

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa ●●●●●●●●●●

New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

annual report 2021-2022



2021-2022 SAR Snapshot

What we achieve

See page 4

150 Lives saved



↑ up 7% from 2020-21

715 People rescued



↑ up 17% from 2020-21

799 People assisted

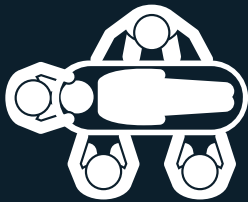


No change from 2020-21

What we do

See page 5

2,871 SAR incidents



↑ up 6% from 2020-21

57,933 Operational people hours

↑ up 30% from 2020-21

2,199 Operational asset hours

↓ down 7% from 2020-21

What it costs

See page 9

\$660m

in social costs was averted
by saving 150 lives

\$42.1m

Government
investment in SAR

16:1

Benefit to
cost ratio

Our people

See page 10

11,225 People involved



↓ down 3% from 2020-21



6,465
Water



3,920
Land



471
Air



369
Coordination
and support

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LandSAR winch training with an NZDF NH90 helicopter. Image courtesy Andy Hoyle

Chair's report



Peter Mersi
Chair, New Zealand Search
and Rescue Council

Tēnā koutou,

As you'll read in this year's annual report, change has been a constant for the search and rescue sector. Change is inevitable, but we have a choice about whether we lean into it and grow, or whether we shy away from it.

Reflecting on the history of New Zealand's search and rescue sector, I'm heartened by the knowledge that our people have not only accepted change but grown immensely in the process.

Those hardy mountain guides, life-guards, boat crews and radio operators who undertook search and rescue a hundred years ago would probably marvel at the tools and technology now available to us – such as helicopter winches, distress beacons, portable radios, and nimble rescue boats.

But one thing that has never changed is the dedication and commitment of our search and rescue people. Together they number 11,225 people across a range of disciplines – air, water, land, and coordination and support. Some of them head into the hills or out onto the water when the call comes in that someone needs help. Others plan search routes, run debriefs and fundraise for equipment. Each plays a vital part in the mission.

This year has seen 150 lives saved, 715 people rescued, and 799 people assisted. Some were trampers and climbers, others were headed out for a relaxing swim or a boat trip, or a suburban walk close to home. Each of them was reunited with their families and friends because of our sector's ability to spring into action, work collaboratively and look out for each other.

In July 2020, the Government investment in search and rescue, and frontline water safety, was boosted to

over \$93 million across three years. Two years in, the impact of that increased funding is clear. Volunteers are better supported, search and rescue organisations have sustainable funding, and new initiatives are underway, as demonstrated in the following pages.

COVID-19 again challenged the sector to respond at pace to alert level changes and new protection measures. We have continued to draw on the lessons learnt in the early days of the pandemic – not unlike how we learn from debriefing search and rescue operations. From the public's point of view there has been little, if any, disruption to search and rescue services – a trend that I hope will continue.

Lastly, this is my final report as Chair of the New Zealand Search and Rescue Council. It has been a privilege to chair the Council, and I've especially enjoyed meeting so many wonderful and incredible people at the annual New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

The commitment of everyone in our sector to ensuring the safety of others is very humbling, and I extend my thanks to you all.

Nāku iti nei, nā

New Zealand Search and Rescue Council as at 30 June 2022



Peter Mersi (Chair)
Chief Executive
Ministry of Transport



Andrew Coster
Commissioner
New Zealand Police



Keith Manch
Chief Executive
Civil Aviation Authority



Kirstie Hewlett
Director
Maritime New Zealand



Air Marshal Kevin Short
Chief of Defence Force
New Zealand Defence Force



Penny Nelson
Director General
Department of Conservation



Kerry Gregory
Chief Executive
Fire and Emergency New Zealand



Michael Bassett-Foss
Independent Council
Member

About us

Search and rescue services for the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region are provided by many organisations. The New Zealand Search and Rescue Council provides strategic leadership and direction to the sector.

Our outcome

The NZSAR Council will ensure New Zealand provides effective SAR services for people in distress throughout New Zealand's Search and Rescue Region in order to save lives.

Our vision

A cohesive community of capable people in sustainable organisations, finding and rescuing people in distress, operating collaboratively within a robust SAR system.

Our values

- Have a strong community service ethic
- Communicate and engage openly and effectively
- Respect individuals, teams and organisations
- Collaborate and cooperate between individuals, teams and organisations

Our goals

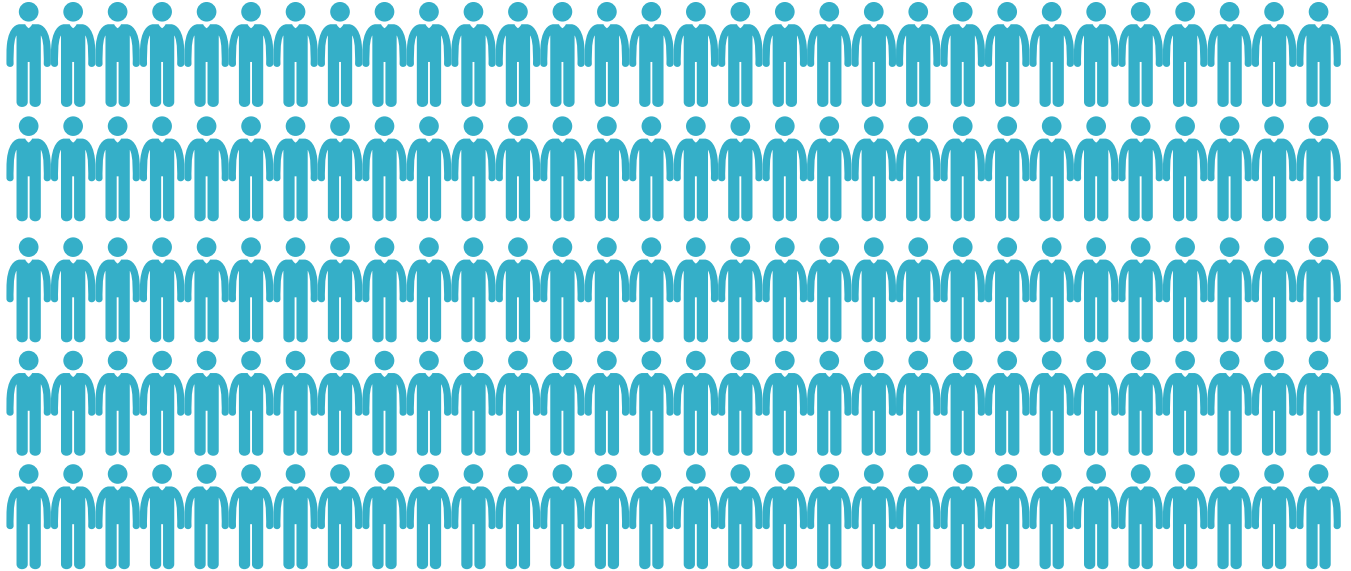
We seek to shape and lead the combined efforts of our SAR sector by attaining these goals:

- A robust and integrated SAR system
- Efficient and sustainable SAR organisations
- Capable SAR people
- SAR prevention.



