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# NZLSAR News

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## Chairman's Christmas Message

Another year has rolled by and the Christmas season is fast approaching. The past year has again been a busy one for SAR throughout the country. There have been some major events and several high profile searches. There is increasing pressure on administrative requirements that are being brought about by legislative changes, especially the amendments to the Health and Safety in Employment Act that came into force in May 2004. We are yet to see what effect the Charities Bill will have as it is still going through the parliamentary process.

The highlight of the year was the second NZLSAR conference, held at Hopuhopu in October, and preceded by a week of pre-conference courses. A big thanks must go to SARINZ for arranging for a number of overseas speakers to run courses during the pre-conference week as well as giving papers at the conference. The overseas speakers were ably complemented by a good range of excellent papers presented by our own members. The conference was extremely well supported with over 200 delegates. Thanks also to Geoff Logan for hold his SAR Coordinators meeting just after the conference. All those who

attended thought that the conference was an unqualified success. I would like to thank the Region Two Conference Organising Committee team for the tremendous job they did in making this event so successful. .

The combined meeting with Regional Chairmen and Secretaries, which has now become an annual event, was held at the Police College at the end of August. This meeting provides a forum for members of the Regional Committees to come together and discuss SAR with the National Committee of NZLSAR, sharing ideas and debating issues. As in past years, the day started with a round up of each Region's activities. This was followed by a seminar entitled – "Risk Management and SAR". This was chosen because of the changes in the legislation brought about by the amendments to the Health and Safety in Employment Act that came into force in May last year and the impact that this is starting to have on SAR. The seminar covered the effect the legislation may have on SAR and some ways and means to be able to comply with these changes. It is important that all SAR

groups have procedures in place to meet the requirements of this legislation.

There have been a number of high profile searches this year and two recent ones, in particular, occurred during the pre-conference course week - the searches at Arthur's Pass and Piha. There were also several incidents at Mt Cook earlier in the year.

On behalf of the National Committee I would like to wish all members of the

SAR community and their families a grateful thanks for the work that they have done during the past year, a happy and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Enjoy this special time with your family and friends and we look forward to catching up with you in 2005.

**Roscoe Tait**  
NZLSAR Chairman

### **National SAR Coordinators Christmas Message**

**A**s we draw towards the close of the calendar year, life is as busy as one expects prior to Christmas. The year has been one where a lot of changes have taken place, and while one might say "change is the only constant", there have been significant changes set in motion that I believe will culminate in a better resourced, more efficient and more effective SAR response.

Amongst all the planning for SAR and our response to it, our communities continue to receive an operational response that catered to over 1300 incidents last year. Many lasted only a few hours while a few went into several days.

The varied terrain, climate and incident types saw many skills brought to the fore and it is because of your willingness to give of your skills and time that over 1200 people are able to spend another Christmas with their family and friends.

Thank you for your efforts over the past year and may you and yours have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year that enables you to do the things you enjoy doing, recover from the stresses and strains of the past year and prepare you for a prosperous and successful 2005.

**Geoff Logan**  
National Coordinator: Search and Rescue

### **SAR Radios and Repeaters**

#### **SAR Repeaters**

Earlier this year the NZLSAR Communications Sub-Committee looked at a number of issues relating to SAR Repeaters.

1. NZ Police has cancelled licensing of CD12 (A and B) earlier this year.
2. Police licensed MS08 and MS17 as replacements for CD12, and we have also had ESB57 and ESB58 for portable repeaters.

3. NZ Police have recently licenses for ESB59 and ESB60 as additional Portable Repeater frequencies.

4. A number of areas have indicated an interest in implementing Fixed Repeaters. To cover this, with external consultation/assistance, we have come up with a fixed repeater policy that has been approved by Police and NZLSAR (See

[http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/FIXED REPEATER\\_POLICY.pdf](http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/FIXED_REPEATER_POLICY.pdf)

and

[http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/NZLSAR Fixed Repeater Application Form.pdf](http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/NZLSAR_Fixed_Repeater_Application_Form.pdf)).

Channel options are: - MS Channels, low power low cost EE band options, and two EE Band Channels. See the above Policy and Application form for more details. The allocations will be made based on all information presented to the CSC for the application and other Fixed Repeaters in adjacent areas.

