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# NZLSAR News

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## NZLSAR Committee News

**Committee membership.** Over the past few months there has been a number of changes in the membership of the NZLSAR Committee. Brian Holland has stepped down as Region Six Representative and Alan Pritchard from Christchurch has taken up the position. Alan is involved in training a search dog and with his dog Zoot attended the recent South Island Search Dog Training and Assessment Course held just out of Blenheim in Pine Valley. Another who has stood down is Region Four Representative Warrick Price and Nigel Boniface from Masterton has taken up this role. Joe Hayes also found the work/life balance difficult and so John Scobie has been selected by Region Five to be their Representative. To Brian, Warrick and Joe we would extend a huge vote of thanks for your contribution to national SAR politics and extend an equally big welcome to Alan, Nigel and John.

**NZLSAR Committee meeting.** The last meeting of the Committee was in November and held at the Woodbourne Air Force Base. It was held to coincide with the dog course so members were able to spend time on the Saturday afternoon and evening meeting with the course attendees. Saturday was largely taken up with discussion on the Strategic Review with Murray Wilson of Design Torque giving a presentation on their findings. After much discussion a resolution with a number of clauses was

passed. Copied from the unconfirmed minutes the resolution is as below on page 3. Amongst the Subcommittee reports were the following comments:-

**Communications Subcommittee.** An initial group has been established to set the framework and membership for an Applications (or Information Management) working group. The following met in Hamilton earlier in the month

Steve Davis  
Barry Were  
Karen King  
John King  
Linda Cook  
Karen Long  
Dave Henderson

All have a variety of backgrounds in SAR and different aspects of IT and IT Business processes.

Also present for some of the time was Jill Barclay – Technology Manager: GIS from Police I&T. Jill has offered to be a liaison to the Police for this group.

Some very good initial work has come out of the meeting and some documentation will be circulated. Some aims of the Working Group are to Provide:-

- Tools & Systems to assist Search Teams

- Tools & Systems to assist Search Management
- Tools & Systems for managing training records

Jill described to the group the QuickMap system that Police are working to deploy as a mapping tool for Policing, and will endeavour to get access to licenses for a number of us to evaluate it against TUMONZ for comparison of its capabilities for use for Search Management functions. See <http://www.quickmap.co.nz/> (NOTE that there is no intention to move away from TUMONZ at this stage, this is a preliminary investigation of suitability that will take place over the next several months)

**Specialist Subcommittee.** A modified draft of the NZLSAR Helicopter Rescue Standards has recently been produced with the only remaining contentious point being the use of a fibre long line versus a wire rope and chain. It is thought that work in the next few months will resolve this issue and the standards can finally be published as a joint venture between NZLSAR, AIA and CAA. The process undertaken thus far has been very useful and relationships between SAR and aviation sectors have been formed.

With this contentious issue in mind the Subcommittee has secured a recently retired fibre long line from the DoC Aoraki/Mt Cook Rescue team and will use this to test "recoil". The testing environment and testing parameters have yet to be finalised, but with the support and financial assistance of DoC and AIA it is envisaged this will be completed within a few months. It is possible that upon completion of this testing it may be necessary to enter into further negotiations with AIA for similar recoil testing of wire rope.

In regard safety around rivers and waterways the Chairman expressed a desire to explore the need some sort of "advanced" or an extension to the basic river crossing training given currently for navigable waterways. Training at a level sitting

somewhere in between the high level White Water practitioners for foot field personnel was felt to be required. Material that needed to be considered includes hydrology, river crossing, basic rescue techniques with throw bags and more. The Subcommittee Chairman asked for feedback on the need or otherwise for this training.

**Training Subcommittee.** Toolman Form Review. Since there were no new forms submitted for consideration the Toolman collection remains unchanged at this time. The Subcommittee is working with SARINZ to align the forms on Toolman with those used on training courses.

Attendance on TPP Courses. Further discussions related to the problems of people dropping out of courses at the last minute. It is accepted that as long as individuals are making no financial commitment prior to their attending the courses there is a high risk of dropouts. The discussion on ways to resolve this problem will continue.

MSC Bushcraft Courses. NZLSAR members can attend these courses (and all other MSC courses) at no cost provided they register with MSC as instructors.

Qualification structure. Further work has been done on a framework for the skills needed for team members. This has not been completed yet.

MLSO Course Review. As required by Tai Poutini Polytechnic the standard for the MLSO course has been reviewed. It is proposed that the course be changed to a number of modules related to the different phases of an operation. SARINZ are developing the new standards.

