



New Zealand Search and Rescue Consultative Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

New Zealand Search and Rescue
Consultative Committee Meeting
Wednesday 9 February 2011
1.00pm – 4.00pm
Ministry of Transport, Cook Room
Level 6, 89 The Terrace
Wellington

Attendees:

Carl van der Meulen – NZSAR
Haydn Smith – LandSAR
John Scobie – LandSAR
Brenden Comerford – MOC
Rachel Roberts – NZSAR
David Waters – Ambulance NZ
Bruce Reid – Coastguard
Colin Small – Coastguard
Paul Craven – RCCNZ
Daryn Te Uamairangi – NZSAR
Mike Davies – DOC

Carl McOnie - SARINZ
Darryl Carpenter – MSC
Duncan Ferner – NZSAR
Amy Greig – MoT
Geoff Pierce – NZDF
Brett Sullivan – SLSNZ
Bruce Johnston – Police
Gery Prins – Police
Rodney Bracefield – RCCNZ
John Yaldwyn – AREC

Apologies:

John Funnell
Jeff Sayer – AREC
Roger Brown – MoT

Absent:

Jim Stuart-Black – NZFS
Iain Millar – Antarctica NZ

1. Welcome

Carl van der Meulen welcomed everyone to the meeting – the first for 2011. Carl also extended a welcome to Darryn Te Uamairangi (contractor), Carl McOnie (SARINZ) and Geoff Pierce (NZDF) who were attending the meeting for the first time.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received as listed above.

3. Minutes from Last meeting

The minutes from the previous Consultative Committee meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

a) On Scene Coordinator Training

Coastguard to raise some questions they have regarding this training with Secretariat.

This item was deferred to Item 10 on the Agenda.

b) IC/M Training Development

Secretariat is to provide an update at the next Consultative Committee Meeting.

This item was deferred to Item 10 on the Agenda.

c) Lessons Learned

Secretariat is to research other options for effectively communicating Lessons Learned to the sector. Update to be provided at the next Consultative Committee Meeting.

Case studies will be trialled in Link Newsletters.

d) Payment for SAR

Key messages on Payment for SAR were agreed by the Consultative Committee and will be presented to the Council.

Presented to NZSAR Council and published in Link 13 (Dec 2010).

e) Air Observers Training

LandSAR and RCCNZ are to have a further discussion about this training.

RCCNZ has organised a meeting to discuss air observer training and refresher training with all the parties involved.

5. Service Level Agreement Monitoring Report for the Oct – Dec 2010 Quarter

The Police have had some issues with changes to relevant databases which have meant some data could not be collected for this quarterly reporting. There were 608 SAROPs in the Oct – Dec 2010 Quarter. 44 People Perished during the Quarter – but this does not include the data from the Pike River Mine disaster, as this still needs to be entered into the Police P130 database.

All reporting requirements for the Quarter have been met by the SLA partners. Police and SLSNZ will need to work together to clarify reporting of incidents involving SLSNZ.

Issues and Updates

a) Coastguard:

- Rescue Vessel Upgrade – 3 projects completed in the Quarter.
- The schedule from NZSAR has increased the number and quality of SAREXs around NZ.
- A high profile incident on Lake Wakatipu in early December resulted in negative comment from some locals. Police have helped with running an operational debrief and a SAREX. The incident highlighted the need for the coordinating authorities to ensure the media is kept appropriately during and after incident on behalf of all incident participants.

b) LandSAR

- There is still a gap in the flow of reporting information from Police to volunteers, usually the event number.
- Training concerns (funding) relating to SARINZ and TPP.
- 2010 LandSAR AGM and Conference held in Hokitika 19 – 21 November.

c) SLSNZ

- There have been a large numbers of drownings, many of them at remote locations.

d) AREC

- No issues to report

6. Sector Update

Police

Police SAR resources have been stretched in the Northland district with a significant increase in the number of SAR call outs over the summer period, which averaged around 4 to 5 a day.

A number of SAR related courses for Police (and others) will be held over the next few months, including:

- National SAR course (around the end of April)
- Air observers courses
- On Scene Coordinator course (April)
- MLSO and MMSO courses

Surf Life Saving NZ

SLSNZ noted that it has been a very bad summer for drownings. Many of the drownings have occurred in remote locations. SLSNZ are working with NZSAR and other partners on the Water Safety Code which will help align water safety messages. A joint NZ/Australian signage standard has been agreed and some new signage has been placed at various beaches throughout the country. Public emergency rescue equipment, such as life rings, are now available in some areas and has been used to save lives.

SLSNZ have been involved in the recent Festival of Sport (a 9 day international sports event). The SLSNZ restructure is complete and the SLSNZ centenary year is drawing to a close.

