
NZLSAR News

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Chairmans Christmas message

In this, my first message as Chairman of NZLSAR, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made some contribution, no matter how small, to SAR over the last year. Each of us has our own time constraints in our busy lives, but each contribution is appreciated and contributes to the high standard of service that our organisation provides to the New Zealand public.

We can all take pride in what has been achieved in the eight years that NZLSAR has been in existence. The past year has been another busy and "successful", if that is the right word, year for NZLSAR. We have reached the stage where a significant number of what were new initiatives a few years ago are now regarded as standard and part of the ongoing SAR culture. This year, for example, has seen the introduction of a SAR CIMS course. The Working Groups of the Specialist Subcommittee, in particular, have been extremely busy with a number of projects in the pipeline: Vertical Rescue Standards, Medical

Advisors and Swift Water Rescue to name a few.

Towards the end of the year NZLSAR held its inaugural NZLSAR conference at Lincoln College. The conference was extremely well supported with around 140 delegates. We were fortunate to have two international speakers, Dave Brewer and Skip Stoffel. All those who attended thought that the conference was an unqualified success. On a personal note, I would like to pass on my thanks to the conference organising team of Steve Davis and Rod Lawrence of Region Six. They took up the challenge of bringing the concept of a conference to fruition and deserve all our thanks for the success of the conference.

On behalf of the National Committee I would like to wish all SAR personnel and associated organisations a happy and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy this special time with your family and friends.

Roscoe Tait
Chairman, NZLSAR

Search Dog/Handler Assessment Courses.

The Sixth South Island NZLSAR Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course

This was held 20 – 24 November 2002 at Eyre Lodge in Canterbury. The course was tremendously well organised by Linda Pike, Janelle Mackie, Emma Pearce, Graham Joseph, Brenda Woolley and Allan Pritchard of the Environment Canterbury Civil Defence (RAT) Search Dog Unit. Markus Milne, Andrew Pealing (both Dunedin), Larry Charles (Nelson) and Linda (Christchurch) were the civilian instructor/assessors with Matthew Dodd

(Nelson) and Brent MacDonald (Queenstown) assisting. The Police assessors were Steve Bothamley (Christchurch) and Dave Miller (Dunedin).

With 0700 breakfast, full days of practical training sessions with constant performance assessment, guest speakers and a night exercise, the debrief of which finished well after midnight, it was a full on four days. The course was a stunning success with attendees from the



West Coast, Nelson, Otago, two from the North Island, as well as the Canterbury team. In all 26 handlers attended with 28 dogs. This course also saw the largest number of dogs being assessed as operational since the course began in Dunedin six years earlier. Two tracking dogs were assessed as operational (one from Tasman SAR, and one from Oxford SAR – well done Larry Charles and Rochelle Fidler). In addition, nine area (air scent) search dogs were assessed operational (these are spread from Otago through to Nelson, and full details of all operational dog teams are available on the NZLSAR website. Well done to Ian Lambie, Brent MacDonald, Mark Philips, Marie McDonald, Matt Dodd, Graham Joseph, Brenda Woolley, Mel Potter and Linda Pike). Several other dog teams are due for re-assessment (either due to narrowly missing out or due to injury) in late January 2003, and this may lift the total operational teams on the South Island to 14.

The Third North Island NZLSAR Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course (9 April to 13 April, 2003)

Stop Press or Breaking News as those on TV a have a want to say. A venue and date for the 2003 North Island dog/handler course has been settled on. It is to be held at the Makahika Outdoor Centre in the foothills to the east of Levin. The camp area includes a wee stream meandering through some flat open grassy paddocks. Other parts of the valley floor and sides have exotic forestry and regrowth of the original bush cover. Not a bad place to spend

a few days. The dates are to assemble on Wednesday 09 April evening and continue through to Sunday 13th. More information and enrolment details will be made available early next year but all the North Island search dog handlers may wish to pencil it in now.

Tric Moller, Chairman, Specialist Subcommittee. **Markus Milne**, Assessor.

Special General Meeting and Committee meeting

On Saturday 16 November NZLSAR members met to consider proposed changes to its constitution. There were four changes to consider and in simple terms they were:-

1. Alter the length of tenure for the organisation’s Chairman and Secretary from a possible six years to something less.
2. Allow for the Regional Representative to have a “deputy member” to attend, with voting rights, NZLSAR and Committee meetings when the Representative is unable to.
3. Allow for the Chairman of the five standing Subcommittees to have a “deputy member” to attend, with voting rights, NZLSAR Committee meetings when the Subcommittee Chairman is unable to.

