
NZLSAR News

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NZLSAR and Committee meeting 22/23 February 2003

The NZLSAR Committee met on the weekend 22/23 February and a Special General Meeting of NZLSAR was held on the first day. This was to receive the document "Performance Audit of the Search and Rescue Services Provided in New Zealand" by Dave Brewer. This was done as required by the Constitution of NZLSAR and after receipt was passed on to the NZLSAR Committee for consideration and action. Copies have been sent to Regional Secretaries and it will be placed on the web so can be viewed at <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz>. On Sunday 23 February the Committee spent some time working through the document and has delegated tasks to various individuals and Subcommittees as well as prioritising the work required. Other items on the agenda included:-

Travel Policy - for NZLSAR sponsored travel overseas sets out the terms and selection processes for this. It is available for perusal on the web and a copy will be sent to each Regional Secretary for inclusion in their compendiums.

Communications Subcommittee report - the Business Case made last year was not supported by Police so after making some small alterations it will be submitted for reconsideration for the 03/04 financial year. The Subcommittee is planning to meet in April or early May.

Conference report - the Committee still awaits a final report on this event but it appears there may be a surplus of \$4,000 to \$5,000.

Web page - Steve Davis as "der veb meister" has requested Committee members, Districts and Regions to contribute and use this facility. I have been nominated to "ascertain the number of web users in each District". I am not at all sure how to do this and any thoughts would be welcome.

Search dogs - following some recent assessments the list of operational search

dogs has been updated and put on the web. A hard copy will be included in the updated Advisers List and a copy will be sent to Regional Secretaries.

Vertical rescue - Don Bogie gave a presentation on the work done to date for the Backcountry Technical Rescue Standards. He related how the group working on these had realised that the need for high angle teams would be best considered at a Regional level. The Committee agreed that a needs analysis would be handled by Regions carrying out their own study with assistance from Don and Tric Moller as required. A package including templates, standards, data collection sheets and advice as to information interpretation will be produced, complete with a CD and paper copies, to assist each Region carry out a needs analysis for their Region. This is to include any recommendations from the Region on vertical rescue. More information will be circulated as it comes to hand.

Changes to Subcommittee Chairmen - Roscoe Tait, with the responsibilities of NZLSAR Chairmanship, has stood down as Chairman of the Training Subcommittee. The Subcommittee had recommended Barry

Were as his replacement and the Committee agreed and appointed Barry as the new Chairman of the Training Subcommittee. In taking on this role Barry has stood down as Chairman of the Underground Subcommittee. The New Zealand Speleological Society has by right of the Constitution the ability to appoint the Underground Chairman and they have been requested for a name and details of Barry's replacement. The Committee expressed its appreciation to both Roscoe and Barry for the work they had done over the years as Chairmen of the respective Subcommittees.

Region Four report - a highlight of the report from this Region was the Wairarapa Search and Rescue organisation's 75th reunion celebrations. 75 years contribution to their community! NZLSAR agreed to support the attendance of three people to the celebrations and the presentation to the organisation of a NZLSAR plaque.

Region Five report - this Regions boundaries changed at the SGM last November and the inaugural meeting of the Region was planned for 15 March. Narrow, but long, down the West Coast and taking in the top of the South Island from Kaikoura across to Murchison it is another difficult Region to manage. It is claimed to have nine National Parks, several Forest Parks as well as large tracts of unoccupied crown land all of which make this Region a recreationalists paradise. It also makes it very busy SAR wise. Funding has been received from the Lion Foundation to purchase 60 life jackets for use in the Region's rivers and lakes.

Financial report - time was spent on this and bringing together of Business Case. Such is the complexity of the financial control I have included it as a separate article.

Proposed changes to Police General Instructions - Gerard Prins is rewriting these and has given NZLSAR an opportunity to have an input. Gerard went through them section by section explaining the proposed changes and the Committee was able to make submissions.