5. We have had agreement and encouragement from the Public Service Radio Frequency Management Group to include ESB164 and ESX39 on SAR Radios as Common/Liaison channels. These are not for general use, but for use in multi agency operations for high level liaison, or where necessary as a common working channel.
6. There were a number of errors and anomalies with the old Bank 1 allocations that needed to be corrected. (eg CD13, simplex channels on repeater inputs, non-logical grouping and ordering of the channels etc)

### **Channel Plan**

Attached to this edition of the News is the National Bank 1 Channel Plan for the Police ICOM ICF3 Handhelds, it is expected that any privately owned radios for SAR would follow this plan.

As an extension of the Fixed Repeater Policy, and looking toward greater issues of external interference we have also opted to use CTCSS access for transportable as well as fixed repeaters.

ie CTCSS required on TX access to the portable repeaters.

All of the Police owned radios have been reprogrammed to the plan as below. We now need to make sure that all SAR privately owned, and other radios used for SAR are reprogrammed with the new channel plan. For reprogramming contact either the radio dealer that supplied the radios, local AREC may be able to assist, or you may be able to arrange to get assistance from Police I and T section.

It is felt better to add CTCSS now rather than review it again in a year or so time and require yet another reprogramming effort.

We know that some areas have not been in agreement with having the National Common channels on Bank 1, but this has been seen to be the best solution to having a National Standard, and leaving Bank 2 (or more in the case of 100 channel Icoms) available for local use.

A little surprisingly there has been some opposition to the move to implementing CTCSS on the Portable Repeater channels. Yes there is going to be a little bit of pain for reprogramming, but this is necessary to implement the additional new channels anyway, and in some cases remove the old CD12 channels which are no longer available.

CTCSS is completely invisible to the user and is no hassle, as they don't have to do anything. Interference is a growing problem, even in remote locations. The introduction of CTCSS is primarily for the fixed repeaters, but to keep it consistent and to guard against even occasional interference problems it is worthwhile on the portable repeaters as well. There are good reasons why commercial, amateur (in other parts of

the world if not here), and DoC etc use CTCSS.

The Portable Repeaters have been set up to allow access with or without CTCSS tone encoding on the input. This is to allow use where not all radios have been reprogrammed. The channels in the Police Portable Repeaters have been programmed as follows:

- Channel 1-4        ESB57-60        no CTCSS, no tail
- Channel 5-8                    ESB57-60 CTCSS Squelch (RX only), no tail
- Channel 9-12       ESB 57-60, no CTCSS, tail
- Channel 13-16    ESB                    57-60, CTCSS squelch, tail

It is recommended that for most normal single repeater use channels 13-16 will be used, or channels 9-12 if radios without CTCSS programmed are being used.

**NOTE** That the **no tail option must be used** when used in conjunction with a Linking Repeater

### **Linking Repeaters**

Two of the linking repeaters are set up for ESB57 and ESB58 as before, (held in the Auckland and Wellington Police workshops), and two are set up for ESB59 and ESB60 (held in Wellington and Christchurch Police radio workshops). The Reverse channels can be used with a Linking Repeater and one Normal Repeater to access the Linking Repeater side of the link. They can also be used by base stations where stations are in simplex range, but cannot access a repeater for some reason.

## **Communications Subcommittee Structure**

The NZLSAR Communications Subcommittee is looking to restructure to provide a better focus for technologies other than Communications. At this stage we have come up with a plan to set up two working groups in a similar way to that which the Specialist Subcommittee has been operating for some time.

The proposed two working groups are

1. Technology Platforms: - including but not limited to
  - Communications
  - Computing
  - Positioning
2. Information Systems: - including but not limited to
  - Applications
  - Mapping
  - Operating Systems

We are also looking to change the name of the Sub-Committee when the NZLSAR Constitution is reviewed, and are looking at; either Information and Communications Technology or Communications, Information and Technology.

We are now seeking expressions of interest to join one or both of these working groups, the viable size of these working groups is limited, so not everyone that expresses interest will be able to be included. Expressions of interest should be made through your Regional Committee or Regional Representative to Steve Davis – Chair Communications Sub-Committee

### **Steve Davis**

Chairman, NZLSAR Communications Subcommittee

**South Island Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course 2004**

This year, the course was organised by SAR Dogs Otago, but the venue was Twizel, rather than Dunedin.