The MLSO course handbook was also reviewed with the intention of aligning it with NZ terms and systems. This should happen this year.

**John P Tristram**  
National Field Officer

The resolution regarding the implementation of the NZLSAR Strategic Review as produced by Murray Wilson and Dave Langman (Design Torque) and passed by the NZLSAR Committee at the November 2005 meeting.

**Moved That**

- 1 That the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc. (NZLSAR) Strategic Review proposal and recommendations be adopted subject to:-
  - (a) The necessary financial support from the NZ Police and/or the SAR Council being obtained
  - (b) Necessary modifications to the proposal being made to obtain such finance
  - (c) If such modifications are more than minor they shall be referred to the Committee.
  
- 2 That the Committee appoints the Chairman to establish a Working Group to make and negotiate a formal funding application to the NZ Police and the SAR Council.
  
- 3 That the Committee appoints the Chairman to establish a Working Group to:-
  - (a) Develop position descriptions and other required documentation for the Business Manger and Field Support Officer(s).
  - (b) Conduct the selection of individuals for these.
  - (c) Recommend individuals for these positions, to the National Committee for ratification.
  - (d) This resolution shall take effect when the Chairman is satisfied that adequate funding is available.
  
- 4 The working Groups shall include Messrs Langman and Wilson and such other persons and or professional help as the Chairman shall require to assist him.
  
- 5 The Chairman in consultation with the Treasurer is authorised to expend such funds as are necessary to implement the above resolutions up to a total of \$15,000 for resolutions 2 and 4 and such further sums as have been budged in the proposal for items 3 and 4. This approval includes authority to expend from existing funds which the Chairman is satisfied will be recouped within a reasonable financially sustainable time and will not adversely effect existing activities.

**Tai Poutini Polytechnic Sponsored Courses**

The following are the courses and the Regions they will be held in for the next few months. If you have an interest in attending one of these courses please feel free to contact one of the Regional Training Coordinators. **JPT**

Region	Coordinator/s	Hm phone	Email
One	Dave Erson	09-818-4609	dave.erson@xrta.co.nz
Two	Bruce Sandford	07-577-0350	absandford@xtra.co.nz
Three	Peter Renshaw	06- 863-1056	prenshaw@pultron.com
Four	Jean Garman	06 354 3536.	Jean.Garman@fonterra.com
Five	Ian Watts	03-547-4592	all.watts@clear.net.nz
Six	Steve Davis	03-348-0360	steve@z12ucx.gen.nz

<b>Seven</b>	<b>Tric Moller Dunedin</b>	<b>03-453-0459</b>	<b>tric@ihug.co.nz</b>
<b>Seven</b>	<b>Bruce Smart Invercargill</b>	<b>03-216-9140 027-4474-386.</b>	<b>bruces@woosh.co.nz.</b>
<b>Seven</b>	<b>Russell Carr Queenstown</b>	<b>03-442-9068</b>	<b>Artline@xtra.co.nz</b>

The table below is not complete as a number of Regions have expressed an intention to hold a particular course but have not finalised the actual booking.

	<b>Course</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>One</b>			
<b>Two</b>	Clue Processing Foundation Rope	Whakatane Turangi/Taupo	18/19 February 5/6 March
<b>Three</b>			
<b>Four</b>	Vertical Rope	Wharepapa	11/12 March
<b>Five</b>			
<b>Six</b>	Tracking	Canterbury	11/12 March
<b>Seven</b>			

### **New Year Honours for SAR participants**

The volunteer work for land search and rescue by **John Jordan**, a Taranaki SAR participant, was acknowledged in the New Year Honours when he was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Founder in 1971 of the Taranaki Cliff Rescue Team, he has over the years played a significant role in many rescues on Mt Egmont. The latest was to coordinate the recovery of the bodies of the pilot and passenger of the Piper Seneca that crashed into the summit of Mt Egmont. John has acted much more than the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff and has given alpine instruction for over 40 years, been a Mt Egmont National Park guide since 1971 and has assisted the Taranaki Outdoor Pursuits and Education Centre.

Others who were noted for their professional contribution were Senior Sergeant **Mike Wright** in Napier and Sergeant **Peter Summerfield** in Christchurch. Both were involved in DVI following the tsunami and both have had a long association with land search and rescue

To all three NZLSAR would extend its congratulations on honours well deserved and to express its sincere appreciation for each person's contribution to search and rescue over many years.