TUMONZ - Barry Were spoke on the desirability of having some form of liaison with this mapping company and the advantages of commonality of software amongst the Regions. The Committee gave

approval for Barry to explore the possibility of a closer relationship with the company with a view to giving it some form of endorsement. However the Committee was clear that any such endorsement should not be seen as exclusive.

Conference 2004 - Region Two and Region Four have separately indicated an interest in hosting the 2004 Conference. After consideration the Committee accepted the offer by Region Two and have asked them to submit a proposal including venue, time of year and costs. The Committee thanked Region Four for their interest with a reminder there will be another in the North Island in 2008

Advisers ID - with the review of the Adviser position no Adviser Workshops have been held for some time and this has created a difficulty for newly appointed Advisers who want an ID card. The present requirement for the issuing of the card is that the Adviser has been to a workshop and so we are now in a catch 22 situation. The Committee confirmed that the card is only for Advisers but the criteria was expanded to have been to an Advisers Workshop and/or a two or four day NZLSAR CIMS course, and/or a forty hour MLSO course. As well it was decided to re-date the cards and return to the "two year life". Accordingly I am to write to all those holding a card, asking if they want another photo used and if not reusing the original one. This has thrown up another problem, which I touch on in the next item.

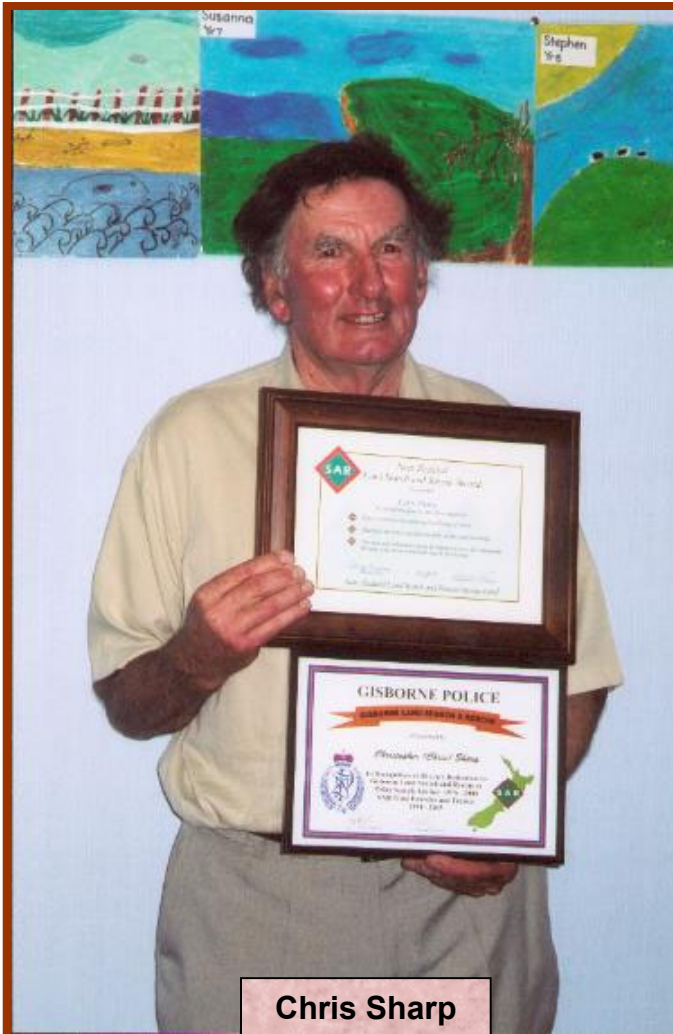
Adviser List - the list of Land Advisers, Underground Advisers, Communications and Air Contacts has not been reviewed for two years. The Committee directed I update this and the process has started with a letter to all Police SAR Managers and Coordinators with a copy of the current information held and a request that corrections or information of new appointees be returned to this office. In reviewing the Adviser List myself I am aware of a number of retirements and I think more may be pending. As some of the people holding Advisers ID cards may have or are going to retire and will no longer qualify for a card, I feel it is prudent to update the list before writing to them all with the offer of a new card.