We were expecting poor conditions for working dogs – hot and dry would have been typical. We were pleasantly surprised – the weather gods were kind to our dogs (if not the tourists) and most

days had some cloud cover. We had rain at the end of Thursday, and early Friday morning it was even snowing. Dog handlers are a funny lot, and all this was far preferable than scorching hot sun searing the ground from a cloudless sky. The reason is twofold – dogs wear their fur coats year-round, and tire quickly in the heat of



the day if the ambient temperatures are high. The second reason is that the scent left by humans on the ground is

quickly “burnt off” in hot sunny conditions, leaving nothing for ground-scenting dogs to follow.

The course was the biggest yet, attended by 27 handlers and 27 dogs. Also in attendance were assessors from the Police Dog Section, various NZLSAR officials, Russell Carr (Queenstown Adviser) and a number of observers who have an interest in Search Dogs and get used as the "missing party" for the dogs to find. The total was over 40 people in attendance.

This was the first year that the course has been run primarily for dog and handler teams that are beyond the basic stages and making good progress. This was introduced due to sheer numbers. It proved a success, with most teams appearing happy with the training they got done. Some of the instructors and assessors still found themselves too busy to get much training done with their own dogs, so there are still some tweaks to the format required. It is hoped to run some training courses throughout the year that will cater for dogs teams at a more basic level than those attending this assessment course.

Saturday was set aside as 'assessment' day, with provision on Sunday morning

for any overflow. The weather improved at the weekend, getting quite warm during the middle of the day. This put extra stress on those teams being assessed. A fickle wind and a complicated air-scent assessment area ensured that the handlers abilities to thoroughly cover an area were tested, as well as the dog's abilities.

Overall, a great course. The total number of operational dogs remained about the same as before the course, with one or two operational teams not re-certifying, but newer teams coming through. The overall quality of the teams we now have is probably higher than we've ever had before. Congratulations to all those teams who have put in all the time and effort training to get to this high standard and become operational.

Special thanks must go to the Twizel Motor Camp for the accommodation and South Island Rowing for excellent catering and rooms.

**Andrew Pealing**  
Course Convenor

### **Some thoughts from the Training Subcommittee Chairman**

#### **Conference**

The NZ Land SAR Conference held on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> October near Hamilton was certainly the highlight of the year in terms of training, considering new ideas and technology plus meeting SAR enthusiasts from around the country. The five guest speakers from USA brought with them a wealth of knowledge and experience which they freely (they are volunteers too) shared during the conference and the pre-conference courses. This provided a great opportunity for us to "bench mark" ourselves against the Americans and most of people felt that in general we are doing really well.

The more popular presentations included:

- Medical experiences during the Strawbridge Search in Tasman by Sally Lane
- Myths, misunderstandings and misconceptions about survival by Skip Stoffel
- Fatigue by Bob Koester

A clear message coming through during presentations from local presenters is the need for SAR teams to improve their image through consistent use of colours, clothing etc.

The week of pre-conference courses saw the introduction of some new

courses such as Specialist Tracking - TCA3. This course introduces the concept of camp-site analysis, consequently all participants camp overnight in the bush.

The Saturday evening dinner was followed by an entertaining comedy show and some serious partying.

Some statistics:

- Pre-conference course attendees: 196, Number of courses: 11
- Person training days: 358
- Conference attendees: 205 (North Island 130, South Island 75)
- Conference presentations or sessions during 2 days: 45
- Unable to attend Sunday morning sessions due to hang-overs: Undisclosed

### **Training**

The NZLSAR Training Subcommittee has a budget to assist a person to attend SAR conferences in other countries. The Washington State SAR Conference is considered by many to be amongst the worlds best – it has been said that it is the only conference that is better than our recent conference. The money can be put towards attendance at their next conference on 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2005. Thus expressions of interest are called needed from any persons involved in SAR who feel that their attendance at such an event would be of benefit to SAR in NZ. Preference may be given to persons who would be willing to present a paper at the

conference. The Travel Policy and application forms can be found on the website Home Page, About SAR in NZ and NZLSAR Inc, About New Zealand Land SAR Inc, Reports, Policy and Rules or upon application to NZLSAR. Fill the forms in and send them to John Tristram detailing the reasons that you should be considered. This should be in John's hands **before the end of January 2005.**

### **Search Assistants Training**

Once again Tasman SAR have been innovative in their approach to management of SAR operations by developing the role for Search Assistants. These people take care of the information management using computers – a skilled job that requires special people. Karen King and Linda Cook have recently run their second course for Search Assistants in Blenheim. As an observer on the course I was able to look closely at the standard of presentation and the competence of the participants. On all counts the standards were high. The course content and presentation were excellent and the competence of the participants exceptional – they would be an asset to any SAR operation. I believe that this course will be essential for groups around the country as the use of computers grows and the availability of computer operators (or Search Assistants) increases.