What we achieve

The search and rescue sector's work is measured in the most important currencies: lives saved and families reunited.



150 lives saved



715

People rescued



799

People assisted

2,286 people at risk this year

These numbers represent the positive difference made by the people and organisations who make up New Zealand's SAR sector.

At the start of each SAR incident, it is assumed that there is a person or people at risk, and that they require the assistance of SAR services. These definitions measure how these people have been assisted:

Lives saved: Where, if SAR agencies had not intervened, life would definitely have been lost

People rescued: Where SAR agencies locate and rescue a person or people at risk and return them to a safe location

People assisted: Where SAR agencies aid a person or people at low risk, but who, if left, would be at risk.

Sometimes we discover that people were not at risk at any stage of the SAR incident. This includes accidental distress beacon activations (often from aircraft undergoing maintenance), possible flare sightings, and unclear trip intentions.

Other times, people are at risk, but get themselves into a safe location without needing assistance from SAR agencies. 515 people assisted themselves in the 2021-22 year.

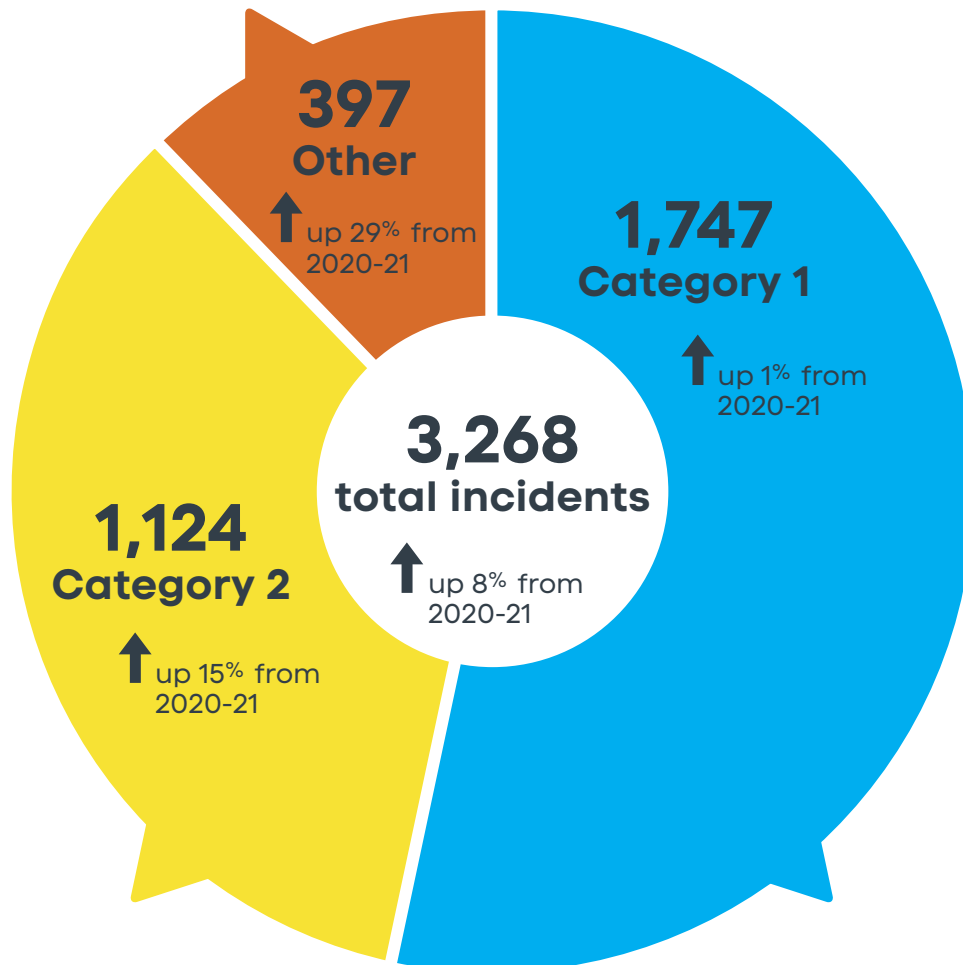
Sadly, a number of people perish before SAR services are notified, or despite our best efforts to rescue them. A total of 107 fatalities were recorded in the 2021-22 year.

What we do

This year, New Zealand's search and rescue sector was involved in over 3,200 incidents.

Other:

397 other incidents including body recoveries, ambulance-managed incidents, and medical evacuations.



Category 2 breakdown:

380 triggered a search and rescue operation
685 didn't progress beyond initial enquiries
43 were an unresolved alert
16 where New Zealand supplied support to other SAR regions

Category 2 incidents are coordinated by the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, based in Avalon, Lower Hutt.

Category 1 breakdown:

1,068 triggered a search and rescue operation
677 didn't progress beyond initial enquiries
2 were an unresolved alert

Category 1 incidents are coordinated by Police throughout New Zealand.

