
NZLSAR News

Volume 11 Issue 5

October 2005

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Chairmans Message

In my Chairman's Message in the April 2005 NZLSAR News I talked about the history of NZLSAR and the progress and achievements our organisation had made since its inception in November 1994. We can be justifiably be proud of what we have achieved over the last ten or so years and of the professional level of service that we offer to the Police and public of New Zealand. I also talked about the need for NZLSAR to develop a strong and robust strategic plan to take us through the next 5 to 10 years.

I am strongly of the opinion that NZLSAR has reached the point where it must make another step change (the last one was the formation of NZLSAR) to take it through the next 10 years. The development of a strategic plan is fundamental in supplying the foundation for that step change. To achieve this, NZLSAR has engaged the services of David Langman and Murray Wilson of Design Torque to assist in the development of a NZLSAR strategic plan.

Most people should now be aware that David and Murray have been travelling around the country talking to SAR groups, Police, the wider SAR community, associated organisations, etc. Hopefully many, if not all, of you have had a chance to talk with them and to share your thoughts and opinions on LandSAR and NZLSAR.

Their task is to canvas as many ideas, thoughts, etc on SAR and NZLSAR and to collate these to come up with a range of options for NZLSAR to consider, decide upon a

strategic plan and then put it into action. While the initial stage of the process is not quite being completed, there are a number of themes emerging. In order to have a strategic plan that is workable and achievable the NZLSAR Committee at the Regional Chair and Secretaries Seminar in August agreed that some things need to be taken as a 'given'. These include: a land search and rescue focus, NZLSAR provides support to the Police, use of the CIMS system for SAROPS, aim to continuously maintain and improve operational capability and the safety of SAR personnel.

A small group is being set up to develop strategic plan options with David and Murray and to present these to the NZLSAR national committee at its meeting at the end of November.

For those who have not had an opportunity to express their views and thoughts to David and Murray, there is still time to do so by writing to them at P O Box 5924, Dunedin or email or phone:

David Langman
Murray Wilson
drl@designtorque.co.nz
mrl@designtorque.co.nz
Phone 021 345 747
Phone 021 243 2004

Your participation and contributions to this very important process are gratefully appreciated.

Roscoe Tait
Chairman

The joys of an SAR operation with a happy ending

On 29th March at 9.30pm we received a call that 3 adults and 5 children ranging in age from 6 to 60 were overdue from an afternoon walk in the Kauaeranga Valley at the back of Thames on a loop track. Teams were sent in from each end of the track and to search adjacent tracks.



The weather was cold, wet and windy when voice contact was established at 2.30am. Because of the weather conditions and the rough terrain, there was no chance of getting a helicopter into the area. A shelter was quickly built and the missing party stabilised with dry clothes, food and drink until almost daylight when they were walked out carefully.

Water for all personnel was taken in to them on their way out and when they arrived at base at 11.50am, they were met with fine weather, hot and cold drinks, and a good selection of hot food and sandwiches.

This letter and the card made by the children is typical of the mail and donations we received.

"A heartfelt thank-you. We want to let you know how grateful we are, not only for coming to us at three in the morning, but also for your professionalism and the caring way in which you returned us to our family.

To Mike, your quiet manner was very strengthening. To Waverney, for your constant smile and making us her 'success' story. To Pauline, for sharing your bush knowledge with us and your reassuring confidence. To Robert, your humour and guidance was a great support to Grandma. Please thank Megan for her time and kindness. To Jim (Sgt. Jim Corbett), the kids fell for you big time. Listening to you and the kids raised all our spirits. To Jim at base, what can we say. You know how to make a woman run.(Jim at base had the cigarettes so desperately needed). We know others were also out in the bush and at the base and we appreciate your time and effort.

We each came away with an individual experience of an unplanned night in the bush. The children thought it was an adventure but my concern was the cold. When 'Team One' arrived with warm clothing and tarpaulins we were very relieved.

Please accept this donation to use on thermal wear, or wherever your need is greatest.

Once again a huge thank-you for your assistance. You are all very special people.

*Lots of love
Odette, Jessica and Joel xxx"*

To my mind, this type of response is more than sufficient reward for all the years of attending meetings, courses, exercises, and nights spent out in the cold and damp. Do you agree?

Jim Rowe
Thames SAR

Snippets

Toolman Review

When ToolMan was released for use it was intended that once every 12 months, the forms would be reviewed. That time has now arrived. Any thoughts for corrections, additions or deletions are most welcome and should be sent **before 30 October** to either Barry Were 07-849-1191 barryw@datasolve.co.nz or John Tristram 04-470-7247 tristram.nzlsar@xtra.co.nz. A free copy of ToolMan can be downloaded from the NZLSAR website www.nzlsar.org.nz.

