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# NZLSAR News

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## CONTENTS

NZLSAR Dog Course, a postscript  
Initial Response Course  
Special Interest Groups

Snippets  
TUMONZ  
Search for Alzheimers subjects

### The North Island Bush Wilderness Search Dog Course – A Postscript

Got home on Monday, Luka very tired (and me!!) and Luka also a little bit lame on one front leg. Was telephoned by Waitomo SAR group about 2200 hours for a missing 76 year old hunter in Pureora Forest (near

finally decided that Waitomo would go and they called me to see if I was interested. Got my gear together, did a bit of rearranging for Tuesday and left Hamilton about 2330.



Luka – at work

Mangakino). He had failed to meet up with his son and grandson at the agreed time and they reported hearing their distress signal from him (three rifle shots). Waitomo SAR phoned me after a bit of a debate about whether it was Taupo's area or not and they

Charlie Smart (bless him) arranged to have the last known point cordoned off. I arrived approx 0100 which was only about half an hour after they got there. Luka had certainly perked up by then. I think it has something to

do with forestry tracks and people acting nervous.

Anyway we deployed with two of the experienced Waitomo guys in my team at about 0130. Luka hit the track where the guy was last seen and tracked up the 4 wheel motorbike track (lost party last seen about 1545) and then into the bush proper (ugly North Island regenerating stuff). We tracked very strongly into the bush for approx 75m until we crossed onto a unformed but tree marked (yellow triangles) DoC trapline. Unfortunately this is where "Hunter Man" started to do his hunter thing and stalk through the bush looking for his prey. We would track off the markers each side about 30 to 40 meters as the guy weaved along the track, sort of doing loops but always coming back onto the marked route. I can tell you at night in this bush it was pretty hard going. We were getting a very good general direction, and some very strong tracking, but also a hell of a lot of casting so after about one and a half hours I decided that this wasn't going to work. I let Luka free track and walked the yellow marked path with Luka air scenting the guy's track. As we descended a small bank the track went left and Luka went right into some even shittier bush that led to a stream. I re-harnessed him and we tracked across the stream and up a small rise. Once again Luka started to chase his tail a bit, however he was still definitely picking up something and indicated a direction of travel upstream. We got to point where there was a small gut that turned rocky and bouldery and Luka indicated that this was the way to go even though he was not following a track (he was picking up bits and pieces but not enough to carry on tracking). At this point I decided to pull the pin as in the bush and darkness I was not prepared to have him free tracking or air scenting in the terrain, nor where I was unable to see his indications. It was also now about 0430 and understandably he was starting to tire a bit. We then walked out of the bush via another tree marked route to base to give him some rest time with a view to returning in daylight to search the area of the boulders more thoroughly for signs and indications and pick up the guy's trail from there.

Plans were formulated and we went to go back in at about 06.30am. As we were driving down to our entry point who should be

walking along but the lost party alive and well and apparently not really all that concerned.

From talking to him I was able to ascertain that we had been doing everything right and were bang on his trail. After the stream he had come across a deer and so had started to stalk it and hide in the trees and do all those strange things that hunters do. This is where Luka started to get all wound up because the guy was crossing his own tracks and generally just trashing a large area as he looked for the good shot. Anyway he shot this deer and then also a fawn (close your eyes Bambi) that was with it. As he went to go to his trophy he slipped over on the rocky boulders down into this little gut (sound familiar). Anyway he thought stuff this I'm going and headed off on a general bearing towards the road and in doing so went in a large circle crossing over his original track. He then continued to walk some 500 odd meters in the sort of original track direction. As it got dark he made himself comfy with his thermal blanky and sat down to wait out the night. He was only about 200 meters into the bush and searchers would have passed within probably 250m of him but he claims not to have heard anyone, despite everyone doing sound sweeps etc. I think he was just too proud to admit he'd stuffed up and was not going to let himself be found but rather wait until morning and walk out under his own steam (aren't hunters great).