4. Take the West Coast portion of NZLSAR Region Six out of that Region and include it in NZLSAR Region Five so Region Five was the same land area as the Police Tasman District.

The first resolution was amended to the length of tenure being two years with the maximum of two terms. The rest were passed in, essence, as placed upon the table.

The Committee as well as giving time to the reports from the Subcommittees and Regional Representatives also considered a number of matters including the following:-

Conference. This had been an outstanding success with initial estimates of numbers being well exceeded. Final accounts are due in the

next couple of weeks but it is expected to be well within budget. A general indication from the Conference was that it should be done every two years, which needs to be noted for budget purposes. Region Two has indicated an interest in hosting the next Conference. The Committee passed a resolution of thanks to those in Region Six involved in the organising of the event.

CIMS courses. The Committee has budgeted to hold a number of these but the uptake has been slow. CIMS has been adopted by all the emergency management providers and a number of SAR organisations have taken the two day course given by John Bowman. It was announced that the National CIMS Steering Committee has also been decided on the colour identifier for the four CIMS positions. Fluorescent pink, the signs produced so far can only be described as bright!

03/04 Business Case preparation. The first step in the preparation of the annual business case is to request from members of the NZLSAR Committee, the costed work commitments and running expenses in the various portfolios envisaged in the next financial year. This request is also extended to the Regional Committees. Having obtained the work intentions and costs, this information is consolidated into a draft document for presentation to the Committee at the February meeting where each item is considered. Some amounts which are felt inadequate are added to, some which can be done cheaper are reduced and some are deleted as either not being not being appropriate or not in the direction the Committee wishes to go. Any surplus from the previous year's operation is deducted from the total and that then becomes the amount requested from Police. Profomas are provided to assist and the key dates are:-

23 January. All returns must be in from the Regions.

24 January. All returns must be in from the Committee.

31 January. The Finance Subcommittee will have considered the returns, agreed on the draft document and it is circulated along with other papers for the February meeting.

22 February. The Committee agrees on the business case to be forwarded to the Police.

NZLSAR Awards. The Committee had much pleasure in awarding a NZLSAR Award to Mark Peterson, Chris Sharp and Russell Watson. The Committee also approved and presented an Award to Dave Brewer for his work on the audit

Swift water. A report by Graham Charles to provide an overview of the state of the nation in terms of search and rescue abilities, readiness and future needs involving NZ river corridors has been prepared and circulated. It was resolved that the report be approved in principle, subject to formulation of a working group to analyse comments and recommendations with a view to formulating a business plan and budget for implementation. This group will be a mixture of technicians and SAR managers. The report is to go on the web

Swift water SAREX. This event is again being organised by people on the West Coast. Provided funds were available it was agreed that another payment of \$2,000 be made to assist in the running of this event.

Travel Policy. This policy attempts to set out the criteria by which NZLSAR will pay for part or all of the costs for a person to travel overseas for some SAR event or training. It was felt to have some aspects needed reconsidering and two persons have been delegated to resolve this.

Initial Response Course: The CD for this course has arrived and the courses are to be run in the New Year.

Lost Person Behaviour/Person Profiling Course. This course is still being developed and it is possible that it may be a one day course concentrating more on Person Profiling. It is likely that the course will be given by our own instructors. The Training Subcommittee is to look into this.

Adviser Standards/Adviser Review Survey: With the introduction of the CIMS management system it is felt appropriate that the role and activities of the Adviser be surveyed. The questions and numbering in the draft paper tabled at the meeting are to be tidied up and then sent individually to all Advisers who will hopefully complete and return them before Christmas.

Field Guide: The Committee advised that work had been slow on this recently. The Communications, Patient Care, CIMS and Helicopters had been completed and were now ready for circulation for review and comment.

Health and Safety in Employment Act Amendment Bill: This is slowly grinding its way through the House and an updated copy has been obtained which will be considered..

Annual meeting timetable. This was tabled and agreed to. The meeting dates for 2003 are:-

22 February.- NZLSAR Committee meeting. It is proposed that this be for two days and may include a Special General Meeting to consider the audit report.