**John P Tristram**  
National Field Officer

## How it used to be done!



Canterbury's original SAR base kit was recently discovered deep in the bowels of the Christchurch Police Station. About fifty years old and at the time containing the very latest and most sophisticated equipment known to SAR.

### A snippet from the latest Wellington Land SAR newsletter

WLSAR has migrated its database over to IMAN/GMAN.

Consequently anyone currently involved, or intending to be involved in the IMT must be able to use the new software.

For those who want to preview the software a trial version can be downloaded from the datasolve website - users must have MS Access 2000 or later on their PC's to use this programme.

Enclosed in an environmentally friendly wooden case, were the essentials for coordinating the saving of souls. Like some paper and pencils, map pins, cellotape (which had been invented), and progressive tools such as hole punches and staplers! Connect to an old chap (or chapess) with a good brain and lots of practical experience and whammo!

People new to SAR may wonder how we managed, but in fact we managed rather well and I sometimes wonder whether today we are much, if any, more successful than we were in the 1950s. Sure, we may have less people in the field but the ICP needs ten times the staff!"

**Dave Saunders**  
Adviser Canterbury District

## Happenings at Wellington Land SAR

### Snippets

#### Library additions

The library has recently acquired two new resources:-

#### ***More than Law and Order - Policing a Changing Society 1945-92.*** by Susan Butterworth

I have only skimmed various pages of this but have found the subject matter fascinating and an easy read. It touches on a host of notable events from the Tangiwai, Wahine and Erebus disasters, women in police and specialist squads. It is on this latter topic that the book was purchased as it has a small concise history of search and rescue and the department's involvement in it. The book is a really good read.

**On Target.** Jointly produced by the Graf Boys, Police and MSC and available in both video and DVD. I found the safety message largely diluted in this long (100 minutes) pictorial essay on killing animals. However if hunting is your thing then this has numerous excellent stalking, shooting sequences in some rather nice country.

Both the above and a number of other books and videos are available at no charge from the NZLSAR library.

JPT

After a long gestation, the Wellington Land SAR Trust came into being in September 2005. The event is significant for WLSAR because we now have a dedicated funding vehicle to finance various projects, some of which we hope will benefit the whole NZLSAR community.

WLSAR's IT resource has received an immediate boost. One of the first benefits of having the charitable trust was the generous donation of computer equipment from 4RF. Our charitable trust status enables donor businesses to enjoy tax benefits. Subsequently, we have also benefited from a software donation for these machines.

Other IT developments include the decision to migrate the WLSAR database over to IMAN/GMAN. Until now, WLSAR has used its own WnSARMan database. This included functions to manage personnel and training, and functions to manage operations. Although we developed it according to our needs, it was only used by WLSAR. Recent operations highlighted a need for us to have SAR management software that was being used nationally, and these events were the catalyst for change.

We have also begun testing the WLSAR training and event Webcalendar. This has been adapted to our requirements over 2005 and is intended to facilitate the management and administration of training events and meetings. The software is a PHP based open-source application, and should be useful to other SAR organisations. Features include web-based registration and administration of events, automated email notifications, and the ability to view scheduled events in calendar form.

We have also been considering the structure of our organisation. Currently, WLSAR is managed by the Adviser Group, which includes civilian Advisers and sworn Police. We have been considering how to involve more of the organisation in running itself. So far, the structure has not changed, but we do have a number of projects under way. Examples include a membership project, involving Kevin McGuinness, who has lots of good ideas and experience from the Hamilton group. Alan Thompson heads a CIMS working group, charged with getting the IMT up to speed and addressing any aspect of the organisation which needs to be adapted to the CIMS environment. Mike Judd has offered to work on symbology. This will involve adapting the ICS symbol system for use with TUMONZ. We also have a project under way to provide topographical maps as an additional layer in the TUMONZ programme.

Following on from previous years, the new training calendar is quite full again. There is an increased emphasis on management training sessions. We also hope to have some combined sessions with other areas in Region 4. To facilitate this, we will be posting training from other Region 4 SAR districts on our website at [www.wlsar.org.nz](http://www.wlsar.org.nz).

**Dave Walker** Adviser Wellington District

### Hamilton SAR Group Training programme 2006

In the January 2006 newsletter put out by Jane Houghton as Newsletter Editor for the Hamilton SAR Group was, amongst the other interesting material, their training and event calender for the coming year. The calender may be useful in providing ideas for those looking at their annual training programme so I include it below. I see that Wellington also has put out theirs which goes through to mid 2007 and is even more extensive. This can be viewed at [www.wlsar.org.nz](http://www.wlsar.org.nz).