Where we do it



1,072

In or on water



1,458

On land



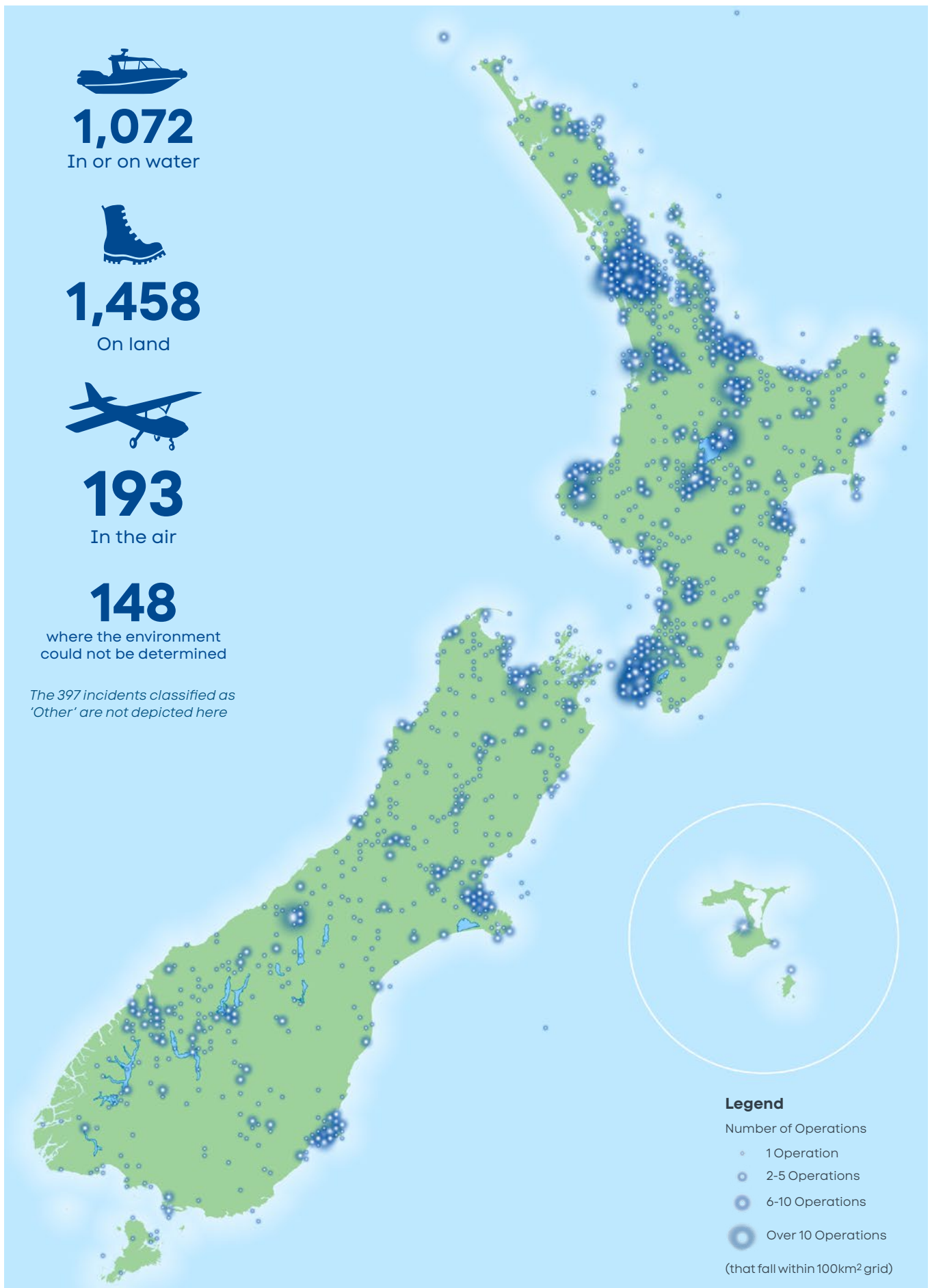
193

In the air

148

where the environment
could not be determined

*The 397 incidents classified as
'Other' are not depicted here*



Legend

Number of Operations

- 1 Operation
- 2-5 Operations
- 6-10 Operations
- Over 10 Operations



(that fall within 100km² grid)

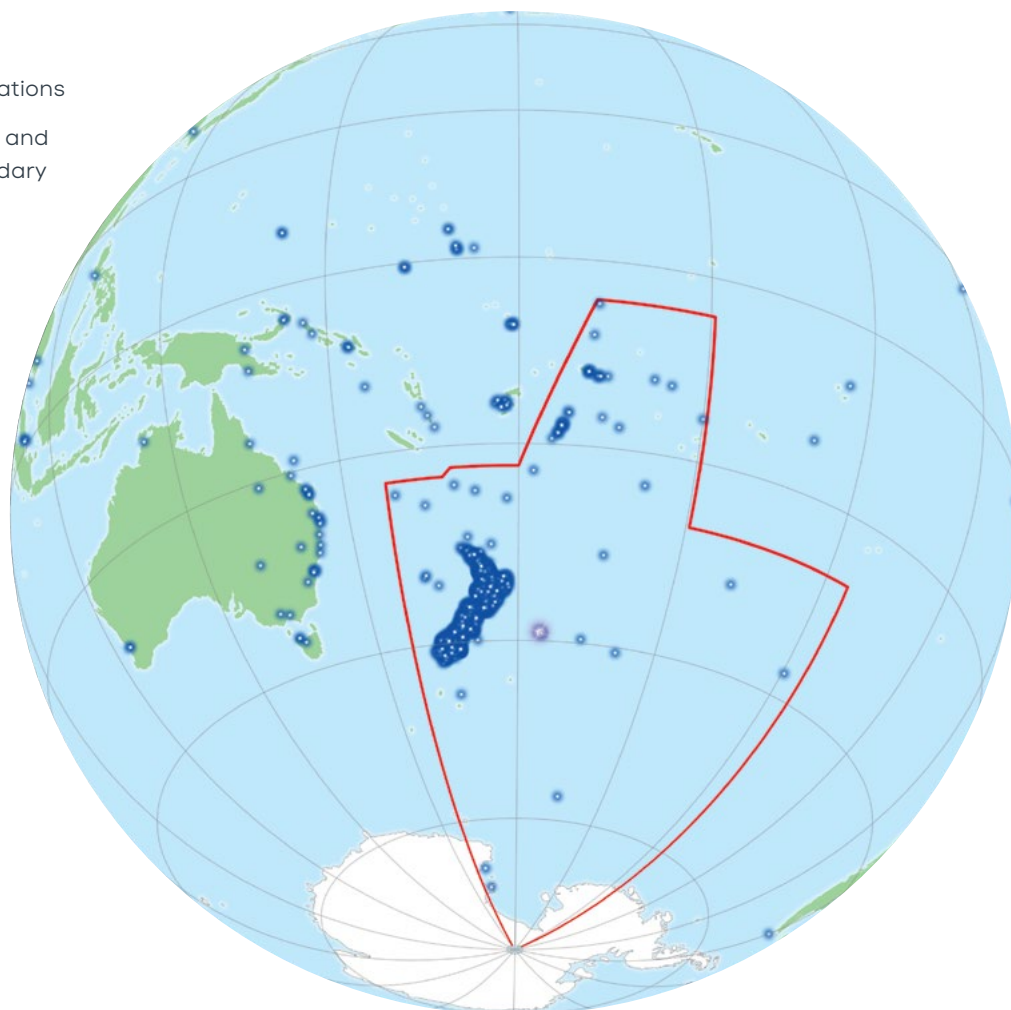
Our search and rescue region

The New Zealand search and rescue region is one of the biggest in the world, covering over 30 million square kilometres.