17 May.- NZLSAR Committee meeting.

30 August.- NZLSAR AGM and Committee meeting.

15 November.- Combined NZLSAR Committee and Regional Officers meeting.

16 November.- NZLSAR Committee meeting

John P Tristram

National Field Officer

Chairman's Report to the Wairoa SAR organisation AGM

Recently I had the good fortune to attend the AGM of the Wairoa SAR Organisation. The Treasures Report was interesting and showed they had an income in excess of \$32,000 made up of fundraising (shearing, crutching, catering at a dog trial), donations and interest on investments. Below is the Annual Report from their President, Dave Withers. (NFO).

Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my pleasure to report to you on the years activities. Firstly I would like to commend you for the response to the Police callout last week for the missing lady, Patricia May King, who was reported missing at the Ruataniwha Road area and was later located deceased. From reports I have received it was a new experience to many. Close contact searching over live electric fences, old cars with bull mastiff dogs tethered to, and beef bulls roaming in paddocks. The absolute passion for SAR work by our members was very evident as some 47 member turned out to help at short notice, some travelling 50 kilometres or more. Our Quick Response Team was also activated and a helicopter used for aerial surveillance. Well done everybody.

Training activities

- 26/27/28 October 01. Wairoa Police SAREX. Operation Ongaonga was well attended with both Gisborne and Napier Police SAR Teams taking part. Also incorporated into this exercise, just when the pressure was right on at HQ, when signs of the lost party were radioed through, a message reported a missing elderly man around the Home Bay area of Lake Waikarimoana suffering from Alzheimer's Disease. This developed into an interesting exercise.
- 5/6/7 April 02. Wairoa SAR familiarisation exercise in the Upper Ruakituri involving a helicopter operation at the Papuni Station. Some 65 people were involved.
- 17/18 June 02. Eastern Region TCA2 course with Ross Gordon held at the Te Urewera National Park HQ with 17 participants.
- Throughout the year one or two first aid course have been held.

- March 02. Our annual fund raising weekend held at Okane and Shannon Stations crutching some 10,000 odd sheep. That SAR passion was very evident again. Wonderful support everybody. Thank you very much.

Alerts and standbys.

- 17 October 01. Maurice Morton and the Quick Response Team alerted. Two hunters missing/overdue in the Mohaka Forest
- 04 December 01. Paul Dodds (Gisborne fisherman) extracted from the Waitangi Falls area with the Lowe Walker helicopter. Broken arm and leg above the knee. Also on this day Teams were activated for an overdue helicopter. It was later located with two of the three occupants deceased.
- February 02. A lady with a broken ankle extracted from the Waiopoa Track area. Brought down by Constable John Bruce and a DoC Team.
- 29 March 02. Alert for missing man in the Raupunga area. Later located
- 10 April 02. Advisers stand by for missing hunters. 44 year and 14 year olds in the Whanganui Arm Hut area. Located next morning after a night in the bush.
- 03 June 02. Missing hunter from Rotorua in the Waikareiti Day Shelter Area. Next day he walked into the Aniwanui Valley. Very cold but he did have a survival blanket. Four Teams on standby and helicopter surveillance.
- 04 July 02. Aran Taitapani missing in the Maungapohatu area. Handled by Whakatani SAR.
- 08 July 02. Two girls misplaced in the Kaitawa Area. Glen Mitchell organised a DoC Team and located them.
- 22 August 02. 47 Members assisting Police search for Patricia May King

Eastern Region SAR.

This Committee meets at the Wairoa Police Station approximately three times per year to discuss national and regional SAR issues. The next meeting is to be held on 17 October.

Finance

As you can see from the statements distributed we are in a strong financial position as our Treasurer will explain. This strong financial status has evolved over the years, through our "workathons", (the crutching, shearing etc to raise funds) and also from interested subscribers "who wish to remain anonymous". Their object being to acknowledge Wairoa Search and Rescue Unit for voluntarily supporting and officiating as an emergency life line to the public of Wairoa over a period of time.

Words from an old quote:- ***Those who put in the effort will reap the rewards.*** I believe this is what has happened.

Obituary

During the year another strong SAR supporter passed away after a long illness, Franci Davey who was in charge of our catering facilities for some years. Especially those times when this unit elected to raise funds to replace or by helicopter time by crutching and shearing

thousands of sheep around the District. Franci was in charge of the canteen during this period, feeding the ravenous multitudes of workers. Our sincere sympathies were passed to his family.

SAREX's

Dates yet to be confirmed.