New Zealand Defence Force

It has been a relatively quiet quarter for the NZDF with 3 helicopter and one P3 SAR operation.

Mountain Safety Council

Weather/outdoor trends

MSC has responded to a number of media and weather events across the Christmas and New Year period. There have been an unusually higher number of drownings, some of which were in the outdoors. The weather was somewhat variable across (and within) local and regional areas. MSC worked with the MetService to provide timely advice to trampers, hunters etc crossing rivers and

spending time in the hills. Campers were advised to check their campsite for flooding from rising water due to the heavy rain. This message went out the day before the Pelorus Bridge incident which provided a very timely reminder of what could happen if it all goes wrong. This event also provided an ideal opportunity for further preventative messages.

Proactive messaging

- The Outdoor Safety Code is available on DVD and has been distributed to key communication outlets (DoC Centres, I-Sites etc)
- MSC has managed the project on behalf of NZSAR Secretariat to successfully get www.adventuresmart up and working. More work is yet to be done on the depth (and breadth) of information and links

New Staff

- Chris Owens has joined MSC as the Bush Programme Manager (replacing Chris Tews who has joined Horewhenua College teaching staff)
- Andrea Hubbard has joined MSC as Comms/Marketing Manager (replacing Bede who is travelling in India)

Snow and Avalanche safety management

- MSC is hosting the Southern Hemisphere Avalanche Conference in Christchurch 11-12 June 2011. More details can be found on the MSC website www.mountainsafety.org.nz
- MSC is hosting the completion of the NZSAR Council supported avalanche incident pre-planning activity on the 10th June (the day before the main conference)

SARINZ

2010 was a mixed year for SARINZ; it saw delivery training to over 2,500 SAR and Emergency response practitioners. SARINZ worked with a number of different organisations both within New Zealand and Internationally. It also saw SARINZ recognised by the Canterbury Champion Awards as the winner for Small Charities.

However at the end of 2010, SARINZ had to look to a number of different options to remain financially stable. Increased delivery costs and high overheads (including increased pressure from TEC on funded training) saw SARINZ move to change its structure and leadership, in order to cut costs and reaffirm its purpose. This we have done. A number of partners are very supportive of the restructured team as it focuses on working with SAR and others in assisting with training and research.

SARINZ finances are under control and the staff is quickly settling in to the task at hand with over 160 days of training booked and a number of development projects being worked on in consultation with stakeholders.

SARINZ are very much focused on our purpose of *“helping others save lives”*

SARINZ are working closely with their national and international partners to ensure they are providing high quality, best practise training and non-training solutions. They are also committed to continuing to provide quality education

and training as recognised by their ongoing registration as a Private Training Establishment with New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

As of the end of 2010, SARINZ can confirm that SARINZ/TPP training will continue to be fully subsidised (no fees) for 2011.

Finally SARINZ would like to publicly reaffirm (as they did at the end of 2010) their commitment to the partnership and Memorandum of Understanding with LandSAR NZ, and look forward to working closely with them this year to meet their needs.

Coastguard

Coastguard reported that the incidents relating to flat batteries, poor maintenance etc has increased significantly over the November and December. Coastguard will be working on prevention messages around these particular types of incidents.

Coastguard noted a slight drop in Cat I and II SAROPs but that it continues to work with RCCNZ and NZ Police to improve SAR service delivery. Coastguard has some follow up to do regarding the Lake Wakatipu incident in late 2010. The media coverage of this incident reflected badly on those involved.

Coastguard has been involved with SLSNZ on the development of the Coastal work and continues to work with the Drowning Prevention Council and Pleasure Boat Safety Forum on common safety messaging. They are also working with MNZ and MOC around marine communications.

Coastguard has noticed an increase in the number of fresh water incidents during this past quarter and that these incidents tend to have a more catastrophic outcome.

Ambulance NZ

Ambulance NZ noted that there will be changes to the Rescue Helicopter sector with the likelihood of a two tier rescue helicopter system. ACC and the DHBs are looking at existing rescue helicopters and looking at what they do and how. Current contracts for the Rescue Helicopter sector have been pushed out to 2012 and a new tender will be let at that time. There has been considerable overseas interest.

The Air Ambulance Rescue Standard was completed late last year. There has been a slight delay in the document going public due to the MoH and ACC endorsement process. The document should be circulated in the next few weeks.

MOC

November and December were quite but 38 distress calls were made in January –a significant increase. The overall number of incidents recorded for the 2010 year was down by around 200 to about 1,000.

Concern was expressed around marine VHF radios with in built Digital Select Calling (DSC). This technology is currently not supported in New Zealand and may confuse the public in an emergency situation. It was agreed that this would

be raised at the national pleasure boat safety forum as there may be a requirement to better inform the public on this issue.