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) maintains close working relationships with the Rescue Coordination Centres in neighbouring search and rescue regions: Australia, Fiji, New Caledonia, Chile, French Polynesia, Cook Islands, and the United States.

Legend

-  2021/22 Incident Locations
-  New Zealand Search and Rescue Region Boundary



173

incidents in neighbouring search and rescue regions where RCCNZ was notified



16

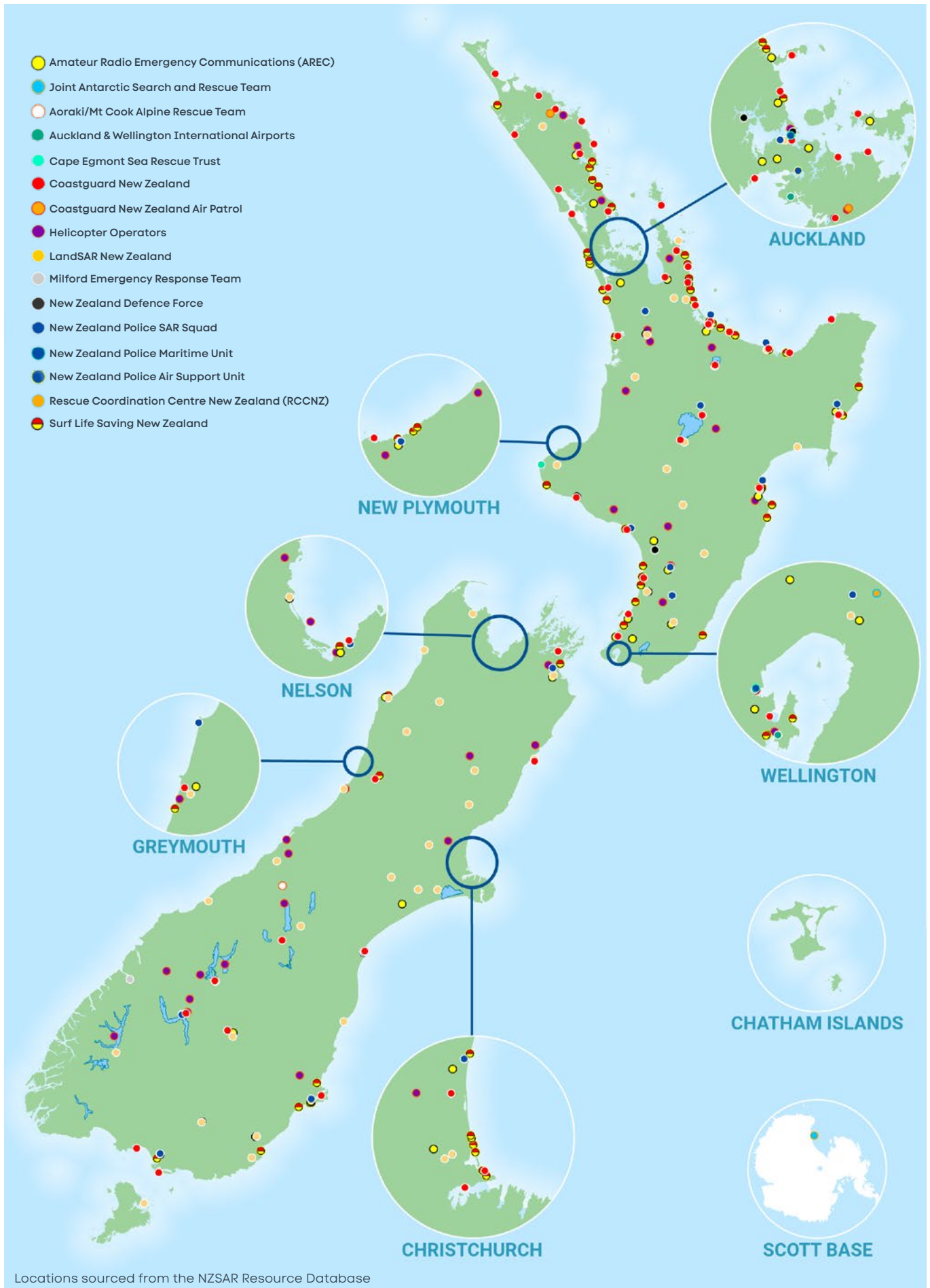
incidents in neighbouring search and rescue regions that required support from RCCNZ



