNZ
Lucas Vetter	MoT
Lea Smith	NZ Police
Brendan Nally	FENZ
Mike Daisley	MSC
Allan Mundy	SLSNZ
Andy Roberts	DOC
Daniel McGowan	YSAR
Jake Robinson	St Johns Air Desk
Giuliana Petronelli	Independent Council Member

In attendance

Name	Agency
Wendy Harrison	NZSAR
Matt Mintrom	NZSAR
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR
Penny Salmon	NZSAR
Dan Clearwater	Contractor

Name	Agency
Tania Seward	NZSAR
Matt Wheble	NZSAR
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR
Aimee Flanagan	NZSAR

Apologies

Name	Agency
Bryan Metcalf	NZDF
Meryl Jupp	DOC
Steve Fisher	SLSNZ

Name	Agency
Daniel Gerrard	WSC
David Waters	Ambulance NZ
Craig Rendel	NZ Police

1. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Karakia: Rob Hewitt

2. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 14 November 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Summary of actions from previous meetings

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
8.	NZSAR Risk Matrix – SAR Demand	Action: Duncan to change the proposed wording of the Risk to reflect this discussion	Duncan Ferner	Complete
9.	Telecommunications Strategy	Decision: The Consultative Committee endorsed the Telecommunications Strategy with Coastguard changes incorporated.		Taken to Council

Matt Wheble updated the Committee regarding the Telecommunications Strategy. The NZSAR Council decided to include the land side of the Telecommunications strategy and pause the maritime side until Maritime NZ have gone through their processes. This will be considered by the SAR Telecommunications Working Group in March.

5. Sector Updates

Agencies provided brief sector updates.

Ambulance NZ

Andy reported that the *Aeromedical and Air Rescue Standard* is currently being updated by John Fogden and is being done in conjunction with the SAR Aviation Standard, which is also being developed.

AMSA

There is major work underway to shape the future operating model. Currently carrying out workshop stages to help with this work. Looking at various issues such as new technologies and geopolitical stability. Intend to provide a more detailed briefing later.

Antarctica NZ

No report provided.

AREC

There has been a focus on training recently, and all the courses have been filled. With people passing the courses often joining AREC.

Have completed the long-term strategy, which looks ahead 10 years, including what needs to occur for AREC's people and required funding. The final draft of the AREC Vision and Target Operating Model was ratified at the AREC quarterly meeting in December 2023.

Aviation NZ

No report provided.

CAA

No report provided.

Coastguard

It has been a busy summer with a large increase in water activity. The busiest Waitangi Day in history (using trip reports). There is a high degree of operational readiness, with assets in good order and good volunteer numbers. To the end of January there were about 790 Coastguard operations (compared with 668 last year). The number of emergency tasks have halved.

There have been two campaigns run. *Just Wear It Lifejackets*, which was partly funded by WSNZ, has been very successful and have had more than 50 different media activities as a consequence to that. The *Old4New* lifejacket campaign was back on the road for the ninth year, travelling to 70 locations across the country removing dangerous lifejackets from circulation and promoting the use of effective lifejacket use.

Coastguard also has a Bar Awareness Campaign, which educates New Zealanders how to safely cross bars.

The Greymouth unit will be out of action for the foreseeable future.

DOC – Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team

There has been some recent safety work, with a roll out of new site planning process for visitor safety.

Land Safety Forum has formed three subgroups: data and insights, signage, and visitor behaviour. There is good interaction between Land Search and Rescue, Mountain Safety Council, and a few other players to get expert advice around people behaviour.

Fire and Emergency NZ

Now *El Nino* has settled into a more typical weather pattern, we are seeing severe weather from Canterbury up to Blenheim, which is now extending to the Hawkes Bay.

Recently had to ground helicopters due to drones, which is very problematic. Turned down request for assistance from Australia as too busy.

Land Search and Rescue

There have been over 200 SAR operations, which is about a five percent increase on the previous year. Lost person behaviour has similar statistics to last year.

