

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



Minutes of Meeting NZSAR Consultative Committee meeting Tuesday 16 August 2022, 9.30 am to 12 noon NZSAR (Ministry of Transport) 3 Queens Wharf, Wellington and MS Teams

In attendance

Name	Agency
Andy Greig (Chair)	NZSAR Secretariat
Callum Gillespie	Coastguard New Zealand
Adam Wooler	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Allan Mundy	Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ)
Carl McOnie	LandSAR
Don Robertson	Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)
Brendan Comerford	Maritime Operations Centre (MOC)
James Fryday	AMSA
Scott McIntyre	NEMA
Scott McKenzie	Aviation NZ
Don Bogie	Department of Conservation (DOC)
Justin Allan	RCCNZ
Kate Weinberg	RCCNZ
Craig Rendel	NZ Police
Scott Iszard	NZ Police
Michael Bassett-Foss	NZSAR Independent Council Member
Lucas Vetter	Ministry of Transport
Bev Driscoll	Ministry of Transport
Dan Clearwater	NZSAR Communications Contractor
Duncan Ferner	NZSAR Secretariat
Evan Hughes	NZSAR Secretariat
Matt Wheble	NZSAR Secretariat
Rhett Emery	NZSAR Secretariat
Daryl Bloomfield	NZSAR Secretariat
Tania Seward	NZSAR Secretariat
Bridget Hesketh	NZSAR Secretariat

John Dyer	NZSAR Secretariat
Wendy Harrison (minutes)	NZSAR Secretariat

1. Welcome

Andy Greig opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Apologies

Chris Lind	NEMA
Kathryn Steel	St John
Mike Daisley	Mountain Safety Council
Nicky Burgess	Antarctica NZ
Ian Duncan	FENZ
Daniel Gerrard	Water Safety New Zealand (WSNZ)
Brett Clayton	NZDF

3. Minutes of meeting 17 May 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from previous meeting

There were no other issues arising from the minutes.

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
6.	Public Rescue Equipment	Action: SLSNZ to create a working group to include Surf, DOC, Council, Iwi, Coastguard, NZSAR, Police. Will fit in with Wai Ora Leadership and report back to a future Consultative Committee.	Mick Kearney	
7.	Beach Safety Signage	Action: The working group created for Public Rescue Equipment will also consider beach signage.	Mick Kearney	
10.	Beacons and SEND Policy	Action: Feedback to be given to Kate and Rhett by 25 May 2022.	SAR Partnership Committee members	Complete

11. SLSNZ and Water Access	Action: The NZSAR Secretariat will work with SLSNZ to draft a Readiness Response Plan Template.	NZSAR	Underway
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Allan updated the meeting regarding Items 6 & 7: Public Rescue Equipment & Beach Safety Signage. He advised there have been several meetings and has had contact with agencies within the working party. The next step is to look at when they can progress the development of the documentation.

5. Sector updates

Agencies provided brief verbal updates.

Ambulance NZ

Nothing to report.

AMSA

The RCCNZ recently visited, and the intention is to arrange a trans-Tasman exercise between the two RCCs probably early next year.

AMSA will deliver a SAREX to the Indian Ocean Rim Association. There are 14 countries participating in the Seychelles and eight countries participating in Bangladesh. This is funded by DFAT.

Discussed the *Portland Bay* incident on 3 July, where the vessel was dead in the water and drifting. A situation report and lessons management plan for the incident was shared.

COVID is affecting the Centre from a staffing perspective but are managing to get things done.

Antarctica NZ

Nothing to report.

AREC

The membership system has gone live. This has been integrated with the learning management system.

A new role of National Volunteer Coordinator has been established and AREC is looking to have this position filled. The AREC Trust Governance review has been completed and a Governance Policy Manual, responsibility (RASCI) matrix and Delegations matrix along with board members' position descriptions have been agreed.

Finalising contract with EAP services for staff and volunteers to have access if they need help. Risk management process development is fully underway into mitigation and actions. Training wise, there are eight courses being developed, and these will be online as well.

The annual meeting is coming up in September. This had been postponed from June.

Aviation NZ

The Aviation NZ Conference was held on 8 and 9 August 2022, which included over 200 delegates from across the aviation sector. The Conference discussed the coroner's findings into both the Robinson 44 and Fox Glacier crashes.

District plans across New Zealand are being reviewed and there may be changes around aircraft noise rules, which may affect helicopter usage.

The Conference discussed the Health and Safety at Work Act. Of note, although operators may comply with Civil Aviation Rules, they may not be compliant with the Health and Safety at Work Act.

CAA

Nothing to report.

Coastguard NZ

It has been a quiet couple of months on the water because of the weather. This is normal for this time of the year. There have been about 100 jobs last month with about 20 Category 1 and one Category 2 tasks in the last month which is about the same as last year. Coastguard is very focussed on training and maintenance.

Coastguard is running Master and Crew courses at the Rescue Centre, as well as piloting leadership courses.