Committee appointments

At the NZLSAR Committee meeting held in August Barry Were was nominated to the position of Deputy Chairman, Tric Moller to the position of Secretary and Horwath Wellington are again the society's auditors.

Most people would accept that it is best practice to debrief any training, SAREX or operation in Search and Rescue. A debrief is often done in several parts; often with the team that you have been working with as well as everyone involved in the operation. A debrief is designed to identify both things that went well and things that can be improved upon.

Reflective Practice is a form of debrief for yourself. It is designed to improve personal and industry practice and to imbed a culture of recording, reflection and review in the SAR sector. It always helps to think about what has been done and how we can improve it.

A reflective practice journal is being developed and this will be available soon for downloading from the NZLSAR website www.nzlsar.org.nz and the SARINZ website www.sarinz.com. Additionally a folder for recording your reflective practice is being produced for distribution so you can complete an entry when you are involved in a SAR Operation, a SAREX, attending training, or other relevant activity, and retain a copy to demonstrate your development.

Many SARINZ/TPP courses have reflective practice as a requirement to complete the standard. If you are unsure if this is the case, check the workbook from the course. If it has assessed reflective practice there will be a section for this at the back along with sample forms. Even in standards where it is not required for assessment, this may be used as evidence towards qualifications, and undertaking reflective practice is a good habit to get in to.

Some important points to consider when completing reflective practice are:

- Every element in the standard need not be reflected on – it is reflection on the general coverage of the skills and knowledge in the standard within the SAR context that is needed.
- We are particularly looking for lessons learnt – what was/was not well done, why and how it could be done differently in the future with improvements suggested.
- For experienced practitioners you are able to reflect on past experience, using information that you have gained from attending callouts and training.
- You may also reflect on the actions of others or on an incident that you have been part of. It does not have to be your specific actions.
- The required times in the Reflective Practice Standards indicate the amount of activity time that should be reflected on – not the amount of time you need to spend reflecting!

As you can see from the above, reflective practice is not a log of your activities, but an important component of the learning and improvement cycle that aims to make SAR in New Zealand stronger. Hopefully this explanation will make it easier for you to complete this valuable learning component.

Grant Prattley
Operations Manager
SARINZ

Which Helicopter?

The following question is often asked of Police who have responsibility for search and rescue

Why can't we use our local helicopter for a rescue?

The answer is fairly simple - Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) has contracts in place with selected helicopter operators (generally known as rescue helicopters) for the provision and supply of emergency air transport for 'accident' victims.

The ACC - Rescue Helicopter contracts stipulate criteria and standards the helicopter operators must meet; for example minimum deployment times and compliance with Aviation Industry Association (AIA) rescue helicopter standards that includes such things as a minimum hours for pilots, the requirement for advanced paramedics skilled in trauma management and intubation techniques, minimum helicopter equipment and setup for night operations.

ACC funds the emergency transport and requires all flights to be initiated through the St John Ambulance Regional Communications Centres.

Peter Summerfield

SAR Coordinator
Christchurch

Regional Round Up

Region Four

Region Four recently held their AGM and Committee meeting in Wanganui. It was well attended, and the Region is in good heart. Murray Johnston from Masterton has picked up the Chairmans position, Jenny McCarthy Pahiatua has continued as Secretary and Sheryl Turner from Levin has agreed to continue as Treasurer. Nigel Boniface from Masterton was appointed Regional Representative and Warrick Price will continue as Deputy. Jean Garman will again take the Training Coordinator role. Highlights from the Chairman's report included:-

- With the timely circulation of papers the Secretary the dissemination of information has improved to the Committee members.
- Two SAR organisations that had lost contact with the Regional Committee have been "brought back into the loop" and one now has a presence at the meeting table which is much appreciated.
- The development within the Region of a search dog resource with three volunteers

operational handlers and two police handlers available for bush search.

- A successful and much appreciated weekend hosted by Taranaki was held with the Region Four Committee meeting on Saturday morning, the Taranaki SAR Competition was held in the afternoon followed with a "social hour" and on Sunday, the Region Four Seminar.
- An increase in the number of Regional Training courses was noted. Most of these had a good participation, which was felt to be in no small part due to the excellent work by the Training Coordinator.
- An area that has become apparent is some significant fundraising by some organisations to buy all the computer gear needed for modern search management and equipment for various other SAR purposes.