John P Tristram
National Field Officer

Chris Sharp – 40 years of service to Gisborne Land Search and Rescue

Recently the Gisborne SAR Organisation held a function at which Chris Sharp was given a NZLSAR Award and several other Gisborne SAR personnel were given a Police/Gisborne SAR certificate. Below are some of the comments about Chris taken from the application documentation.

Chris has been involved in Gisborne SAR for 40 of the 42 years that Gisborne SAR has existed. Fresh out of University he joined the Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club on his arrival in Gisborne and soon after found himself in a SAR field team. In the forty years since, his extensive



Chris Sharp

tramping and SAR activities have given him a comprehensive knowledge of the Urewera's and Raukumara Ranges. This invaluable knowledge was a valued resource to the many Police SAR staff and SAR Committee members who worked with Chris over the four decades.

Chris attended his first SAR Committee meeting on the 09 March 1966. One year later he was elected as the Gisborne Canoe and Tramping Club's SAR Representative. Ten years on, in 1976, Chris was appointed SAR Adviser. For the following 25 years he was a pivotal member of the Gisborne Land SAR Committee, committing himself to all the duties and responsibilities that came his way. He resigned from the Committee in September 2000.

Chris was the founder and "leading light" in the formation of the Gisborne Land Search and Rescue Trust, which was formed in 1994. It was only his sheer determination and perseverance that enabled the Trust to ever become a reality. Chris's steadfast belief in the benefits that could be gained from the formation of the Trust has to date benefited Gisborne Land SAR by some \$50,000.

Today, 40 years on, Chris's interest and dedication to SAR continues with his present position of Chairman of the Trust and a willing pair of boots and pack ever ready for the next SAR operation. A truly outstanding service, truly worthy of recognition.

Brian Burgess

Gisborne Land SAR Chairman

Financial accountability and the preparation of the annual Business Case

Simplistically the financial affairs of NZLSAR can be seen in two parts. Firstly putting a Business Case to Police with sufficient justification that they fund the request and secondly managing the funds

given and ensuring the work is done as promised.

In explanation I would address the second part first and say managing and being

accountable for over a third of a million dollars each year is becoming a more complex exercise. Each week invoices and other expenses are accumulated and after reference to the present Business Case or Committee directive, I “approve” them. They then go to the Treasurer Phil Rundle who writes out a cheque which I get countersigned and payment is made.

Each month Phil produces a financial report which is circulated to members of the Finance Subcommittee and depending on what else is being mailed out is also sent to the Committee members. This monthly monitoring gives Phil firstly an assurance that we are not overspending and secondly an awareness of any surplus that may be accruing. The finances are reviewed at each Committee meeting and questions asked on the progress of various projects. Any savings are identified and may be reallocated to other projects. For all bar one year NZLSAR has operated with a surplus with the financial grant from Police. This has consistently been a very small percentage of the total annual expenditure.

At the end of the financial year the NZLSAR accounts are audited by a professional auditing firm. This exercise entails their close scrutiny of the Business Case, the past years minutes, all receipts and invoices etc. As well NZLSAR has been audited by the IRD for GST compliance. The fact that NZLSAR has flown through all these audits is a compliment

to the careful methodical keeping of the books and the hard work done by Phil Rundle.

The preparation of the annual Business Case is a lengthy exercise and an evolving system is becoming established. One of the first things that happens is that in September each year the Regions are contacted and asked to identify their training needs, that are nationally assisted and to put forward their requests for financial assistance in other areas. About this time the NZLSAR Subcommittees are asked to review and cost their work intentions for the next year and the Treasurer produces an estimate for items such as next years NZLSAR administration, Committee meetings and NFO costs.