A recruitment campaign is underway. Now have 47 units advertising vacancies on our website and have 359 vacancies on there. So far there have been 112 applicants.

Department of Conservation Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team

Te Papa Atawhai's Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team had operational volume returning to normal in the past three months, slightly increased from the previous quarter.

There have been heavy snowfalls in the park and poor weather which has so far prevented large numbers of alpine park users, though there is a noticeable increase in visitors.

Operations included: an operation with Garden City Helicopters to winch two subjects who had become benighted on an alpine climb; assistance of St John with multiple injuries on the Hooker track; the longline extraction of a climber who had fallen approximately 30 meters near Sealy Tarns; and the recent planning and

reconnaissance of an aircraft crashed near the main divide between Methven and Whataroa.

In addition to internal training, the team has continued to deliver notable training and inter-agency collaborations: A SAREX in the North Island focused on organised avalanche rescue; aviation training with volunteers in Aoraki Mt Cook for winter coverage; and a presentation at the NZSAR Aviation Workshop in July.

The team is busy with remaining commitments to collaborations and external training, while hiring for the beginning of the summer climbing season.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Nothing to report.

LandSAR

Business as usual for people on the ground and supporting agencies. All sorts of activity going on, weather has caught people out and in some cases they have been lucky and others not so lucky.

Looking at the year ahead, starting to do capacity planning and what capacity needs are for the 12 months ahead and whether we need to do any recruiting or specialist training.

The recent North Island Cave Diving exercise went very well and couldn't do it without the support of NZSAR.

Land Safety Forum

Nothing to report.

Maritime Operations Centre/Kordia

The major impact in the last quarter has been COVID – it is at the point now where the risk is now reduced. Purchased another eight work-stations and have virtualised the MOC and created a hybrid roster with two in the Operation Centre and one working remotely. Have done this for the last four months and there have been 130 incidents handled. We have been able to test remotely all the support systems of the MOC.

Ministry of Health

Nothing to report.

Ministry of Transport

The key highlight was the approval from the Senior Leadership Team for an approved training pathway for the Transport Response Team. This goes across three different phases from foundation to intermediate to ongoing professional development. There

are a lot of those courses that are yet to be developed or are currently in situ. Managed to continue recruitment of the TRT.

Mountain Safety Council

Nothing to report.

NASO

Nothing to report.

NEMA

Nothing to report

New Zealand Defence Force

Nothing to report.

New Zealand Police

Craig introduced Scott Iszard. Scott has been seconded into Pete Theobold's role until December.

Police have developed a clear action plan and strategy going forward how we deliver to the sector based on recommendations to the NZSAR assessment.

There have been two facilitators and a student at the Australian SAR Managers course and the students all bar one completed the assessment.

Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand

Recruitment is being done to build up SARO numbers. Maritime NZ had a restructure which involved RCCNZ. The Operations Manager role is now a fully fledged role. There is a new manager role which covers IT, Safety Systems and Infrastructure. There are a handful of additional roles to support these managers.

Rodney Bracefield announced his retirement. He has been a keen part of the SAR system over many years. He will stay until 16 December to support the restructure.

Three new SAROs have been brought on board who are all now fully qualified. They have done their three-month training and completed their probationary period. Recruiting an additional three SAROs, who will start their induction course at the end of September and will be joined by two Fijians as part of our capacity development work.

Doing a lot of regional and domestic engagement. Had a team meeting to the Cook Islands and Fiji. Have also been to Australia to see James and his team.

Had a spate of aviation accidents and worked closely with Police on the glacier incident. This tested our ability to assess risk as where the aircraft was, it was in a pretty precarious situation.

In mid to late-September 2022, TV3 are doing an item on the Enchanter incident. They have done quite a bit of work on this incident and have engaged with RCCNZ. The MRO plan is being refreshed.

St John

Nothing to report.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand

There has been a shuffle around senior management, Adam is moving into a project role so can look at FED funding and the Review. The National Education Manager has moved to NZ Rugby, and the replacement has been filled internally.

Last quarter quite busy with lifeguarding, SAR operations haven't increased, last month was pretty quiet due to weather.

The SAR summit was held in May. There was a great presentation on Wāhine on Water. Seen major impact on recruitment. All SAR squads will be on new MOUs by the beginning of the summer season. Onboarding of new members and supporting current coordinators who are normally one-man bands.

Doing work in river flood space, there were 23 incidents around rivers and floods, completed all training that received funding. Currently doing evaluations on flood boat training. Signed off two sites, one in the Manawatū and the other in Grey River.

Water Safety New Zealand

Nothing to report.

NZSAR Secretariat

There is a huge amount of work going on across the sector.

The Aviation workshop was held in July and was successful. The SAR Coordinator Workshop is on 22 and 23 August, and the Multi-agency workshop in September. NZSAR is co-sponsoring the YSAR workshop in September.

There is a set of shared resources being prepared for the Tiaki work which is led by Tourism NZ and DOC. This is focused on inbound international tourists

The Annual report is being compiled currently. There is an electronic newsletter with a technical focus going out to SAR leaders across the sector called LKP.