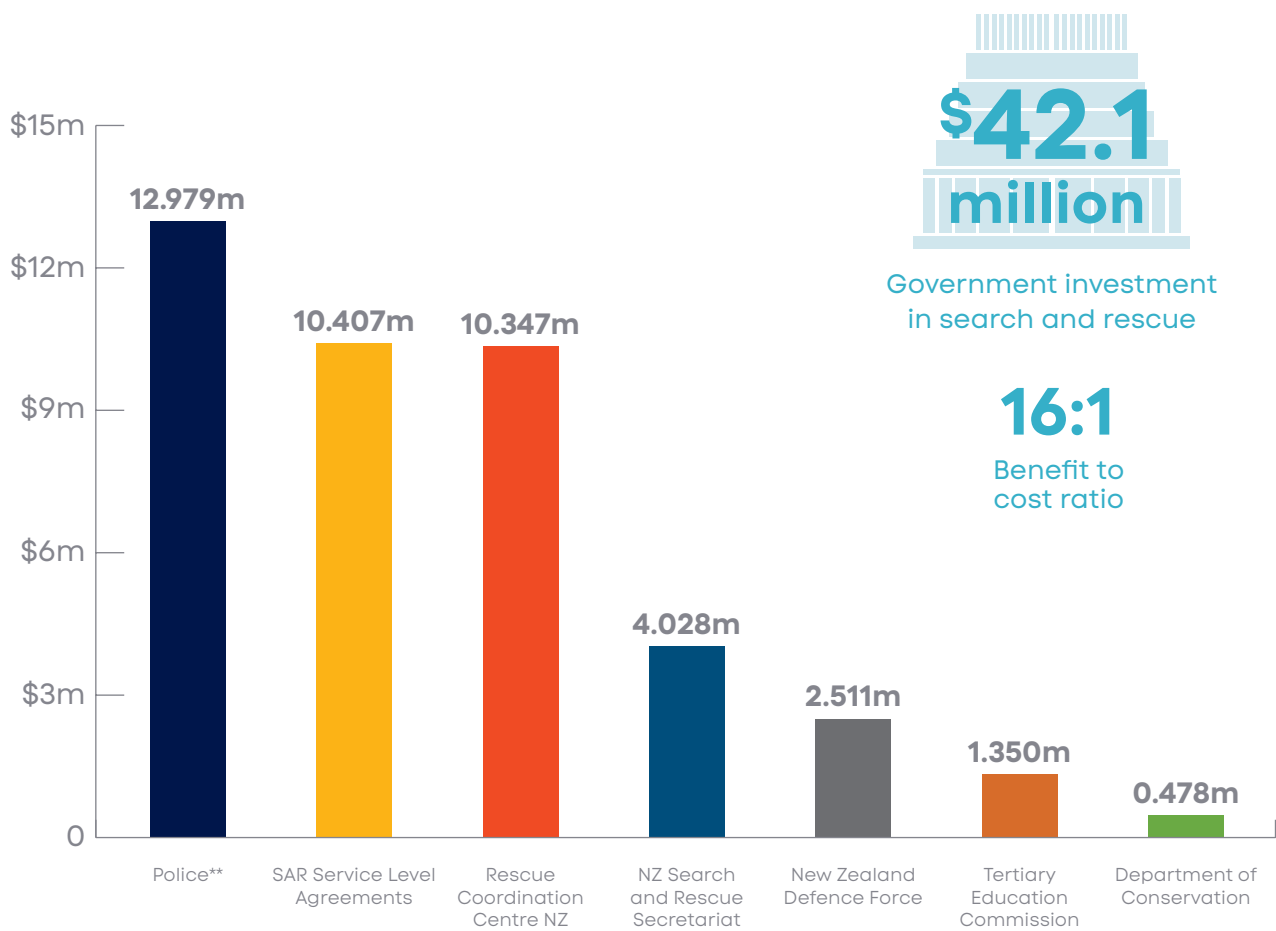
25

full time staff at RCCNZ

What we use



What it costs



All figures subject to audit

** The costings provided are known operational costs of SAR to NZ Police. It is not a financial report and does not reflect total spend of NZ Police on SAR related matters.

Total cost

The total cost of search and rescue to the Government varies each year, as operational costs change according to the number, length and type of search and rescue operations.

The full costs are not represented here, as it is difficult for some organisations to capture this information.

How the sector is funded

Fuel Excise Duty paid by recreational boat users funds the NZSAR Secretariat, the five Service Level Agreements, two Memorandums of Understanding and approximately 64 percent of the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ's costs.

Other sources of funding for the sector include:

- NZ Lottery Grants
- Budget spending (Vote)
- Community grants
- Donations and bequests
- Fundraising.

The social cost

The social cost of a premature fatality is measured using the Ministry of Transport's Value of Statistical Life formula. It includes intangible costs such as the emotional impact to family and friends when a life is lost.

While normally used to measure the social cost of road accidents, the formula helps measure the financial efficiency and operational effectiveness of the search and rescue sector.

We estimate the benefit to cost ratio to be approximately 16:1.

Sadly, a number of people perish before search and rescue services are notified, or despite our best efforts. 107 fatalities were recorded during the year.

Our people

He aha te mea nui o te ao?

What is the most important thing in the world?

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people

There are 11,225 people in New Zealand's search and rescue sector. A mix of paid and volunteer professionals, each plays a vital part in the mission.



6,465

Water



3,920

Land



471

Air



369

Coordination
and support

5% paid full time • **4%** paid part time • **91%** unpaid volunteers

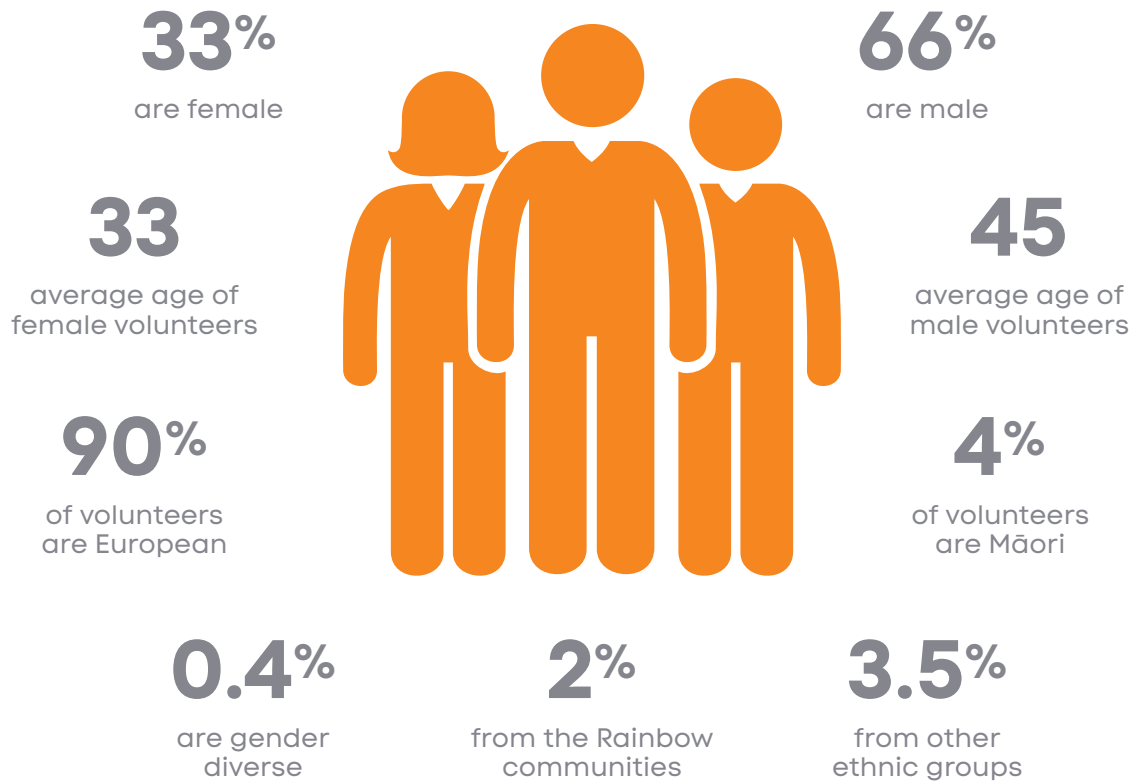
This year, the NZSAR Secretariat improved the way it collects data on the number of people who make up the search and rescue sector. While the figures may differ from previous years, we are confident they are accurate, and the collection method is robust and readily repeatable.