So given more time, especially in daylight I think Luka would have had a pretty good shot at locating this guy, especially if he was immobile or unresponsive.

Charlie and his team were really awesome and great to work with and hopefully our work on this search will enhance our credibility within the SAR community. It was great to be consulted early and for them to have the foresight to cordon the LKP, excellent from my point of view. Being involved in a search like this is definitely the sort of thing that we are after, and the fact that I was a policeman had nothing to do with it. The only other cop that was there was the local one and the Police SAR team weren't paged until just before the guy walked out.

**Grant Cooper and Luka**  
Operational Search Dog Team  
Hamilton

**M**ost searches are resolved in hours rather than days, with the remaining small percentage expanding into multi-day events. This course is based on the philosophy that all searches, whether short or long term, have a common beginning. This beginning is called the initial response phase.

Regardless of how large or complex a search ends up being, the management of the initial response phase is identical, and crucial to its success. The individuals tasked to manage this initial phase usually aren't search specialists, rather they are police or local SAR people. The police have the legal authority and responsibility to search but may not experience the incident workload to justify funding cadres of search management specialists. Rather the police need all their field personnel to have the knowledge and ability to respond appropriately to overdue person reports and to manage these incidents professionally and competently for at least the first shift.

Until recently no course existed to directly address these requirements. Existing courses such as MSO, MLSO and Managing the Lost Person Incident contain excellent bodies of knowledge. However the sheer volume of information, the focus on mathematical theory and the emphasis on large multi-day incidents contained in these courses doesn't provide a clear step-by-step practical approach for the Initial Response Incident Controller. They don't really prepare students to manage actual searches. Sure, they teach the components of search management, but they don't show students how to actually apply and combine these components to construct a successful search incident response.

This new course addresses that need. It focuses on the Management of the Initial Response, and is put together in a way that provides a clear, systematic, and practical approach.

This course teaches one standard procedure for each step in a search response. The

approach is practical based. The course material doesn't dwell on theory, or discussion of different and sometimes conflicting concepts. It follows a "how to" type curriculum. The material is designed for the search practitioner – the incident controller, the police officer, the search team leader, whose primary concern is what to do when saddled with the responsibility of acting on a report of a lost person.

This course also recognises that it is impossible to predict which searches will grow into major incidents and therefore includes those actions to take in the initial response phase so as to establish a firm foundation and a smooth transition should an expanded response become necessary.

Some instructors feel that in recent years an over emphasis has been placed on probability theories and the associated mathematics. These persons feel the search management community is becoming entranced with numbers and are forgetting the basics.

Many of the techniques taught in this curriculum are based on those taught in other recognised search management courses; some are unique to this course. All are field proven and current.

Acknowledgement from: Search Management for the Initial Response Incident Commander 2001 and Search Management Systems 06/01 Edition.

**Footnote:** The above course was attended by Brian Holland and Brent Martin in USA last year. Training is being delivered on the above course with the first pilot course being run in Reefton on **20th and 21st June 2003**. The course is for management personnel and Team Leaders. If you are interested in attending one of these courses check with your District and Regional SAR personnel.

**Brian Holland**  
Adviser, Canterbury District

## NZLSAR Special Interest Groups

NZLSAR is aware that there are many highly skilled specialists involved in SAR who are doing excellent work in extending their own and others knowledge and providing useful resources. In many cases these specialists are operating in isolation from other people with similar interests.

If these people with similar interests are given the opportunity to work together then it is likely that more progress will be made than is possible on their own.

### Examples of SAR Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

- Computers
  - Mapping – software packages, other developments
  - Databases and operation management tools
- Other Technology
  - Radios, communications
  - GPS
- SAR Management
  - Lost person behaviour
  - Person profiling
  - Alzheimers

The available options are not restricted to those above – this is just the current list of ideas. What NZLSAR is offering include:-

- To create and maintain lists of people interested in one or more SAR SIGs
- To assist the group members in establishing contact with each other
- To encourage activity, research and the dissemination of ideas/knowledge.
- To consider proposals for funding assistance for travel and research.
- To encourage meetings of the groups, especially during events like the NZLSAR conference.
- To encourage an international involvement and perspective in the activities of the groups.
- To promote the existence and activities of the Groups through the NZLSAR News and web-site.