2005/6 Programme				
Event:	Meeting: Gin's place	Hamilton	16th Jan	
Training:	Altz/TCA Refresher	Auckland	Early Feb	Proposed
Training:	Clue processing (TCA 3)	Whakatane	11th / 12th Feb	Provisional
Training:	Foundation Ropes - Pirongia Lodge	Hamilton	11th / 12th Feb	
Event:	Regional meeting	Rotorua	14th Feb	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	20th Feb	
Event:	Workshop	Hamilton	25th / 26th Feb	
Event:	National meeting	Wellington	25th / 26th Feb	
Event:	Abseil: Pukete Bridge	Hamilton	28th or 29th Feb	
Event:	Abseil: Bridal Veil Falls	Hamilton	05th Feb	
Training:	Foundation Ropes	Turangi	05th / 06th Mar	Provisional
Training:	Suburban Search	Rotorua	Mon/Tues Mar	Proposed
Training:	Vertical Rope Rescue	Whakapapa	11th / 12th Mar	
Event:	District SAREX - Waihi Hosting	Waihi	18th / 19th Mar	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	20th Mar	
Event:	Workshop	Hamilton	01st / 02nd Apr	
Training:	First Aid Refresher	Hamilton	22nd Apr	Provisional
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	17th Apr	
Training:	Tracking (TCA 2)	Thames	22nd / 23rd Apr	Provisional
Training:	Track & Clue Awareness (TCA 1)	Turangi	Apr/ May	Proposed
Training:	Clue processing (TCA 3)	Hamilton	20th / 21st May	Provisional
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	22nd May	
Training:	Search Methods	Whakatane	27th / 28th May	Provisional
Training:	Track & Clue Awareness (TCA 1)	Regional	May	Proposed
Training:	Team Leaders	Regional	May	Proposed
Training:	CIMS	Regional	May	Proposed
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	23rd / 25th Jun	
Event:	SAREX	Hamilton	19th Jun	
Event:	Mini SAREX 2	Hamilton	15th / 16th July	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	17th July	
Event:	Regional meeting	Rotorua	Saturday in July	
Event:	Workshop	Hamilton	19th / 20th Aug	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	21st Aug	
Event:	National meeting	Wellington	26th / 27th Aug	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	18th Sep	
Event:	Workshop	Hamilton	14th / 15th Oct	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	16th Oct	
Event:	NZLSAR Conference 2006	Dunedin	18th / 19th Nov	
Event:	Meeting	Hamilton	20th Nov	

## Timaru Rose Day and SAR

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2005, the Mid-South Canterbury SAR Group was involved in the South Canterbury Rose Festival held at Caroline Bay Timaru. The day dawned bright and sunny. Working with the Mount Cook Rescue Team, we produced a tent full of information and photos on search and rescue and previous callouts and exercises. We were also lucky to involve the rescue helicopter that works at Mount Cook and complete a short public display on rescue techniques.

This was favourable received from the members of the public and had 'wow factor'

with the kids. Police, Mt Cook and South Canterbury SAR volunteers were on hand to discuss any matters with the many hundreds of members of the public who wandered through the festival and our display throughout the day. South Canterbury Community Trust who supported the festival and search and rescue in Mid-South Canterbury were on hand for the photos. A good day was completed with a BBQ at the end.

**Teresa Wright.** Region Six Secretary  
**Gary Brehaut.** Adviser Canterbury District



A view of part of the display at the Timaru Rose Day

**Editors Comments.** A very big thank you to **Joe** for the training opportunity information, **Dave S** on the discovery in the bowels of the Christchurch Station, **Dave W** on the growth in Wellington SAR, **Jane** for her newsletter and **Teresa** and **Gary** on the Timaru public relations exercise. . Copy for the **April News** is most welcome and the close-off date is **Thursday 23 March**. Articles on gear, SAR training or operations are most welcome. Please either mail as neatly hand-written, printed hard copy or on a disc to **NZLSAR, PO Box 12081, Thorndon, Wellington**. Alternatively email it to **tristram.nzlsar@xtra.co.nz** Even if you have some thoughts on an article but are diffident in putting pen to paper, feel free to give me a ring on **04-470-7247** and we can talk it through.

**John P Tristram, National Field Officer**