The welfare programme continues to develop – notably the peer support programme. The groups are looking for support in how they can support NEMA and FENZ.

The Group Volunteer Support team is dedicated to enhancing the relationships with local and regional Police and other SAR and emergency response agencies. Collaborating with the Police District SAR Assistant Coordinators has been a valuable opportunity to strengthen regional relationships and improve operational effectiveness and efficiency.

The Volunteer Resilience Advisor, Health Safety and Well-being Advisor, Training Management, ICT Manager and the new Kaihautū actively participate in sector workshops, committee meetings, and relationship-building activities across the SAR NGO sector. They aim to strengthen relationships with colleagues from other SAR agencies and incorporate sector perspectives into the Land Search and Rescue projects.

2,500 jackets for Land Search and Rescue volunteers were sent out after Christmas, along with additional radios. Recruitment has also gone well.

The training calendar will commence. Last year training was the most training ever done by land Search and Rescue.

Wander Search forecast increased is not manifesting – perhaps due to prevention strategies.

MOC/Kordia

Operationally, seeing levels back to pre-COVID levels. This started on Boxing Day and continues. There has been a lot of maintenance around the network particularly D'Urville and Pitt Islands replacing radio antennas.

There have been visits over the past six months from the operational staff at Coastguard.

Ministry of Transport

Embarking on a six-month training programme on emergency management – about 50 staff through 6 sessions. On completion, they will be able to work in any coordinating centre that is CIMS based.

Mountain Safety Council

In relation to the winter ahead, have just recruited a replacement alpine advisor – a key part of the role will be to support the avalanche forecast advisers.

Over summer the *Plan my Walk* app is now pushing on a million individual unique users. The core purpose was to impact and change people's behaviours.

There has been an early start in terms of the Roar campaign, where basically male deer become visible and non stealthy for about three to four months. There were lots of incidents, which is often due to basic fitness, carrying heavy loads, and a lack of agility.

NEMA

Still have a few civil defence groups in recovery from various events over the last couple of years, and there are a number of reviews and enquiries underway. This week is a big week of reflection and a time to thank volunteers for all their amazing contributions they have made and making sure that wellbeing support is in place during this week.

NEMA has a catastrophic planning team that are doing a roadshow with some government partners around the country to produce the catastrophic planning handbook.

The national accreditation programme is coming to the end of its cycle in February and March. There was a specific focus on integrating volunteer teams in the emergency management system in a better way.

Also working around recognition guidance. For the owners of the volunteer teams, the recognition for teams is varied, which gives a need to provide national guidance and resources on different ways to recognise volunteers.

NZ Defence Force

It has been a busy time with various planned and unplanned tasks.

The C130 Hercules programme replacement should be complete by January next year. The first C130J should be in country by June 2024. There is no change to P8 Poseidon availability.

NZ Police

Working on the strategic plan and looking at 4-5 years ahead and this will tie in with the National Police Strategy.

SAR equipment trial is ongoing, what is to be issued to Police SAR Operators will be completed on 1 April.

National SAR qualification course which was due to be in May has been shifted to 1 April over a two-week period.

Looking at a SAR deployment app to see who is responding regularly. The focus is a lot around wellness of people and not overburdening of certain members. Hopefully will have something by the middle of the year.

This month starts PNHQ engagement with districts and building relationships. This will be rolled out between February and June.

Te Ao Māori engagement

The Kaihautū hui was held in November and the report has been completed. There were great conversations with hapū and iwi. Working with AREC to engage the training aspect with a Māori training provider. Also talking about rāhui and looking at possibly a contractor to unpack this.

RCCNZ

It has been a busy month which has been driven by beacons. It was mentioned about the person who went yachting in the storm and last week got told his yacht has been found in Queensland.

Have been down South to engage with Aviation and ACR teams. Went around teams to say thanks and to see if there were any issues. Have received good feedback. They are well equipped people and impressed with the set up of the ACR team in Wanaka.