### What you should do now

If you have an interest in one or more of these groups then send an email to the NFO, John Tristram. Remember, you should not be constrained by the list of ideas/groups above.

### Barry Were

Chairman, Training Subcommittee

## Snippets

- There are 740 Work Books sitting in the store and are free to SAR organisations upon request. They are an ideal way to spend a winter's evening training session working through a few sections which may clarify the training needs for individuals and give your organisation a steer for future sessions.
- The Adviser Review Survey has gone out to some 237 people including Land and Underground Advisers, Regional Secretaries, Police and the Department of Conservation. This is the recipients opportunity to set the future Standard for this position. The close-off date for replies is **01 July**.
- In late February a letter went out to the seven Regional Secretaries inviting nominations for the 40 hour MLSO courses being 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. Attendees transport, accommodation, catering and tuition fees are paid for. Replies need to be in to the NFO by **01 July** so if you are contemplating attending, see your Regional Secretary ASAP.

- This is very much the SAR managers newsletter. As mentioned in the box below articles are always welcome. If they are not forthcoming the News is going to be correspondingly thinner.
- The Otago Polytechnic, Cromwell Campus annually run several outstanding avalanche courses in both the South and

North Islands. For the past few years NZLSAR has most generously been given one place on the Stage 1 six and a half day course and this is available again this year. The Polytechnic will pay the attendees course fees and NZLSAR will pay an amount for the attendees incidental costs. While I am not too sure when and where the courses will be run, it has previously been late July in the

Queenstown area and late August for a course at Whakapapa. A letter seeking nominations is to be sent to the Regional Representatives and ACR Teams with a close off date, probably in early July. If you are interested in attending this course, keep your ear to the ground

**John P Tristram**  
National Field Officer

### **A request for assistance**

My name is Matthew Farrelly, from Region Four, Palmerston North and I am studying towards my Masters thesis in Search and Rescue. My topic is The Use of Computers to Document and Manage LandSAR in NZ. It focuses mainly on digital mapping and how information can be easily managed and accessed at the Search Controllers base during an operation or operations. If anyone is interested in this topic, can contribute ideas, resources or funding then please feel free to contact me. I have already received some help from Russell Tucker, Barry Were and Joe Hayes and would like to thank the makers of TUMONZ for their support so far. I have met many SAR volunteers at the Tararua and Tasman SAREX's earlier this year. My contact details are:- mattitc@hotmail.com My postal address is **28 Monrad St, Palmerston North** and **home phone number 06-355-3981**.

PS: I am not a SAR novice; I have been involved in SAR on and off for about ten years.

**Matthew Farrelly**

## **SAR Training**

As outlined in the flyer from SARINZ, there are, as a result of the establishment of SARINZ and their relationship with Tai Poutini Polytechnic, significant changes proposed in the way that training is provided and funded for NZLSAR. This will effect the existing popular EML courses such as TCA, Search Methods, MLSO, etc.

The likely outcomes of the changes are:

- More trainers will be available through SARINZ, thus courses should be more readily available
- The courses will be coordinated by, and paid for through the Tai Poutini Polytechnic
- All participants will be required to enrol as a student of the Tai Poutini Polytechnic.
  - There is no cost for this but you must produce proof of your NZ citizenship.
  - This enrolment process will only be required at the first course you attend under this system.
- A Diploma qualification will be developed for those who are interested in pursuing these qualifications.

- Regions and groups will probably book their courses through the Polytechnic. Tai Poutini Polytechnic have appointed a Program Manager to co-ordinate this.
- For each course a minimum number of attendees required will be set.
  - If actual numbers are less than this there will be a cost to the group organising the course.
  - The actual minimums are still to be established.