### **Barry Were**

Chairman NZLSAR Training Subcommittee

## **Personal Locator Beacon – Artthurs Pass Search**

Christchurch Police are recommending that personal locator beacons used by trampers should be regularly serviced and the batteries tested. A beacon failed when activated by two students lost at Arthur's Pass earlier this year.

Following the search for Craig Helm and Nicholas Gordon at Arthur's Pass in July 2004, the PLB they activated was later sent for testing. It appeared to have a loose aerial, and the aerial had in fact become detached from the transmitter.

The batteries in this unit had an expiry date of Jan 2001.

Search coordinator Senior Constable Phil Simmonds says that people need be aware that if they own or use a PLB, and it is a sealed unit, they should know the battery use by date.

"They should send it to a qualified technician periodically to ensure the unit is functioning correctly," he says. "Organisations or clubs hiring PLBs have a responsibility to ensure the units are operational and well maintained, they should keep service records."

Near the end of 2000 a local Tramping Club in Christchurch purchased two

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). At the time the tramping club was told that the units should not require batteries or servicing for a further period of 5 years.

The second PLB purchased by the club was obtained and recently sent for testing.

When activated, the unit failed to work. The batteries had an expiry date of March 2002 and had corroded through a wire connecting them to the rest of the unit so it was not any getting power.

"I would recommend that people label the exterior of the PLB showing the battery use by date and any date serviced," says Phil Simmonds.

Owners and users of PLBs should have knowledge of the best positioning of their unit once activated. This is generally in an upright position (aerial pointing up) with a clear or unobstructed view of the sky.

The same rationale also applies to marine holders and users of PLBs and EPRIBs (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacons).

#### **Phil Simmonds**

Senior Constable

Central Station Police, Christchurch

### **Regional Chairmen and Secretaries combined meeting**

The annual meeting of the Regional Chairmen and Secretaries with the National Committee of NZLSAR was held at the Police College at the end of August. This meeting is held in conjunction with a NZLSAR Committee meeting and the NZLSAR AGM, the combined meeting occurring on the Saturday and the Committee meeting and AGM on the Sunday.

Traditionally this meeting has been held every two years, but at last year's meeting the decision was made it an annual event. These meetings are important as they provide an excellent forum for senior SAR representatives to meet and talk about SAR, to debate issues and ideas.

The meeting started with a brief overview of NZLSAR status and activities over the last year, followed by a promotion of the NZLSAR Conference in October. A

member of each Region then gave a summary of what had been happening within their Region; activities, issues, etc. This gives everyone a good idea of the type of activities being undertaken within each Region and level of involvement of SAR around the country. Some of the issues raised during these presentations are 'parked' for consideration later in the day.

The rest of the day consisted of a seminar with the title 'Risk Management and SAR'. This was mainly aimed at the changes that have been brought about by the amendments to the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992, which came into effect in May 2003. The objective was to make people aware of the effect that the amendments have on SAR and what needs to be done to achieve compliance, both from a legal perspective and to meet Police requirements. The implications

arising from the Astrid Anderson case were also canvassed. The rest of the seminar was spent in looking at what processes NZLSAR is developing (minimum entry criteria, standards, supplying software, etc) to assist SAR groups in meeting their (legal) requirements and some software tools that have been developed to assist SAR groups in maintaining records of the information more easily.

The day finished up with a review of the 'parked' items and a brief overview of the Charities Bill (and its possible implications for SAR groups) that is currently going through the parliamentary process.

**Roscoe Tait**  
Chairman, NZLSAR

## Computers and SAR

**T**hey say a week is a long time in politics, and I am here to report that a year is a long time in NZLSAR when it comes to computers!