Murray Johnston

Region Four Chairman

Region Five

Region Five held their Regional Committee AGM and Committee meeting over the weekend 24/25 September. The Region is ticking along well and some of the highlights contained in the Chairman Reports included:-

- The Region continues to be active with 106 Class 2 and 7 Class 3 searches occurring during the year.
- Several of these operations lasted from between three and five days and included Japanese tourists in cars and on foot, local hunters and a Greymouth man who, on neglecting to take his medicine, crashed his car and played hide and seek in the bush for three days.
- A popular international multi sport event - The Southern Traverse -gave us four operations and plenty to think about.
- The Tasman ACR, search dogs and the white water teams have all been utilised during the year.
- The long-standing search for Karl Sorrenson was finally resolved when his

remains were at last located - he had been missing for three years.

- Training and recruitment continues to forge ahead from young, keen and fit new field team members through to search assistants filling invaluable roles in our Incident Management team.

Sadly Tasman SAR lost two SAR friends and colleagues. Ken Large from Marlborough and Eric Macdonald from Nelson Lakes both passed away during the year. Tasman SAR recognises the huge contribution made by these men - may they rest in peace.

With Joe Hayes standing down as Regional Representative, John Scobie stood down from the Chairman's role to take on the Representative duty. Keith Morfett stepped forward and was elected as Chairman, Leanne Edwards was elected Secretary. Kay Davidson was elected Treasurer and Ian Watts will again perform the Regional Training Coordinator Role.

Keith Morfett

Region Five Chairman

Search dog news

The NZLSAR Search Dog Subcommittee has been busy with a Bush Wilderness refresher weekend held on the outskirts of Rotorua and a two-day Avalanche Assessment Course held at the Cardrona Ski Field.

The North Island weekend, organised by Petra Specht was a huge success with 18 persons and nearly as many dogs in attendance. Highlights included Rachel Hume (nee Hayward) and dog Gin were reassessed in air scenting and passed as operational, as was Iain (Cooch) Watson and Kaiser (tracking).

It should be noted that both these were re-checks, having not been made operational in at the autumn assessment course for minor reasons, neither team having actually failed the assessment. Rachel and Cooch are to be congratulated, however Rachel will be a mum in a few months and so may not be available for some time after that.

Another outstanding example of the merits of a good Dog Team was Grant Cooper and Luka's effort to blitz (an ex Police dog handler's description) in tracking mode a 40-hour old trail from start to finish. Yes folks four zero hours!

A requirement of the assessment to be operational is that it be done by a NZLSAR Search Dog Assessor and a Police Dog Handler. Ian Lambie from Nelson came up for this and Alan McCrae arrived from Wellington on Friday night. Alan the policeman was there for the weekend and with an extremely informative lecture providing valuable comment for the people with tracking dogs.

The South Island Avalanche Assessment Course was as mentioned held at the Cardrona Ski Field over the second weekend in September. NZLSAR would extend it's appreciation to the ski field management for the huge assistance they give. The course was held over two days with the weather

conditions more like summer. Some ski-field workers were in shorts and jandals!

The assessment is held on a simulated avalanche debris field, which had been created with the assistance of Cardrona Ski Patrollers, who were tireless in their work digging over virgin snow to assume the vague look of avalanche debris. It was sufficient to disguise the numerous snow holes that also had to be dug to hide the subjects.



canine team member, excitedly digging you out.

The outcome of the final assessment was that Robert Gibson with Adam, Brent MacDonald with Ella, Matt Gunn with Blizzard, and Anna Richardson and Rua were all re-certified operational. Additionally, Bredan Kearns and Milly were assessed newly operational. Congratulations to all.

Dogs and handlers at the NI course

It's a different experience lying in a snow hole, listening to the muffled sounds of the dog team working the area, and then being released by the determined front paws of the

Thanks again for all the support to Cardrona Ski Field, and to Tim Yates and Steve Booth from the Police Dog Section who attended as the Police assessors. The subjects who hid for Tim's dog when he gave it a run on Sunday afternoon were quite relieved that it was Tim's blood making red spots on the snow not theirs, after the dog got a little over exuberant during the play/reward phase of the exercise!

In previous years, Avalanche dog handlers from the North Island have travelled south to

Possum declined to be assessed due to Nanook's advancing years and work commitments.

attend the course held at Cardrona. The numbers involved are now such that it's more viable to fly an assessor north. Thanks to Brent for giving up yet another weekend of his time to do this – he will be assessing the North Island avalanche dog teams (along with a nominated Police Dog assessor) over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of October. Good luck to all those attending.