Operational people hours	
Police	22,922
LandSAR	19,463
Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand	7,491
Coastguard	2,723
Surf Life Saving New Zealand	1,454
Spontaneous volunteers	1,403
Other resources	886
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications	754
Fire and Emergency New Zealand	526
Department of Conservation	280
NZ Defence Force	32
Total	57,933

Operational asset hours	
Police	686
Rescue helicopters	658
Other aviation operators	285
Maritime non-rescue (e.g. vessels of opportunity)	240
NZ Defence Force	170
Maritime rescue	160
Total	2,199

Our volunteers

Based on the 2022 Volunteer Engagement Survey and SAR agency demographic data:



“Working with like-minded people and using all the technology available is what I love most.”
AREC Volunteer

“Our people are all individuals, but they have an incredible variety of skills and experiences which complement one another.”
LandSAR Volunteer

“We’re all here for the same common goal, so everyone gets on well together.”
Coastguard Volunteer

2,436
highest number of people hours on a single SAR operation

163
highest number of people involved in a single SAR operation

4–5pm
most common time to be notified of a SAR incident



In July 2020, our sector received an unprecedented boost in Government funding, taking the total investment to nearly \$48 million over three years. Two years later, our search and rescue agencies are seeing first hand the impact of the increased funding.

At its heart, the increased funding has meant our SAR agencies can provide more effective services to people in distress. New Zealanders have high expectations of our SAR sector, and we are determined to realise our full potential.

Some initiatives were delayed due to COVID-19 supply chain issues and travel restrictions. However, our SAR agencies adapted quickly to these challenges, with most of the affected initiatives on track to be delivered this coming year.

Agency	Government investment in SAR for the year ending 30 June 2022
AREC	\$0.492m
Coastguard	\$4.622m
Department of Conservation	\$0.359m
LandSAR	\$2.661m
NZ Mountain Safety Council	\$0.291m
NZSAR Secretariat	\$4.018m
Police	\$1.100m
Surf Life Saving NZ	\$2.341m
Total	\$15.884m

ABOVE

Some of the new Police District SAR Assistant Coordinators with team leader Dave Grace. Image courtesy Peter Theobald

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)

AREC now have paid staff on board to support their branches, who are focusing on implementing national policies and procedures. AREC have also been able to invest heavily in hosting meetings and training weekends for leaders across national, district and group roles.

They have taken advantage of cloud-based programmes for financial reporting, membership management and learning systems and developed customised training packages. The design and delivery of AREC-branded clothing and gear has made them more visible in the field and raised their profile across the sector.

They are actively working to recruit new volunteers with the help of a new volunteer strategy and an updated website. They are committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of their volunteers, with a special focus on fatigue and trauma management.



Coastguard

Coastguard have launched new training platforms and progress continues on a redesign of the qualifications process. Back-office accounting and business support has been provided to units, and insurance has centralised, reducing the administrative burden on volunteers. They have also reviewed their fundraising programmes and hired specialist fundraising staff.

Coastguard are working to ensure that staff and volunteers engage effectively with Māori. Late last year they were gifted an ingoa Māori – Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa – reflecting the actions they take to keep people safe on the water.



Department of Conservation

The Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Rescue Team is New Zealand's only full-time alpine rescue team, based in Mount Cook Village. Over the last year they hosted three multi-agency SAR exercises and shared their knowledge with volunteer-run alpine rescue teams across New Zealand. They also set up a Facebook page to share real-world updates on snow and ice conditions in their area, which was well received by the public.

The DOC-led Land Safety Forum has matured over the last year after holding its first meeting in June 2021. Around 20 organisations with an interest in land safety attend regular meetings, and valuable connections have already been made, contributing to data insights and behaviour change work.

ABOVE
AREC staff and volunteers. Image courtesy Lindsey Ross

MIDDLE
Coastguard volunteer training resources

BELOW
Aoraki Mount Cook Alpine Rescue Team in action.
Image courtesy Jim Young

LandSAR

LandSAR are realising the value of the expanded Group Support Officer roles, with a review generating a satisfaction rating of 87 percent. Most of their funding is focused on the core elements required to support service delivery, including securing new and expanded commercial funding support.

New programmes to recognise volunteers and develop their leadership skills have been put in place alongside recognition of the support provided by whānau and employers. Volunteer safety is being further supported with the introduction of member Wellbeing Safety checks, and early feedback suggests volunteers are finding the checks helpful.

NZ Mountain Safety Council

The NZ Mountain Safety Council made improvements to the New Zealand Avalanche Advisory. Winter 2021 made history for the service with forecasting suspended for the first time, due to COVID-19. The season's highlights included the pre-season avalanche forecasters' training and workshop, an increasing number of public observations submitted, a successful campaign to raise awareness of the service, and solid engagement with online resources.

Police

Police recruited 10 District SAR Assistant Coordinators and a team leader, who work alongside the SAR Coordinators to ensure the Police SAR Squads are well supported and have solid links to district SAR agencies and volunteers. Since their recruitment we have seen a marked increase in the quality of data being captured after SAR operations, and improved relationships between operational SAR agencies.



Surf Life Saving NZ

Surf Life Saving NZ delivered powercraft maintenance workshops and hosted a National SAR Summit, both aimed at increasing the practical skills and capability of their volunteers. They also put the final touches on their new online learning platform prior to its launch in July 2022 and purchased new personal locator beacons for their SAR Squads around New Zealand.

They are making some significant headway in the innovation and technology space, with a new patrol phone app and further development of the National Digital Radio Network. They are also working with Coastguard to set up a combined operations and communications room.