The photo which accompanied the article in NZLSAR News June 2004 Edition was of myself as one of the two people attempting to do real time data entry on the Tasman Region annual SAREX in May 2003. The Excel programme we were using had been cobbled together in two days by Karen King and myself at the request of Sherp Tucker, and with technical advice from John King as to what information the Incident Management Team would find most helpful during a search operation. The results of this "experiment" were so positive that our trio was catapulted into a frenzy of research, product evaluation, training and being trained. We zoomed all over the Tasman Region (and beyond at times) to put into practice the Tasman SAR "IT Solution to Search Management" at operations and SAREX's!

To start at the beginning.

At the inaugural NZLSAR Conference in 2002 a programme called " IMan " was given a public airing by Barry Were of Datasolve – however our subsequent home trials were sporadic and unsatisfactory and we put it on the back burner. Following the May 2003 SAREX, IMan was revisited with new eyes and the possibilities of the programme became more evident. I'm not sure quite what Barry Were thought was happening when he started being bombarded with

"suggestions" and "requests" and "begging" emails asking for improvements, enhancements, additions and alterations! Whatever he thought, most of what we asked for was incorporated, and month by month we became increasingly convinced that IMan, although still very much in development, was up to being used in a "real" operation. It was capable of providing a quantum leap in the quality, quantity, and timeliness of information to the management team.

Karen and I took part in "Operation Splash" trialling IMan for data capture during the scenario of a large ship getting into difficulties in the Marlborough Sounds. Apart from coming to realise that in this type of operation it would be more used for resource tracking than data logging (the opposite way around to a SAR operation), we came away confident it was almost ready. A few days later we were standing in the car park after our Marlborough SAR committee meeting, discussing the changes we had identified were needed next, when Karen's phone rang to signal the start to Operation Strawbridge.

That was Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2003. Karen headed over to Nelson to do the "biddy shift" – setting up IMan with all the known information on the two missing persons and their dog. She worked with Search Management to get all the taskings generated and printed, all the maps generated printed and laminated, and all the radios, GPS units, Missing

Person information sheets etc. ready to go for when the first search teams turned up in the morning. I was called over to take over the afternoon/evening shift and support Karen and Colleen Wood in the data log/information management role from Thursday afternoon, with John King joining the Incident Management Team at the same time. We were entering as much information as we could get our hands on into IMan, and instituting a filing system to keep track of all the accumulating piles of radio message forms, interviews with people, press releases, Incident Action Plans, Consensus forms, etc. etc. John used TUMONZ to show the areas searched by different teams, the locations of important clues, the locations of the "found" parties, until finally we could throw it up on the screen to show the locations of all three "found" parties. The three of us headed back home to Marlborough on Tuesday the 28th October, exhausted now that it was all over, but also elated and excited with the outstanding success of IMan and TUMONZ as search management tools.

Sure, there were still areas in IMan that needed improvement, but during the operation itself a lot of changes that were identified as needed were urgently carried out by the team back at Datasolve (at all hours of the day and night and over a statutory holiday weekend). They were then e-mailed through to be incorporated into the live data log as the days went by. All of these became standard items in the next release of the product. Although this was a hugely successful "trial by fire" of the Tasman SAR "IT Solution to Search Management", it also opened our eyes to even more possibilities. It opened the flood gates to even more e-mails to Barry "suggesting" "begging" "demanding" even more improvements to IMan to make it even better "next time"!

One of the firm opinions to come out of the Strawbridge search was that "live" data logging of radio messages was not only desirable, but possible. When the Cook/King team were invited to take part

in the National Caving SAREX at Mt Owen in Feb 2004 we were determined to try this out on a multi-shift event (Karen had already used for a cave rescue in January at Harwoods Hole). Initially we had "challenges" to overcome because we were located in a bus with a poor power supply and with the radio operator too far away for us to hear all the messages. Other people would stand between the radio and the data logger and reduce the ability to hear even further. However, once the rain required a strategic withdrawal to a woolshed we were able to set up a computer next to the radio operator and things began to really work! It quickly became evident that a competent computer logger could not only record information much faster than the person doing the radio log by hand, but they were also able to capture the entire message, instead of "filtering" to try to keep up with the speed of the spoken word, or fit the message onto the space available on the message form.