Maritime NZ has a new deputy CEO, Graham McLean, who has come from places like DPMC and Defence. This is driving a rethink on how Maritime delivers their response function.

The distress radio contract with Kordia is a major focus.

Working with NZSAR and NZ Police on the Aviation Futures Standard.

In July this year, will be the 20th anniversary of RCCNZ so coming up with ideas on how to mark this, will be reaching out to involve as many people as possible.

St John Air Desk

No report provided.

Surf Life Saving

It has been busy during the summer period. Have welcomed the intermittent weather but the downside is this has led to massive swells. Operational hours and activity are back to pre-COVID levels.

The consolidation of North Region into SLSNZ was completed last year, and the constitutional changes were accepted. The norther CEO role has been disestablished and the general manager for Northern, reporting directly to the chief executive, has now been appointed.

The 2023 club survey was completed in November and achieved 95 percent completion rate and overall satisfaction rating up to 69 percent.

A new and unified SLSNZ strategy for 2024-27 is currently in development. This will be discussed with the board in mid-February, then Steve Fisher and others will engage with clubs, staff, and sector partners such as NZSAR on the approach and

desired outcomes. There has been strong progress on IT projects and the launch of a new payroll system.

The annual safety report has been launched and resulted in media opportunities for key messages.

SLSNZ had a strong presence at the ILS/WHO World Conference on Drowning Prevention held in Perth during December 2023. Numerous papers were given by SLSNZ staff and partner research organisations. Feedback was extremely complimentary on the innovation that SLSNZ is working on to save more lives.

Still expect busy period up until Easter while the weather will help with those numbers and the water is warm.

Water Safety NZ

Finished this year at 90 people losing their lives. This is lower than what was expected, although still not good. There is a strong media push to try and ensure New Zealanders know the risk and own their responsibilities. Even per rate of population things are going up but risk of level of participation is decreasing. The statistics for last year were that a large number of Aucklanders stayed at home. There were lower fatalities in the craft space which some of this has to be attributed to safer boating messages from Maritime & Coastguard. Information coming back from the harbourmasters is there is a better rate of people using lifejackets. For one fatality there are three hospitalisations. Using NZSAR supplied data to see how they compare to rescues.

There has been a quiet summer on the number of fatalities, down almost 50% on the prior summer. There are better conditions and better support and knowledge of areas where people are recreating.

For the year ahead, going to focus on hot spots. There are a range of groups including the Ministry of Education who can get some key outdoor skills locked into the education curriculum. ACC are interested and are having similar conversations with MSC for increased investment in education.

Te Whatu Ora and National Ambulance Sector Office

No report provided.

YSAR

It was reported that at the start of 2024 there were 260 students and continued growth and expansion in Dunedin, Christchurch and the Coromandel. The gender ratio is 60/40 male to female and about 20% in terms of ethnicity diversity.

Thames Coromandel is a hybrid Branch; training online during the week, then the Branch comes together as a wider group for weekend training exercises. This is being watched with interest to potentially use this as a template in East Cape and Tasman.

Hoping to get out to connect with East Cape Ngāti Porou iwi in March with Rob Hewitt.

Couple of Employment positions are emerging and will be advertised this month – High Level Financial Management and Administration and Relationship Management.

Will be touching base with Sector partners over the next few weeks to schedule a meeting to discuss the national relationships with YSAR and how they can streamline the transition between development into operational delivery.

YSAR are interested in running another Youth development in SAR workshop later this year with the support of NZSAR.

NZSAR Secretariat

Are subject to a recruitment freeze so are two FTE down, but have Penny Salmon working on research until the end of June.

Will continue with workstreams. Whakarauora Tangata Wellington exercise will be held in March, Eastern in May and a high-level workshop in April. Making sure partnership networks are integrated into their planning.

SAR training contracts – congratulations to Land Search and Rescue for their delivery and utilising the training on offer.

SAR Aviation future – this is taking up Andy's time at the moment and includes developing a set of SAR aviation standards and working with RCCNZ and Police on how to improve aviation tasking for SAR.