End of October/first weekend November 02. Police SAREX somewhere in the Te Urewera National Park.

April 03. Wairoa SAR module training weekend. Team Leaders will be kept informed in the newsletter.

In conclusion my thanks to the Advisers and Committee, Police, Tony Bates and Chris Flood, the Secretary and Treasurer, Cooks and Callout, Newsletter Editors, Logistics, Glen Mitchell and DoC for the use of their facilities, Team Leaders and Members, and the Auditor. I am very grateful to you all for the excellent job you have done. Your attitude to your duties and tasks no matter what they may be is very professional and of a high standard, it's all about TEAM. Keep it up. Thank you very much.

Dave Withers

President, Wairoa SAR Organisation

Insurance

Recently there has been some discussion about, mainly, whether or not ones Life Insurance cover could be affected by participating in SAR training and/or operations. The National Committee has done some investigative work in this area and there appears to be no easy or consistent answer. However, much of the 'information' that has been presented to the committee has been anecdotal and it is difficult to get a real feel for how extensive the problem is. It is accepted that for those affected it is a significant problem.

Some companies specifically exclude SAR as part of the policy conditions, some just exclude non-scheduled flights and some are silent on this issue. There is even considerable variation in the non-scheduled flight clause, with some companies allowing up to 200 hours per year before the exclusion clause kicks in.

At present, the best course of action that can be recommended is to talk to your insurance company and find out what their attitude is towards SAR. It is suggested that you stress

the volunteer and public good aspects of SAR. If you are experiencing problems with your insurance company, then please let the committee know so we can build a case to approach specific insurance companies if that is required to try and resolve the issue.

However, there are some 'rules' that should be followed that may assist in protecting your policy. These include:-

- For SAREX's and training courses and exercises, ensure that your local Police SAR co-ordinator or SAR Sergeant is aware that the training is being undertaken.
- For SAR operations: These are run at the request of the Police, so make sure that you are not being asked to become involved in a sanctioned private search. Also ensure that you sign in (and sign out) at base at all times when you are involved in the operation.

Roscoe Tait

Chairman NZLSAR

Marlborough AREC 25 Year Presentations.

Five members of the Marlborough AREC were presented with a New Zealand Police Plaque in recognition of 25 years voluntary service to Marlborough Search and Rescue. The Awards were presented by the Area Inspector for Marlborough, Steve Caldwell at the SAR AGM on Wednesday May 22. In addition their spouses received the Tasman Police District Commanders Commendation for their support and patience to Marlborough Search and Rescue.

The recipients of this award were Frank Stretch ZL2AZE, Gordon Buckton ZL2BGQ, Roger Lawson ZL2BHG, Paul Rennie ZL2NBP/ZL2EO, Don Jamieson ZL2BJS. Also present were Colleen Lawson ZL2ULO, Ron Harris ZL2BDD, and Helen Harris ZL2TPT. Most of the above mentioned also received the

Police Commissioners medallion for volunteer service to land SAR. Absent for the presentations were Ian Conway ZL2BGL, Gary Ching ZL2BTV, Peter Johnson ZL2PKJ and Don Jamieson ZL2BJ.