Andrew Pealing

Deputy Chairman. NZLSAR Search Dog Subcommittee

More Snippets

Extracts from the Minutes of the NZLSAR Committee meeting held on 28 August 2005

Page 4 Regional Seminars

NZLSAR supports the concept of annual regional and inter-regional seminars and/or mini conferences. NZLSAR will fund actual costs for these events on the basis of a maximum of \$1,000 per seminar per region or \$30 per person per day, whichever is the higher.

Page 5 Region Seven Report

The region had offered to host the 2006 NZLSAR conference in either Invercargill or Dunedin – the venue to be decided and advised.

Page 5 Search dogs

NZLSAR ratified the appointment of Ian Lambie as a Search Dog Assessor.

and

The South Island assessment course will be held near Blenheim from 23 to 27 November 2005.

Page 7 Youth SAR

It was resolved that NZLSAR support the concept of the establishment of Youth SAR [YSAR] groups and the pilot programme being run in Hamilton.

Page 8 Funding for courses

It was resolved that NZLSAR agree to fund the Far North SAR at the rate of up to \$30 per person per day for members to attend the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council introductory and intermediate bushcraft courses.

Training Subcommittee catchup

The Training Subcommittee met recently for two days in Nelson with a packed agenda. A meeting was also held with Tai Poutini (TPP) and SARINZ representatives and a wide range of issues were covered with them. Some of the items covered during the weekend included:-

CIMS Guidelines.

These are guidelines for the key roles in the management structure during SAR Operations. It is the intention of NZLSAR that these guidelines be commercially printed - possibly in a notebook style format. It is the hope of the Committee that this will happen before the end of the year.

ToolMan Forms Review

It is now over 12 months since the last review of the forms in ToolMan. It is proposed that proposed form changes be submitted for review by 30th October. This date is not so far away and comments are most welcome.

New Training Courses.

It was felt that NALSAR should have a greater say in the content and need for new courses. To this end the Subcommittee considered the process for ensuring that NZLSAR has an input at the appropriate stage of the development of new courses. The TSC has received agreement from the Committee for the following actions:-

- All new courses will be reviewed by a member of the Training Subcommittee or a nominated person prior to approval for NZLSAR subsidy.
- Advisers will be encouraged to monitor the standards of courses in their area and provide feedback from their observations directly to the TSC.
- The course assessment form on NZLSAR letterhead be made available to all attendees at NZLSAR approved courses and the attendees should return completed forms directly to the NZLSAR TSC.

The Subcommittee reviewed the list of those course which NZLSAR should make a payment for associated costs. This list was subsequently approved by the Committee and is as follows:-

Search training

Track and Clue Awareness (Was TCA1)
Tracking (Was TCA2)
Clue Processing (Was TCA3)
Search Methods
Suburban Search

Rescue training

Personal Rope Skills
 Foundation Rope Rescue
 Vertical Rope Rescue
 Slope Lowering
 Avalanche Rescue
 Advanced Rope Rescue Skills
 SAR First Aid (MSC and St John 6400)

Management of Land Search Operations
 Incident Controller
 CIMS in SAR
 Search Assistants
 Incident and Group Management
 (IMan/GMan)
 TUMONZ

Leadership and SAR management training

Leadership Skills for Search and Rescue

Specialist training

Lost Subject Behaviour
 Lost Subject Behaviour: Alzheimers
 Four Wheel Drive

Please note the following.

- The grant is \$30 per day per person or actual, whichever is the lesser.
- The grant is only for accommodation, venue and catering costs.
- For a course to qualify the Region must have agreed for the course to be held.
- One payment will be made to the course organiser upon receipt by NZLSAR of all original GST invoices or receipts.
- For any claim to be accepted it must be received by NZLSAR within two months of the course being held.

Training in Search and Rescue booklet. TPP has developed a booklet outlining the various courses and most of the courses listed above are included. It contains information on those courses that have a requirement for attendance at other courses. This will be a handy booklet for Regional Training Coordinators. Copies will be sent to each Regional Secretary for forwarding on to this person

Barry Were

Training Subcommittee Chairman

Editors Comments. A very big thank you to **Roscoe, Jim, Grant, Peter, Murray, Keith, Andrew and Barry** for your articles. To those who proof read and check the spelling and grammar, thank you also. Copy for the **December News** is most welcome and the close-off date is **Tuesday 25 November 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