The advantages of being able to do real time logging are immense, as it means that critical information is available in the log immediately. It gives the best of both worlds - for those who like to have a friendly piece of paper to walk around with, the data logger simply prints a copy of the message immediately it is entered (no slower than waiting on the handwritten copy). It is envisaged that printouts will ultimately go direct to the appropriate person such as the Planning and Intel Manager, Operations Manager, Incident Controller etc. when we have the ideal of a printer and computer at every useful location. For those who like to look up the data log to see trends, clues, locations of teams at last message etc. the information is as up to date as is possible.

Tasman SAR now "officially" has Search Assistants (as we have decided we are!) as an integral part of the Incident Management Team, and with each operation the role gets defined and refined and expanded and enlarged – at one and the same time. Our pool of "battle

hardened" people is still small, but we have learnt that an intelligent, computer competent, and willing person can very quickly be trained to do basic data entry. This, at a standard that provides the Incident Management Team with a quantum improvement on the information capture that was available only 18 months ago. With the very minimum of training, such a person can set up the system for a new operation by themselves and hold the fort til help arrives from all ends of the Region. At that point all hands and minds concentrate on getting all the historic information into the system and making sure the current information gets entered in as close to real time as is possible. Karen and I have now trained 13 new Search Assistants over the last 2 months, and we have been thoroughly impressed with the calibre of people wanting to become involved in this role.

For those who are sceptical about reliance on technology over paper we maintain that there is no conflict. We still insist on a paper trail of message logs, interviews, etc. and it is protocol to print out the computer log at regular intervals. This is in case the system becomes unavailable due to any number of reasons (from power failure to computer meltdown), so in the worst case scenario the same level of information that was available in the past will still be there as a minimum.

On the software front, as Matthew Farrelly (NZLSAR News June 2004) rightly observed, "due to the unique circumstances in NZ it is preferable to support locally made software that is being tailored to our unique needs". It is inconceivable that any company other than a local NZ one would be so accommodating and willing to adapt and develop their products to suit the very specific and critical requirements of the NZ SAR community. Interestingly enough, the costs of both IMan and TUMONZ are very reasonable even to an "outsider", let alone at the reduced prices offered to search and rescue groups, and I believe we are supremely lucky to have

the combination of both quality and affordability of product.

On the hardware front, initially we investigated and rejected the use of lap tops because we had developed minimum specifications for our Tasman SAR computers to ensure that each was capable of handling all the tasks that were currently envisaged, and with a bit of future proofing thrown in. However, within a month or two of this decision affordable laptops were on the market that met these specifications. They became part of the IT strategy because of their portability – as also identified by Matthew the ability of smaller SAR areas to be adequately resourced (with computers) could be a barrier. This is exaggerated in Tasman Region by the wide geographical spread of its coverage. The Tasman solution has been for resources to be brought in from other centres within the Region (management, searchers, Search Assistants, computers, printers, data projectors etc). A bottom line to this has been for all computer purchases within the Region to meet the minimum specifications and to be set up the same so they can work together wherever they are needed. Different groups are at various stages of fund-raising, and there seems to be little problem in convincing the various funding organisations of the rightness of our cause!

I am not game to predict where "Computers and SAR" will be this time in 2005! Just over a year and a half down the track from my first assignment as a Search Assistant I am blown away when I look back at the huge progress that has been made with information technology in Search and Rescue. As for the future, every day, every week, every month that passes sees improvements to what we are currently doing, new possibilities opening up as outside forces develop new products and add more options to old ones. The biggest influence of all in our Region is the busy mind of Mr Sherp Tucker which keeps working on how

search and rescue in Tasman can do better, work smarter, raise the bar.

**Linda Cook**  
Tasman SAR

### **Congratulations for the Conference from the Region Two Chairman**

I would like to congratulate Barry Were and the Conference Committee: Bruce and Audrey Sandford, Doug Taucher, Charlie Smart, Karyn Long, Virginia Peck, Jim Rowe, Rob Duncan, Brent Martin and Max McLean on achieving a successful and very interesting conference. Many hours of work have gone into this conference and lots of travelling time. I also wish to acknowledge SARINZ for bringing the five overseas speakers to New Zealand. Their papers at the conference were very well received, and from the comments I received their workshops were also well received and provided valuable training. During the conference I received a great many complimentary comments - to which I replied that it was "down to Barry and his team". The fact that 213 registrants came from all over New Zealand shows that these bi-annual conferences are wanted and, through the willingness of overseas speakers to participate, will put NZLSAR on the world map. We were also very fortunate to have 27 New Zealand speakers providing valuable input, which goes to show there is a lot of untapped knowledge out there. Well done.