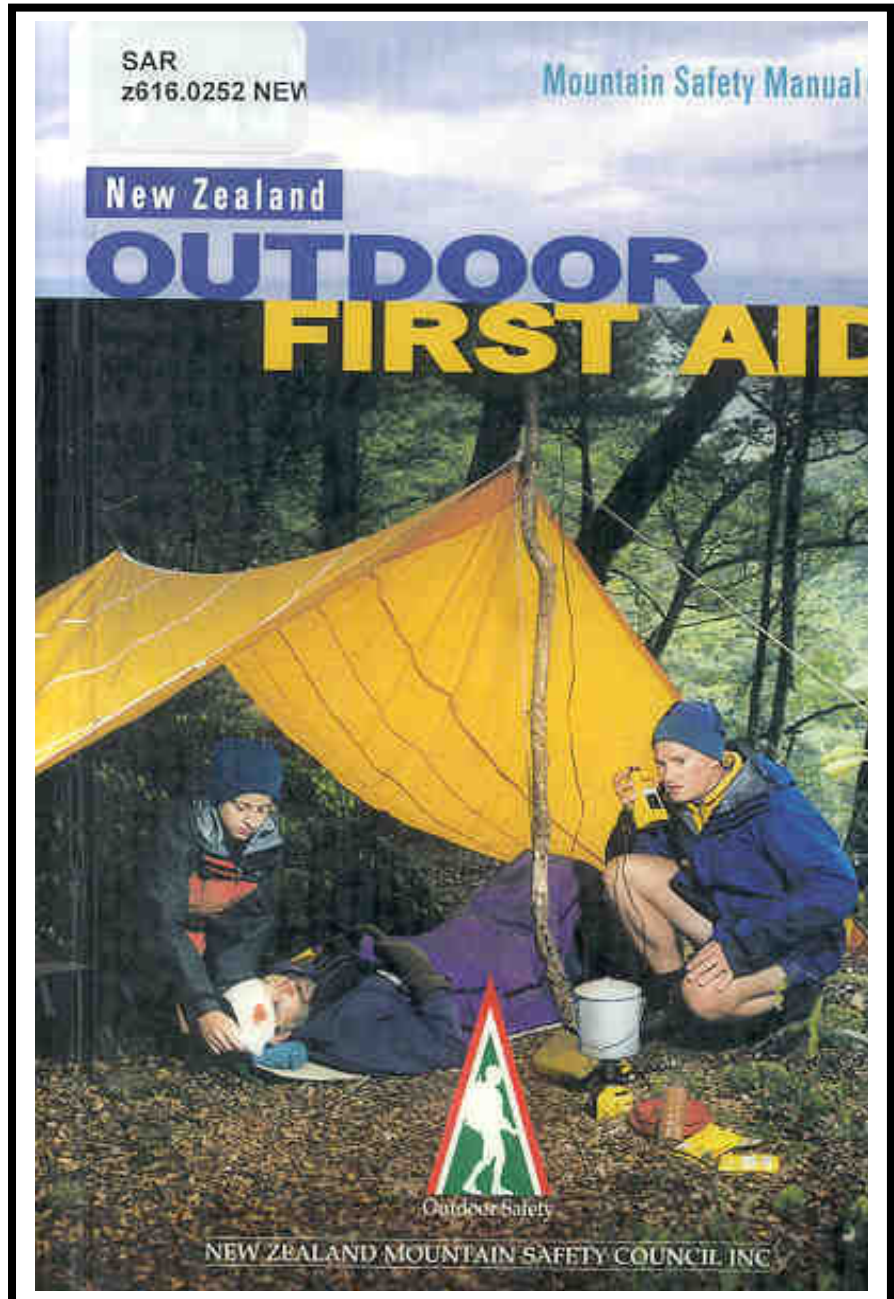
Paul Rennie
AREC Marlborough

Mountain Safety Council First Aid Manual Reprint

The New Zealand Outdoor First Aid Manual works on the basis that in remote areas, even minor accidents can lead to potential major problems, given that access to medical services could be hours or days away. If your SAR group is co-ordinating its' own first aid training, the manual is the ideal reference document to support your training. As a field guide, the book is clearly laid out, with index, illustrations index and cross-referencing to other related sections throughout. Patient management is clearly set out with clear descriptions of sign and symptoms, treatment instructions, and guidelines as to the evacuation priority of your patient.

A strong emphasis is placed on managing first aid emergencies with the materials you have at hand in typical outdoor situations. Practical means of splinting fractures with bush materials, to creating stretchers from a coil of climbing rope are all comprehensively explained.

A note of caution - the old adage "don't read the manual until all else fails" DOES NOT apply to the field of first aid. Use this excellent manual



to supplement first aid training for your volunteers, who really do want to make a difference. Call your local Mountain Safety Council contact, or John Tristram to advise discount pricing, and arrange orders. Copies are also available from the NZLSAR/Police library. Again, just contact the NFO if you want to borrow a copy

Glenn Mitchell,
Member NZLSAR Medical Group

Canterbury SAR Competition

Background. Canterbury Land SAR has been running this competition for 17 years. The idea was initiated by a now retired Adviser, Neil Harris and again Neil was on site to officially start the event. It has been called the Harris Trophy and a competition cup is presented to the winner each year. The five Canterbury SAR Sectors take a turn each year to organise the event. Over the years the competition has become more refined with more aspects of SAR included and consequently the running and organising has become more professional.