This is all brought together at the February meeting with the various work plans and attendant costs approved or not declined and a total expenditure is arrived at. The Treasurer will make an estimate on any surplus on the current years activities and this amount shows what portion of the intended work that NZLSAR can fund. The rest is then the amount that will be requested from the Police. After the February meeting more work may be needed to be sure of costs then it is all made up into a little booklet and presented to Police as the NZLSAR Business Case.

John P Tristram
NFO

Report on COSPAS-SARSAT System

***B**elow is a paper presented to the meeting of the Search and Rescue Operations Committee (SAROC) held on 18 December 2002. Dr Tom Clarkson attended on behalf of NZLSAR.*

1. Introduction

1.1 The Open Meeting of the 29th Session of the Cospas-Sarsat Council held in Washington, D.C. during the period 14-17 October 2002 was attended by the Manager of the New Zealand National Rescue Coordination Centre (NRCC). The meeting, which coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Cospas-Sarsat Programme, was attended by the representatives from 33 States plus observers from the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the European Space Agency.

2. Status of the Programme

2.1 The current number of participants in the Cospas-Sarsat Programme is 37, comprising the four Cospas-Sarsat Space Segment providers (Canada, France, the Russian Federation and the USA), 22 Ground Segment providers, nine User States, and two Ground Segment Operator Organisations, who currently operate six LEOSAR spacecraft, three GEOSAR spacecraft, 38 LEOLUTs, nine GEOLUTs and 24 Mission Control Centres.

2.2 The Council reported that during 2001 the Cospas-Sarsat System was instrumental in rescuing 1,545 persons in 365 SAR events worldwide.

3. Beacon Matters

3.1 It is estimated that, at the end of 2001, there were 185,000 406 MHz beacons registered in 74 countries, although manufacturers' reports indicate there are approximately 285,000 406 MHz beacons in use.

3.2 During 2001, 2.8% of the 406 MHz beacon alerts were false, whereas the false alert rate for the 121.5 MHz beacons was 95%.

3.3 In anticipation of Cospas-Sarsat Council terminating the satellite processing and alerting service for 121.5 MHz beacons in 2009, a proposal to relax certain aspects of the technical specifications for 406 MHz beacons was agreed in the expectation that this will enable manufacturers to produce lower cost, more affordable 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacons to replace the obsolescent 121.5MHz beacons.

3.4 The Cospas-Sarsat Council endorsed the view that an International 406 MHz Beacon Registration Database (IRBD) offered a valuable service to the users of the Cospas-Sarsat System and should be progressed. The functional requirements and concept of operations for an IRBD have been developed and are based on an Internet-based software database application. The method of funding the development and maintenance of an IRBD system is unclear, but it is possible that the provision of this service will result in an increase to the contribution that participating

States are required to make to cover the cost of operating the Cospas-Sarsat System.

4. Phase-Out of 121.5/243 MHz Satellite Alerting Services

4.1 The Council reported that all States appear to be transitioning gradually towards the situation in February 2009 when 406 MHz beacons will be the only distress beacons processed by the Cospas-Sarsat System. It was also noted that the Canadians, who were planning to commission an independent study for evaluating the viability of systems to replace some of the functions presently served by the 121.5 MHz satellite system, would provide this information to other administrations on request. It was emphasised that it was important that national 121.5 MHz phase-out plans address the requirement to properly dispose of surplus 121.5 MHz beacons to avoid false alerts.

Footnote

There has been a New Zealand 406MHz Interagency Transition Task Group (comprising representatives from NRCC, MOT, MSA, NZ Police, CAA and the Ministry of Economic Development) established to manage the transition before 1 February 2009.

RK Bracefield
Manager, NRCC

Training Subcommittee news

The Training Subcommittee met on Saturday 08 February with Roscoe Tait (Chairman), Brian Holland, Tric Moller, Gerard Prins, Dave Saunders, John Tristram and Barry Were present.