As the details are still being established the exact process for booking courses is still uncertain. Contact John Tristram for an update of the process.

It is hoped that all groups in the District or Region will be given the opportunity to send participants to courses to ensure that minimum number requirements are met.

The NZLSAR Training Subcommittee considers these developments to be of significant benefit to SAR in NZ and looks forward to working with SARINZ and Tai

Poutini to ensure that every volunteer has access to the training they need.

**Barry Were**  
Chairman, Training Subcommittee

## TUMONZ

There are several computer based mapping products/programs available that are useful for SAR purposes in NZ. Following an assessment by several people of the most popular products it is felt that TUMONZ is particularly suited to our needs. This does not imply that TUMONZ is the only product to be used or that this is better in all respects than the other products. In fact some groups are choosing to use TUMONZ plus one of the others – different products for different purposes.

Why this product:

- TUMONZ is well priced
- TUMONZ has useful features such as;-
  - Flexible overlays of lines, shapes and icons to record the progress of a search.
  - Three dimensional perspective to do a “fly-over” of the terrain.
  - The whole country on a single CD (further CDs required for photos, additional topographical detail, etc).
  - No loss of definition of the image when zoomed right in.
  - The product is easy to install and program updates are free.
- The developers of TUMONZ have been very responsive to our requests for changes to the program.
- TUMONZ has awesome flexibility. Consequently some people may find it difficult to use. Training will be provided to help all users.
- The map data is constantly changing especially the cadastral (property boundary owner details), plus the topographical data and photos. It is important that groups have access to and use the latest available data.

Consequently NZLSAR has established a relationship with the suppliers of TUMONZ by endorsing their mapping product for use in SAR. This relationship is not exclusive and can be extended to other suppliers.

The results of this relationship:

- The TUMONZ suppliers will put together a special SAR package for purchase by SAR Groups and offer this package on the TUMONZ web-site. This will not be a special price deal so that any members of the public can also purchase the same package. The package will exclude items that are not appropriate for SAR, thus reducing the cost.
- Training will be provided throughout the country. This is likely to be provided through SARINZ and the Tai Poutini Polytechnic but using TUMONZ staff.
- NZLSAR is negotiating for the supply of data updates on CDs. It is possible that NZLSAR may fund the supply of data updates twice per year. This may be restricted to one copy of the software per group (each update is locked to a TUMONZ CD key).

What to do now:

- If you want to purchase TUMONZ check their web site at [www.tumonz.co.nz](http://www.tumonz.co.nz) or phone **0800 4 TUMONZ (0800 4 886 669)**.
- If you already own TUMONZ and would like to receive data updates then send the TUMONZ CD Key number with your contact details (including delivery address) to Barry Were ([barryw@datasolve.co.nz](mailto:barryw@datasolve.co.nz)).
- If you are keen to keep in touch with others with an interest in mapping systems then join the Special Interest Group (SIG) by emailing John Tristram ([tristram.nzlsar@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tristram.nzlsar@xtra.co.nz)).
- If you are interested in attending a TUMONZ training session then contact Barry Were ([barryw@datasolve.co.nz](mailto:barryw@datasolve.co.nz)) or **07-849-1189**.

**Barry Were**  
Chairman Training Subcommittee

### **Introduction**

NZLSAR and SARINZ are jointly sponsoring training courses utilising the expertise of Robert Koester, arguably the worlds leading authority in this area, to provide six one day training courses around New Zealand.

### **Robert Koester - Background**

Robert is a leading researcher, speaker and trainer on the international SAR circuit regarding Alzheimer searches. He is an acknowledged expert witness in Court, completes projects/contracts for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Association of SAR in the US, is a qualified and operational Incident Commander and has published many papers and books. His academic background is in neurology.

### **Course Purpose**

The purpose is to educate search management personnel/Police to manage the initial response and investigation of the missing Alzheimer's disease/demented incident. However the course is equally beneficial to team leaders or others who wish to increase their knowledge in this area.