LandSAR

LandSAR has been experiencing a high number of callouts during the quarter but most were of short duration. They have averaged around 4 to 5 searches a day – particularly high country rescues in the Wanaka region. LandSAR has also had more interaction with RCCNZ assisting with Cat II searches during the quarter.

TV crews have been following specialist groups of LandSAR filming relevant rescues/searches. This weekend they will be filming a feature for a dog show and one to be aired on the Discovery Channel.

LandSAR noted that its membership was relatively stable and required more advanced specialist and refresher training rather than entry level SAR training. A large number of SAREXs are planned for coming months which will require a significant commitment from LandSAR staff.

LandSAR, together with AREC, has made a submission on the whole of government digital radio network.

RCCNZ

RCCNZ has noted a significant increase in Cat 2 land incidents over the Dec/Jan period. Paul Craven has been recently employed in a training role for RCCNZ.

The RCCNZ budget for 2011/2012 will include some ability to include training in the Pacific. RCCNZ are working with Coastguard to explore a visit to some Pacific Islands as part of the training.

RCCNZ are currently experiencing a problem with Rosters as this is a busy time for staff to take leave, therefore RCCNZ are running on a minimal roster while some staff take their leave.

Department of Conservation

The ACR team at Aoraki/Mt Cook has experienced a fairly quiet summer driven largely by a run of poor weather. Most climbers/walkers seems to be well prepared for their trips and most were carrying beacons.

AREC

AREC are currently assisting LandSAR with new Tait radio equipment. AREC were moderately busy over the Dec/Jan period – they experienced around 4 searches over the Xmas/New Year time.

NZSAR Secretariat

The Secretariat commented that during the Dec/Jan period the media presented many Search and Rescue stories. This is very positive for the SAR sector and organisations should start to think about utilising media opportunities to present safety prevention messages. The media provides a helpful platform for the SAR sector to get safety messages across to the public.

The Secretariat also commented on the positive change to the wider SAR culture and thanked the organisations present for their contributions for making this happen.

7. Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region

The purpose of this work is to provide an overarching document for the sector that explains how SAR is organised in NZ. The original draft version was sent out last year for sector input. The input that was received has been included in the current version. The Secretariat seeks endorsement from the Committee on this current version of the document. Once agreed by the Committee the document will be presented to the NZSAR Council at its meeting on 23 Feb for approval. Once approved the document will be available on the NZSAR website.

A few minor changes were suggested by LandSAR and MoC. Any further changes are to be sent to the Secretariat by Friday 11 February – this is to ensure the Secretariat can provide the Council with the most recent version for its meeting on 23 February.

Once the document has been finalised and approved, the Secretariat will ensure each organisation will receive two copies, further copies will be available from the NZSAR website.

The Committee **endorsed** the *Framework for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region* – subject to including any updates from members received by 11 February.

8. SAR and CDEM

The NZSAR Secretariat met with some regional CDEM members in Palmerston North in December 2010. The aim of this meeting was to improve the SAR engagement with the CDEM sector at a local level. This is important to the SAR sector because:

- CDEM has capacity to “declare” an emergency, commandeer resources etc – this may affect SAR.
- SAR has capacity and skills to assist in Civil Defence emergencies.
- SAR will need CDEM assistance in mass SAR scenarios.
- SAR can be more efficient (and save money) by sharing resources and training etc.

The Secretariat Manager reflected on his observations from this meeting in December:

- The organisation and nature of CDEM varies greatly around NZ (as does SAR).
- Not all CDEM managers fully appreciate that the SAR sector has volunteers trained in CIMS and IMT roles.
- CDEM managers do not have a good understanding of SAR roles, capacities and limitations.
- Around NZ there are areas where SAR and CDEM meet, train and exercise and operate together on a regular basis and others where there is next to no communication and understanding at all.
- The Police work across both sectors.

The next steps for CDEM and SAR:

- Establishing and maintaining relationships is crucial.
- Share knowledge about roles, organisation, capacity and limitations.
- NZSAR Senior Advisor will attend the Emergency Management conference to be held on 22 – 23 Feb.
- RCCNZ to be told of any declared emergency
- Director of CDEM has been invited to meet with NZSAR Council.
- Foster closer SAR/CDEM engagement.

9. NZSAR Awards

Carl thanked those who have provided nominations for the awards – 13 received for 11 nominees. A sub-group (with no COI) has been formed and is in the process of ranking the nominations. A final decision will be made by the Council on 23 Feb. The recipients of awards and nominations will be notified shortly afterwards. The Awards function will be held on 13 April (after the combined Consultative and Council meeting).