The first major item on the agenda was the Chairmanship of the Subcommittee. With Roscoe now the NZLSAR Committee Chairman and needing to devote his attention to "the bigger picture" he felt it was appropriate that he stand down as Subcommittee Chairman. After some discussion it was resolved that Barry Were be recommended to the NZLSAR Committee at their next meeting later in February as the Chairman of the Training Subcommittee. This has subsequently been accepted by the NZLSAR Committee

Subcommittee membership was discussed and a letter drafted for the Committee some time ago is to be revised and sent to Regions and Organisations who have membership on the Subcommittees and invite "expressions of interest" for membership on them. It was noted that there was a requirement in the Constitution for a number of associated bodies to have membership "as of right" on various Subcommittees and that this would need to be observed.

Two **MLSO** 40 hour courses will be held at the Police College during the weeks 04/08 and 11/15 August. These will be a joint 50-50 for police and volunteers and a letter calling for nominations has been sent to the Regions. (see the separate article on this).

40 hour MLSO Courses

Over the last few years NZ Land SAR and Police have been running a very successful joint training program (50:50 Police and NZLSAR personnel) with the Managing Land Search Operations course at the Police College. This course, which is run by Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd, is a week long and is aimed at those people who are responsible for organising and running SAR operations, especially extended ones.

Two further sets of courses are planned for the 03/04 financial year. These will be held at the Police College during the weeks of 04 to 08 and 11 to 15 August 2003. Usually North Island people attend the first week and South Island people the second as it has been found to be very beneficial for Police and volunteers from the same area to attend the same course.

The exact starting and finishing times will be announced nearer the course time but those held previously have started at midday Monday and finished mid-afternoon the following Friday. NZLSAR and Police meet all transport, accommodation, meals and course fees.

The Training Subcommittee believes that the Regional Committees should be the group that determines who from each Region should be attending the courses and a letter has been sent to each Region Secretary calling for nominations. If you are interested in attending this course please contact your Regional Committee. Regional Committees should also be looking at the strategic distribution of people who have been on this course and perhaps targeting people to attend.

There are at least two places available to each Region. Additional places will be granted on a strategic basis. Regional Committees have been asked to **submit their nominees** to John Tristram **by 01 July** to allow NZLSAR the best opportunity of purchasing "economy" priced tickets. This early purchase of tickets imposes a financial risk as the value of these tickets may be forfeited if the person does not fly. Accordingly, please ensure if you put your name forward you are as certain as possible that you will be able to attend.

If you require any further information on this course please feel free to contact either John Tristram or myself.

Barry Were

Chairman, Training Subcommittee

Difficulty has been experienced in getting the **Initial Response Courses** held (with events like the Conference, Show Day, Christmas and New Year taking up the available time). With weekends now more free, Brian Holland is to contact the three South Island Regions with the offer of holding a number of courses. He and Brent Martin will try to do the first course together so they can moderate each others presentation. Brent is ready to start the North Island courses and dates for these events there are to be finalised shortly.

Work continues with the **Resource Manual**. It is felt that SAR people around the country have various forms and training documentation and it is intended that this material be brought together and appraised for "whats best". This will then be put onto a disc as well hard copies made up into a

manual similarly to the Regional Secretaries and Representatives compendiums. **Readers are invited to send me copies of their training methods, good ideas and sample forms so these can be included in the appraisal.** It was noted that NASAR has a product called SAR Disk 2003 which includes forms and this is to be purchased.

The Subcommittee continues to struggle with the updating of the **Field Guide**. However progress has been made with a "sign off" process and person identified for each section. Tait circulated a paper, which broke the Guide down into sections. I am to contact each section signatory, explain the process, obtain their "buy in", circulate the material for checking, follow up that to obtain the signatures with a target date for completion of the process by **10 May**.

The **P130 Replacement** is proceeding with the Police Information Technology Support Section (ITSC) creating a data capture system using Lotus Notes. Every effort is being made to have the system in place for the start of the new financial year.

SAR Competitions were touched on and it was agreed that SAR competitions were a worthy activity. Canterbury were to be commended for not only being the second Local Organisation to take up this activity but they had also managed to hold it continuously on an annual basis since they started. It was agreed that growing and instilling the "culture" of an annual competition was difficult but the meeting had no answer to this other than perseverance.