Distress beacon behaviour change campaign planning is underway. The ambulance agreement is almost signed.

There are various lead agency discussions that NEMA has been leading as part of the Trifecta work programme. The Secretariat has provided feedback on this

6. 2022 Volunteer Engagement Survey Summary

Five organisations were asked to take part in this survey, the four SAR NGOs (AREC, Coastguard, LandSAR and SLSNZ) and NEMA.

The overall response rate was 14 percent with a total of 3,258 completed responses. Each organisation has had specific responses sent back to them.

Overall, the satisfaction level is high. There is a need to focus on two areas: are the hours sustainable and are they likely to continue to volunteer for their organisation.

There are issues around the administration burden of being a volunteer and a negative perception of the 'Old Boys Club'. This is an indication that inclusivity and diversity need to be monitored across the sector so we can enable and empower volunteers with any belief or background to comfortably volunteer their time in a supported environment.

The minor ethnicity groups were under-represented: 4 percent advised that their ethnicity identified as Māori. Whānau/family life is seen as a barrier.

Callum passed on his thanks for the work that has gone into this. He asked about the spread of the insight and what can be learnt from the outliers. Evan is putting together a paper which will be discussed at the volunteer workshop in September. Callum asked for this to be a priority.

Bev Driscoll advised of the piece of work that is underway with the Review team. They are working with Rob Hewitt and Chanel Phillips on engaging with marae/hapū/iwi to understand the role of Māori in SAR sector.

Andy acknowledged Evan and the NGOs for the work they have put in.

7. Environmental Scan

Evan advised that a futurologist had been contracted to look at the risk to volunteers. There were three key trends that affect the search and rescue volunteer workforce. These are the decrease in volunteering, the ageing of SAR personnel and changes where people choose to live.

8. NZSAR Risk Matrix

a. Volunteering

The Committee considered the Volunteering aspect of the Risk Matrix

There was discussion about diversity and being inclusive.

Action:

- Duncan will consider the wording about volunteers in respect of being diverse and inclusive.

9. Recreational Safety and SAR Sector Review

Bev Driscoll advised the work on the Review continues at pace. There are several pieces coming to fruition for the Advisory Group to consider. There is a new Associate Minister who has the lead for the Review. Bev thanked everybody for their engagement to get sense of activities and involvement and with recreational safety bodies like Water Safety Council and Mountain Safety Council.

The Review has commissioned some work called *customer journey*, which is putting the person at the heart of the recreational safety search and rescue system and tracking some examples of folk, what happens when they are out, and the preparation they do before they head out.

Engagements are being run with Hapū and Iwi, to see what the opportunities might be for the future and spontaneous volunteers.

10. Safeswim

Adam Wooler gave a presentation on Safeswim.

Safeswim is becoming an important public communication tool.

The purpose is to empower swimmers to make informed decisions and manage their own risk. The vision is this is the preferred platform for water recreation health and safety information across New Zealand.

It started with water safety at the beach in Auckland and has evolved into a national platform with a purpose and a vision. It is recognised by WHO as international best practice regarding water contamination.

Adam demonstrated the website. It geolocates where you live and shows if the beach is patrolled and any hazards. It also shows the water quality prediction over the next few days.

The intention is to expand the Auckland and Northland Regional Council sites, and from 2023, other councils.

A MOU has been signed with NEMA for a Beach Hazard Predictor Model. This will be adapted for New Zealand and will be funded by Auckland Council and Water Safety NZ. This has been tested at Muriwai and Orewa beaches with 95 percent accuracy.

The website is an Auckland based site and can connect with different platforms like AdventureSmart, MetService.

Next steps are to continue upgrade and improve functionality, decide on level of commitment to SafeSwim, what agencies will be key partners, and to have further conversations with Councils.

11. Operational Framework Update

Matt Wheble provided a paper on the Operational Framework which has been updated. There are some significant changes. Any comments or feedback is to be provided to Matt by 18 August 2022. The NZSAR Council is the approver of the Operational Framework.

12. Tips for writing NZSAR Awards nominations

Tania Seward outlined the deadline for NZSAR Awards nominations is 31 January 2023, and she asked for these nominations to be placed sooner rather than later.

She said to also have a think about people who are in the wider SAR sector but not necessarily attached to a particular agency. For example, two years ago, RCCNZ nominated one of their survivability experts who has had a great impact on SAR.

Tania is happy to make connections with other agencies and has sources that can help write and review nominations.

13. Quarterly Activity Report

The Quarterly Activity Report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 April to 30 June 2022.

14. National SAR Support Programme 2022-23

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the 2021-22 National SAR Support Programme activities and projects currently underway.

15. General Business

There was no general business.

Next meeting: 15 November 2022

Action and Responsibility Table

#	Item	Action / Decision	Responsibility	Status
8.	NZSAR Risk Matrix a. Volunteering	Action: Duncan will come up with some wording about volunteers and better search and rescue outcomes if have diverse and inclusive approach.	Duncan Ferner	Complete