10. NZSAR National Support Programme

Workshops

i. NZSAR Technology Challenge

This workshop was completed in December 2010. Presentations from the workshop are now available on the website. This workshop highlighted the need for robust processes when considering new technologies – “tools, not toys”.

Two of the emerging technologies of interest to the sector are:

- Video collaboration packages
- UAS (Uninhabited Aerial Systems)

ii. NZSAR Training and Education Workshop

This workshop has been planned for 28/29 March 2011. The Secretariat Manager sought confirmation from the Committee that this workshop should be run. This was confirmed and Wellington was advised to be the most suitable location.

The draft plan for the workshop includes these topics: Annual SAREX Planning Session, OSC, IMC/M Training development update. Attendees for the workshop are limited to 40 people.

Any suggestions for topics or attendance are to be sent directly to the Secretariat Manager by Wednesday 16 February.

iii. Aviation Workshop

This is being organised by RCCNZ, and will be held 24&25 May. Any queries this workshop, including attendance, should be sent directly to Keith Allen at RCCNZ. Attendees will be limited to no more than 55.

iv. OSC Training Development

On scene Coordinator training – the pilot course is currently being prepared. This is booked for 18-21 April. An extra course may be scheduled for 27-30

June if the budget allows. There will be a meeting next week with subject matter experts to discuss the lesson plans/programme.

v. IC/M Training Development

The Incident Controller/Manager training development process is now underway and will be undertaken by Daryn Te Umairangi. He will meet with key stakeholders over the coming month and complete the gap and needs analysis. Specific concerns were noted relating to the redevelopment of the MMSO course.

SAR Prevention Initiatives

- Outdoor and Boating Safety codes widely distributed for summer
- The www.adventuresmart.org.nz website is now live
- The Water Safety Code is currently under development
- Advertisements have been placed in the Boaties book and Little Green Kiwi.
- The visitor intentions system continues to be developed

The next steps include:

- Further develop www.adventuresmart.org.nz
- Complete the Water Safety Code and ascertain the appropriate quantity, type and distribution of material out required.
- Promote consistent safety messaging throughout sector
- Engage with tourism promoters and carriers
- Produce media talking points for sector.

11. General Business

Whole of Government Digital Radio Network

John Yaldwyn provided an update on this item. Price Waterhouse Coopers are preparing a business case on the whole of Government Digital Radio Network. LandSAR and AREC have provided input to the business case. SLSNZ confirmed that they have also provided input. [Since the meeting DoC have confirmed that they are also involved in the submission process]

Travel Reports

The travel reports from the NZSAR Secretariat's trips to Canada and Australia in 2010 were presented.

National SAR Support Programme for 2011/2012

The Secretariat Manager outlined the initial plan for the support programme for the next financial year

- Air observer refreshers
- OSC/IM/C Training
- Marine workshop #2, Wander workshop #2
- Prevention messaging
- SAR Research
- Liability/Insurance Issues
- Aviation flight following guidelines

SLAs

The Secretariat Manager provided an update on the status of the SLA review process

- The SLA's have been discussed by the NZSAR Council
- Awaiting Ministerial confirmation of continued funding and quantum
- Expecting to draft 3 year SLAs shortly (2011/2012 – 2013/2014) and start engagement process. The Secretariat will keep the group informed of progress.

International Maritime Rescue Federation Meeting - China

Coastguard is looking to take a delegation to this meeting being held in Shanghai China, 24 – 28 August 2011. The meeting will concentrate on IMRF's 3 main goals over the past 4 years - Mass Rescue and Evacuation, International Codes of Practice and Helping Developing and Sustainable Search and Rescue resources/organisations. Coastguard asked if other organisations were interested in attending also. Carl suggested Coastguard apply to the LGB Minister's Discretionary Fund to cover the costs.

Public Safety Radio Network Conference

John Yaldwyn mentioned the above conference being held in Melbourne at the end of the month. John will be attending (and presenting) and felt it worthwhile mentioning to the rest of the group. This conference also includes a trip to the Emergency Operations Centre in Melbourne.

Meeting ended – 3.40pm

Next Meeting – Thursday 13 April

A combined NZSAR Council and Consultative Committee meeting, followed by the NZSAR Awards.

Carl van der Meulen
NZSAR Secretariat

Actions Arising		Responsibility
6. Framework for the NZSRR	Any amendments required to descriptions of organisation roles to be provided to the Secretariat by Friday 11 Feb.	All
	Copies of final version approved by the NZSAR Council to be distributed.	Secretariat
9. Training and Education Workshop	Feedback on topics and attendees to be provided to the Secretariat by Wednesday 16 February.	All