The **Underground Subcommittee Report** included comment on the national underground SAREX which is held on a three year cycle with the next to be held in early 2004. This is a major event and an Iroquois helicopter will need to be booked. Underground SAR activity has been light

A **Review of Standards** such as the Adviser and Field Controller were noted as being well overdue. It is nearly ten years since the Advisers Standards were introduced. The revision of the Advisers Standard was bound up with the outcome of the Advisers Review, the Field Controllers were less so. This also needs to be rewritten at a later date, taking into consideration the implications of CIMS.

The **Training Subcommittee budget** along with the Specialist and Underground Subcommittees was discussed. A paper was tabled outlining the 03/04 financial year proposed work outputs and attendant costs. The meeting was informed, that NZLSAR, for the next financial year will not get more than the \$239,000 received for the previous financial year. The work plans received from the Regions were considered with some items included and a number not as they were felt inappropriate. After much discussion the following was agreed to:-

- 7 Initial Response Courses be provided.
- 7 CIMS course be provided.
- 30 Courses from EML the type being TCA1, TCA2, Search Methods and Urban Search be provided.

- The 15 EML type course requested by Region Five be declined.
- \$12,000 be budgeted for two 40 hour MLSO courses.
- The First Aid Course and the Helicopter Training requested by Region Seven were considered but felt to be a Local or District cost and therefore declined.
- The request for an Administration person was felt to be a matter for the NZLSAR Committee to consider.

In giving the **Specialist Subcommittee Report** it was again apparent the wide portfolio Tric Moller covers. Her report included:-

Five Vertical Rescue Standards courses are to be run this financial year and a quote for this work has been accepted.

The **South Island NZLSAR Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course** was discussed and with nine dogs assessed as operational, was considered an outstanding success. A separate report has been circulated on the course. The North Island **NZLSAR Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course** is to be held on **09/13 April 2003** with a limit of 15 dogs and handlers. It was also reported that a dog handler who when wanting to be associated with a Local SAR Organisation had been told he would need to join a local tramping club, as that was how the searchers were organised. This was felt to be unacceptable and that individuals should be able to be involved in SAR without a requirement to join a tramping or deerstalkers clubs.

The **Medical Adviser scheme** is on hold for now and no further progress has been reported from this Group.

The **White Water Rescue** update reported that there has been some difficulty in implementing the "Charles Report". The paddlers are concerned that with little information NZLSAR personnel will get into trouble in the water.

The meeting was informed that Russell Tucker and Trevor Burgess discovered that separately they had each been considering similar aspects of training for **SAR Qualifications** through a Polytechnic. They

are now together, talking to the Greymouth Polytechnic on creating a SAR diploma with an emphasis on prior learning. The proposed courses would cover from Team Member to Search Manager.

The desirability of having a formal **needs analysis** system was discussed. It was felt it would bring achieve a number of objects including bringing together various bodies

touched on by a SAR operation. It was said the “operation review” as outlined by Dave Brewer brought others together and provided a non-confrontational model for gathering lessons from an operation that could be disseminated to the rest of the SAR community.

John P Tristram
NFO

The last word - well nearly

A number of others at the Gisborne function mentioned above receive a local Award. Below is a photo of the recipients.



Back row. **Tony Bartlett, Wally Jamieson, Howard Marrriot, Roly Haisman, Chris Sharp, Paul Morrison** (standing in for his father in law **Vaughn Neill**)

Front row. **Dave Hughes, Emily Compier** (on behalf of her deceased husband **Rib**) **Alan Hughes**

Editors Comments. A big thank you to **Brian, Rodney and Barry** for your articles. To those who proof read and check the spelling and grammar, thank you also. Copy for the **June News** is most welcome and the close-off date is **Monday 26 May 2003**. 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. Regards **John P Tristram**, National Field Officer