The training is consistent with that provided on the MLSO courses but with considerably more depth and content plus numerous case studies and map problems.

The course is currently being adapted to fit the Tai Poutini Polytechnic requirements so credits can be obtained. It is envisaged that SARINZ will be offering this course in the future jointly with Tai Poutini.

### **Costs**

The courses will be free to attendees due to the NZLSAR/SARINZ sponsorship in conjunction with Tai Poutini Polytechnic. The only requirement will be that people register at the course for Polytechnic purposes.

Any local costs such as venue, tea, coffee and meals should be met locally. However we may be able to work with districts to minimise venue costs. The courses could be held wherever NZLSAR wished however a spread such as that listed would provide reasonable access for most who wished to attend.

### **Tentative Timetable**

This is a tentative timetable and every attempt will be made to work in within Bob's time and travel constraints.

#### **July**

- 14 Bob arrives in New Zealand
- 15 Relax
- 16 Relax
- 17 Travel to Dunedin
- 18 Meet and greet in Dunedin
- 19 One day course in Dunedin and drive/fly to Christchurch
- 20 One day course in Christchurch
- 21 Greymouth. Evening course 4 hours
- 22 Greymouth. Evening course 4 hours
- 23 Nelson Evening course 4 hours
- 24 Nelson Evening course 4 hours
- 25 Travel to Auckland
- 26 One day course in Auckland and drive/fly to Taupo/Rotorua
- 27 One day course in Taupo/Rotorua
- 28/01 Relax/travel

#### **August**

- 02 One day course in Wellington
- 03 Leave New Zealand

### **Action Plan**

- NZLSAR to organise a contact person in six venues.
- The contact person to liaise with Programme Manager Search: Ross Gordon on suitable dates, site, notices and arrangements by 13 June please even if its just to confirm date and locality.
- The courses would need a lecture/training room for up to 40 people plus a data projector and whiteboards.
- Numbers will need to be co-ordinated locally.
- SARINZ to finalise arrangements with Tai Poutini re the certificate.

### **Summary**

Bob will be bringing his new wife Emily, married two weeks ago, and they are keen to meet, eat, drink and go walking with locals. They are good people.

Robert Koester is one of the worlds few specialist SAR researchers so this training

should be viewed as the beginning of a long professional relationship between New Zealand and Robert.

**Ross Gordon**

Programme Manager: Search

### **Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Conference.**

Every two years NZLSAR holds a Conference for the Chairmen and Secretaries of the seven Regional Committees that make up the NZLSAR structure. The Regions as well as the NZLSAR Committee, being able to give, in more detail, a summary of the work that both the Committee and the standing Subcommittees have been doing.

This Conference has traditionally been held in conjunction with the November NZLSAR Committee meeting - with the Conference held on the Saturday and the NZLSAR Committee meeting on the Sunday which the Region Chairmen and Secretaries are invited to attend. This year, however, there are a number of developments that the NZLSAR Committee feels need to be discussed with the Regions to obtain some feedback on. To do this it has been decided to hold the Conference earlier in the year-in August-in conjunction with the August meeting and the NZLSAR AGM.

While an agenda has not been finalised, items to be discussed at the Conference include:-

- SARINZ
- Training Funding proposal
- 2002 Audit Report
- NZSAR Secretariat
- New Standards – Communication Unit Leader, Rope Rescue, Patient Care Assessment
- Medical Advisers
- Adviser Review Survey Results

This is advance notice of this meeting, which will be held on the weekend of 30/31 August at the Police College. All Region Chairmen and Secretaries should endeavour to attend this important event.

Conference details, etc will be sent to the Regional Committees shortly.

**Roscoe Tait**

Chairman NZLSAR

**Editors Comments.** A big thank you to **Grant, Brian, Barry, Ross, and Roscoe** for your articles. To those who proof read and check the spelling and grammar, thank you also. Copy for the **August News** is most welcome and the close-off date is **Friday 25 July 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