Location this Year. Hurunui Sector in North Canterbury was hosting the event this year. This includes the Hurunui and Hanmer Springs SAR Groups. The site this year was the "Jollie Brook" flat which is about 40 kms west of Hawarden up the Hurunui River near Lake Sumner. The Incident Control Point (ICP) was on a river flat by the Hurunui River with a semi circle of hills, bush scrub on the other side of the river. Lost person sites were selected on the other side of the river about two weeks before the event. Using the river crossing for the event was dependent on river flows on the day.

Preparation. The Lost Persons or "patients" and the first aid assessors were briefed and made up ready to be taken to pre arranged Map

Reference points for their scenario setup. There were some usual problems with being short of patients and assessors and a call was heard over the radio for a last minute patient. A volunteer's name came back and it was none other than our National Field Officer John Tristram. The search teams were held back at the Assembly Area (AA) until the patients were well out in the field. The search teams were then brought forward into the Staging Area (SA). On the day the river flow was far too high for safe river crossing so all those getting to the other side had to use the swing bridge. The Team Leaders were briefed and the SAR assessors were also given a briefing along with the marking sheets.

Start. The event was started by Neil Harris and the nominated runners from each of the 11 teams entered ran to the top of a river terrace to chose one of the 11 bags which held a VHF radio, a map and their map reference. The teams accompanied by their SAR assessor then started seriously to work out how best to get to their patient. Unfortunately all teams had to make their way down river a short distance to cross over the swingbridge to get to their nominated search area. This created an initial bottleneck. This event was not a race and this minor hiccup just spread the teams out.



Sites. All the patients are made up with the same injuries and this year's injury was a dislocated kneecap and a broken jaw. Warren McKie was in charge of the first aid and the assessors and had set up an excellent scenario and brief and marking sheet. The Teams were given the six-figure map reference, which put them within 100 metres of their patient. This gives the teams some avenue for search techniques and track and clue work. Once the patient is located the teams get to work administering first aid, organising their stretcher, keeping communications ongoing under the direction of the team leader.

The return. This year the teams transported their patients to a central point on the search side of the river where the carry ended. Teams then went to the swingbridge where John Laugesen from the Police SAR Team checked all their gear. Marks were good for this as teams now generally know what they should be carrying for this event.

Observation: Two observation courses were set up by Dave Saunders, one static and one a walkthrough. This is a demanding exercise for the teams and it always pays to have the maximum numbers of team members for this skill. It is stipulated that teams should be no less than six and no more than eight. In recent years team numbers have dropped to two or three, but for the purpose of the competition team numbers are a little more traditional.

Communications.: Three VHF simplex nets were set up with AREC for the teams. This proved very satisfactory. A SAR repeater was made available for the patient sites if necessary and a co-ordination channel. Many thanks to John Hirtzell and his AREC Team.



The walk through observation course

Assessment. All the marking sheets were collated by Phil Simmonds from the Police SAR team and worked out on a spreadsheet. While this was being done teams were availing themselves to food and drink set up in the Red Cross marquee. Thanks to Red Cross for their assistance on the day.

The Trophy. The winner for 2002 was the local Hurunui Team, with Ellesmere and Methven as runners up. Neil Harris presented the trophy to the Hurunui Team Leader Richard Todd. Hurunui also won the Communication Trophy.

Thanks. Quite a lot of work is put in by a lot of people to this competition. Thanks to all who assisted in one way or another. It is a true team effort by the volunteers and Police SAR. A quote from an old competition document,

“the aim of the competition is to maintain interest and ensure thorough training in all aspects of SAR and to foster relationships between the various SAR Groups.”

It is an annual opportunity for family and friends of SAR to get together and have an enjoyable day out.

Brian Holland

Canterbury District Adviser and 2002 SAR Competition Organiser

Editors Comments A big thank you to **Roscoe, Tric, Markus, Dave, Paul, Glenn and Brian** for your articles. To those who proof read and check the spelling and grammar, thank you also. Close off date for the **February 2003 News is 24 January**. Articles can be “thin on the ground” just after Christmas so give it a go, write an article, a photo is doubly welcome. I can scan it and return it. Send your material 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

Finally, Christmas is coming. For NZLSAR and myself as NFO, its been a big year. Certainly it has been no less so for the SAR people at the “coalface”. Much has been achieved both non operationally and with the operations that justify all that work. To all the SAR people and especially those who helped me over the year, many thanks and all the best for the holidays. May your days be sunny, the winds light, the SAR pager quiet and may you revel in the delights of family, home and good times. Regards. **John P Tristram**, National Field Officer