**Tiena Jordan**  
Chairman Region Two

**Editors Comments.** A very big thank you to **Roscoe, Geoff, Steve, Barry, Phil, Linda, Tiena and Andrew** for their articles and comments. Copy for the **February News** is most welcome and the close-off date is **Monday 28 January**. 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.

Finally all the best for the holiday break and may the New Year festivities treat you well. Who was it that wrote that a hangover should be seen as a reminder of a good time and not with remorse for a time of over indulgence?

As mentioned last year our family celebrates the winter solstice in late June and so our festivities will be limited. My wife and I are organising a 12 day Hutt Valley Tramping Club trip centred largely around the northern part of the West Coast. Forever optimists we are hoping for fine weather. May a large high settle over the whole country for two weeks starting on the 25 December so you all share in our anticipated sunny skies.

All the very best and see you next year. **John P Tristram, National Field Officer**

**Reprogramming of Standard National Channels  
NZLSAR/Police VHF Radio Channel Allocation Rev 3.260504**

Channel	Rx	Tx	Channel	Function	Alpha	CTCSS Tx code
Position	Frequency	Frequency	Description		Display	CODE
<b>BANK 1</b>						
1	140.58750	140.58750	ESB SAR simplex 1	simplex	01ESX07	141.3
2	143.66250	143.66250	ESB SAR simplex 2	simplex	02ESX53	141.3
3	141.71250	138.71250	ESB SAR Portable rptr 1	duplex	03ESB57	141.3
4	141.72500	138.72500	ESB SAR Portable rptr 2	duplex	04ESB58	141.3
5	141.73750	138.73750	ESB SAR Portable rptr 3	duplex	05ESB59	141.3
6	141.75000	138.75000	ESB SAR Portable rptr 4	duplex	06ESB60	141.3
7	161.15000	158.25000	SAR VHF MS Fixed rptr 1	duplex	07MS08	NONE
8	161.37500	158.47500	SAR VHF MS Fixed rptr 2	duplex	08MS17	NONE
9	163.72500	168.32500	SAR VHF EE Fixed rptr 1	duplex	09EE122	141.3
10	164.65000	169.25000	SAR VHF EE Fixed rptr 2	duplex	10EE196	141.3
11	140.98750	140.98750	ESX 39 Liaison simplex	liaison	11ESX39	NONE
12	143.05000	140.05000	ESB 164 Liaison Repeater	liaison	12ES164	NONE
13	158.72500	158.72500	Ground to Air for RNZAF	simplex	13MSX27	NONE
14	143.03750	140.03750	DOC 20 Portable Repeater ESB163	PRU	14DOC20	151.4
15	156.30000	156.30000	Marine 06	simplex	15 MM06	NONE
16	156.80000	156.80000	Marine 16	Emergency	16 MM16	NONE

P0 Lock

P1 High/Low Power

P2 Bank

P3 Talk Around

**Recommendations for Bank 2**

<b>17</b>	<b>138.71250</b>	<b>141.71250</b>	<b>ESB SAR Portable revers 1</b>	<b>revers</b>	<b>17ES57R</b>	
<b>18</b>	<b>138.72500</b>	<b>141.72500</b>	<b>ESB SAR Portable revers 2</b>	<b>revers</b>	<b>18ES58R</b>	
<b>19</b>	<b>138.73750</b>	<b>141.73750</b>	<b>ESB SAR Portable revers 3</b>	<b>revers</b>	<b>19ES59R</b>	
<b>20</b>	<b>138.75000</b>	<b>141.75000</b>	<b>ESB SAR Portable revers 4</b>	<b>revers</b>	<b>20ES60R</b>	
<b>21</b>	<b>156.37500</b>	<b>156.37500</b>	<b>Local Marine Working</b>	<b>simplex</b>	<b>21 MM67</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>156.42500</b>	<b>156.42500</b>	<b>Local Marine Working</b>	<b>simplex</b>	<b>22 MM68</b>	<b>NONE</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>156.57500</b>	<b>156.57500</b>	<b>Local Marine Working</b>	<b>simplex</b>	<b>23 MM71</b>	<b>NONE</b>

**Local DOC or CD Channels Only by arrangement and their authority, in writing for your own protection**