Māori engagement – we intend to hold SAR Kaihautū hui.

NZSAR Awards – thanks to those who have put in nominations.

Beacons campaign – this will be wrapped up in April and has had good effect.

SARdonyx – contract is due in four years and system keeps getting upgraded.

Data Analysis Service – the intent is to make this a public facing dashboard using anonymising data to allow access to online SAR information and access to SAR data.

Technology workstream – trying to focus down into particular areas especially cellphone locations.

SAR & Emergency Management – this is ongoing and working with FENZ and NEMA. Keen to progress in a collaborative way. How to go forward is interesting. An earlier MOU has been set to one side as there is an unwillingness to sign it from partners.

Recreational review – no decisions have been taken and there is no timeline on decisions. The assumption is we will keep going until advised there are changes.

Duncan also advised that he is preparing to take budgets to take to Council in June. If there are any funding needs to please let him know early.

6. NZSAR Risk Matrix – Cohesive & Effective SAR Training

Duncan advised he is proposing moderate changes to the risk which is outlined in red on the risk register.

There was a general discussion around the risks and that not having it there will not help with funding as there is a lot of money put into new training. A large portion of volunteers have been around for many years and refresher training is critical. Partner

agencies need assurance that volunteers are competent and there is a health and safety risk. There is no annual tracking, agencies hold this information and is not centrally managed.

Duncan asked if risk treatments B, D and E be brought together as one treatment and made the risk about the resourcing to do these.

Action

- Duncan to update the risk treatments B, D and E and feed this back to the Consultative Committee for feedback before sending to NZSAR Council.

7. Land Based Quarterly Survey

Tania gave a presentation on the survey which will be presented to the Land Safety Forum in February.

An online survey using Kantar's consumer panel interviewed 800 people about their land-based experiences. The survey showed that half of New Zealanders carry out land-based activities in autumn and winter. Single hiking days was the highest activity.

The four high-exposure activities are day hiking, biking, foraging and trail running. 62 percent of trail runners went alone and only 9 percent carried a PLB or SEND.

The latest thinking in behavioural theory suggests that commitment to a behaviour is important in determining whether people will follow through on their intention to do a behaviour. The more committed someone is, the more likely they are to follow through with their intentions.

Most recreators are fluctuators or followers. Very few are committed to being prepared for any eventuality.

The most common non-emergency incidents that recreators experience are extreme weather, and/or returning much later than anticipated.

Hikers, bikers, foragers, and trail runners have the highest exposure levels amongst the survey respondents. These recreators are also most likely to lack equipment and recreate alone. They are therefore less likely, compared with other land-based recreators, to be able to avoid or survive distress situations.

8. Beacons Campaign Update

Tania gave an update on the Beacons Campaign. This will continue to Anzac Day 2024.

As at 18 January, there have been 35,000 website visits to the RCCNZ's beacons website via the campaign.

9. NZSAR Awards Update

There have been 42 nominations received, 25 were in the Operations category and 17 in the Support category.

Due to scheduling conflicts at Parliament, the 2023 NZ Search and Rescue Awards will be held on Tuesday 21 May (not Tuesday 14 May as previously indicated).

10. Noting Paper - Quarterly Activity Report

The Quarterly Activity report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 October 2023 to 31 December 2023 and the year-to-date numbers (1 July to 31 December 2023).

11. NZSAR Secretariat Workplan 2023-24

This paper outlines initial thinking regarding the NZSAR Secretariat's workplan for the 2024/25 year and invites input from Consultative Committee members.

12. General Business

There was no general business.

13. Next meeting

14 May 2024. The NZSAR Awards will be held on 21 May 2024.

14. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions, decisions and noting	Responsibility
6.	NZSAR Risk Matrix – Cohesive & Effective SAR Training	Action: Duncan to update the risk treatments B, D and E and feed this back to the Consultative Committee before sending to NZSAR Council.	Duncan Ferner