TOP

LandSAR GSO Kelly Hoskin (centre) at a SAR exercise in Christchurch

MIDDLE

An avalanche observed near Mount Cook Village. Image courtesy Tai Naka

BOTTOM

Maintenance training at a Surf Life Saving NZ workshop. Image courtesy Phoebe Havill



Encouraging safe behaviours in, on and around the water

Helping people stay safe while enjoying beaches, rivers and lakes is an area of focus for the NZSAR Council.

Government investment

For decades, frontline water safety providers such as Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ have had to fundraise for operating costs, maintaining and replacing assets, and paying bills such as insurance – an operating model the sector realised was unsustainable.

Two years ago, \$45.368 Government funding was allocated to frontline water safety services delivered by Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ - \$15.145 million of which was used this year.

This contribution to baseline funding assists with the costs related to personnel supporting volunteers, fundraising, and membership growth programmes. Surf Life Saving NZ also supports local club rescue service costs. This funding has been a huge boost to both agencies at all levels in what has been a difficult financial year.

The funding is also allowing both Coastguard and Surf Life Saving NZ to support capital works relating to the provision of frontline water safety. Some examples include:

- The refit and deployment of a fleet of Rayglass Protector boats, originally used as support vessels and chase boats at the 2021 America’s Cup
- New personal protective equipment for Coastguard volunteers
- Financial support for building projects at 10 Surf Life Saving NZ clubs.



ABOVE
 A rescue underway at Karekare Beach, near Auckland.
 Image courtesy Shalema Wanden-Hannay



Wai Ora Aotearoa – New Zealand Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025

As a member of the Wai Ora Leaders Group, the NZSAR Council has committed to working collectively with the water safety sector to realise the vision and mission of Wai Ora Aotearoa – the New Zealand Water Safety Sector Strategy 2025. This aligns closely with the NZSAR Council’s goal of SAR prevention.

Other members of the Wai Ora Leaders Group include Water Safety New Zealand, Surf Life Saving NZ, Coastguard, Swimming NZ, Coastguard Boating Education, Drowning Prevention Auckland, Maritime NZ, NZ Mountain Safety Council, Recreation Aotearoa, and the Coastal People: Southern Skies Centre of Research Excellence at the University of Otago.



There are five pillars of Wai Ora Aotearoa:



- Education and training
- Data, research and insights
- Communication, collaboration and partnership
- Leadership, advocacy and influence
- Frontline prevention, search and rescue

Vision

Everyone connects to and enjoys the water safely

Mission

To work collectively to instill respect for the water, and encourage safe behaviours / tikanga by all people in Aotearoa New Zealand so that drowning fatalities and injuries are reduced

ABOVE

Members of Coastguard South Canterbury with their new rescue vessel



Whakapapa



The source of water safety knowledge.

Mātauranga



The deepening of water safety knowledge.

Tikanga



The application of water safety knowledge.

The NZSAR Council's focus has been on the 'frontline prevention, search and rescue' pillar of Wai Ora Aotearoa. This pillar focuses on providing targeted supervision and surveillance, safety services, and guidance for people being exposed to hazards in and around the water.

The NZSAR Secretariat's work directly helps the water safety sector move towards its vision of everyone connecting to and enjoying the water safely. Some examples include:

- Refreshing the NZSAR Environmental Scan to update the sector on the impacts of the changing environment including COVID-19 and climate change (see article page 27)
- Updating the communications strategy for our AdventureSmart social media channels, focusing on cross-sharing posts, and encouraging the use of distress beacons
- Working with Maritime NZ and Consumer NZ on a series of articles and videos about what to look for when purchasing lifejackets and distress beacons
- Investing in a range of initiatives to support volunteers, including the 2022 Volunteer Survey and recruitment of volunteer managers (see article page 24).

Wai Puna model

Wai Puna is an evidence-based model developed by Dr Chanel Phillips (Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi) of the University of Otago. It focuses on strengthening people's connection to the water to improve water safety knowledge and practice. The Wai Puna model starts with a deeper understanding and respect for wai (water) – an understanding that is inherent for Māori.

Māori are overrepresented in New Zealand's drowning statistics. Incorporating the Wai Puna model into Wai Ora Aotearoa is just one way the water safety sector demonstrates commitment to partnership with tangata whenua and upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

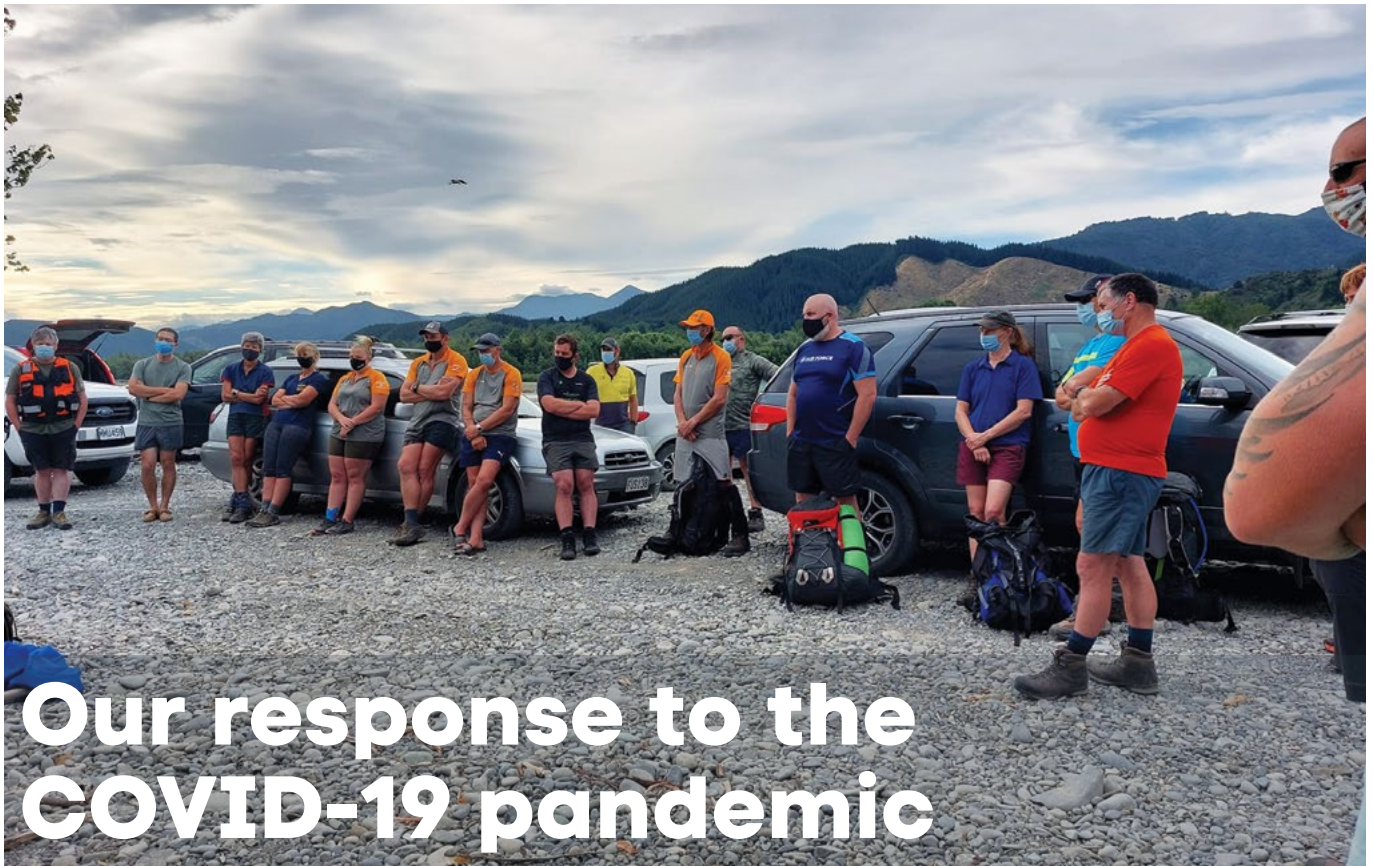
Wai Puna has three pillars that are woven throughout Wai Ora Aotearoa:

- Whakapapa (attitudes and beliefs)
- Mātauranga (knowledge)
- Tikanga (behaviour).

The Wai Puna model has recently been shared with the Land Safety Forum as part of the land safety sector's journey towards incorporation of Te Ao Māori.

ABOVE

An illustration of the Wai Puna model by Keanu Townsend (Ngāti Whātua)



Throughout the global pandemic the NZSAR Council has kept a close eye on the risks to the sector and delivery of search and rescue services. Despite COVID-19 we have continued to deliver search and rescue services to the public, without disruption.

Before February 2022, there were fewer than 200 cases a day of COVID-19 in New Zealand. However, the Government urged New Zealanders to prepare for widespread community transmission, and the SAR sector was no exception. Each agency developed internal processes to protect their people and enable continued service delivery.

Meanwhile, the NZSAR Council continued to monitor the situation and identify risks to the wider sector. Key risks included reduction or loss of capability due to illness and/or stand down requirements, reduced training opportunities for personnel, and withdrawal of volunteers due to vaccine requirements or exhaustion with the overall environment. Additionally, risks regarding SAR operations within our vast search and rescue region were considered.

Addressing those domestic risks, several treatment strategies were devised:

- Supported the development of procedures to keep SAR personnel and rescued people safe from infection, through access to personal protective equipment, Rapid Antigen Tests and COVID-19 procedure training
- Ensure COVID-19 policies support the sector by influencing Government policy makers to ensure SAR interests are accommodated
- Assist the sector through vaccine mandate and operational policy development
- Monitor impacts on the sector, through coordinated information sharing and regular reporting
- Establishing more virtual communication options to support SAR operations
- Update the NZSAR Environmental scan to prepare for future evolutions of the pandemic.

The arrival of the Omicron variant in February 2022, and case numbers reaching 20,000 per day, coincided with a period of rapidly changing governmental rules, peak summer season and the transition to a suppression strategy while the virus circulated in the community. This perfect storm represented a significant spike in the risk to the SAR sector and service delivery, so the NZSAR Secretariat stepped up its work to support the sector and deliver on the risk treatment strategies.





ABOVE
Surf lifeguard on patrol



ABOVE
COVID-19 protocols on board a Coastguard rescue vessel

With most of the population of Auckland looking to enjoy some relaxation on the beach after seemingly relentless restrictions, Surf Life Saving NZ in particular felt the pressure over the 2021–22 summer season. They asked for assistance, and the NZSAR Council was able to fund a paid COVID-19 Support Manager. He worked on issues such as close-contact exemption applications for staff, vaccine mandate support and ensuring all internal-facing COVID-19 guidance was clearly communicated and kept up to date.

In March 2022 the NZSAR Council also provided funding to Surf Life Saving NZ to support the purchase of 500 Rapid Antigen Tests for their frontline SAR Squad members, to help ensure the ongoing operational capability of their crews.

We convened a weekly meeting with the key SAR agencies: LandSAR, Coastguard, Surf Life Saving NZ, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, Police and the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ. This frequent information sharing allowed the agencies to respond quicker to changes and provided regular access to Surf Life Saving NZ’s COVID-19 support manager for specific assistance.

At each meeting, unit operational readiness was discussed, and although each faced significant challenges, at no stage did any agency report that a unit was unable to respond to a call out. This enabled us to regularly reassure the NZSAR Council that the sector was continuing to deliver and was resilient enough to cope with future developments.

Helicopters play a key role in the sector. Although their operators faced similar challenges, through procedures such as split-shift arrangements, cleaning protocols and use of personal protective equipment, they remained available for operations throughout the height of the pandemic.

As the sector adapted to changing government regulations, we liaised closely with Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport COVID-19 Response Manager. This ensured that each iteration of the COVID-19 legislation afforded SAR personnel similar status to critical workers, so they could continue to operate.

Through a combination of strategic leadership of the NZSAR Council and the hard work of the SAR agencies, the sector has so far successfully navigated the challenges of the global pandemic and maintained our capability and service delivery.



ABOVE
Life Flight helicopter crew member in full PPE. Courtesy Life Flight

ABOVE LEFT
LandSAR volunteers briefing during a training exercise. Courtesy LandSAR Marlborough

FAR LEFT
Conducting precautionary cleaning routines between flights. Courtesy Life Flight



Trained and ready to respond

More than 1400 people received search and rescue training this year, in pursuit of the NZSAR Council’s goal of capable SAR people.

By the numbers

Tai Poutini Polytechnic delivered 29 multi-agency management and coordination courses, while LandSAR ran 84 courses focusing on the skills and competencies relevant to land operational roles. Overall, 73 percent of planned courses were delivered.

Every year, the NZSAR Secretariat commissions an independent survey to gather feedback from course participants. The most recent survey was run between January and February 2022 and relates to courses attended in the 2021 calendar year.



98%

rated their tutors’ knowledge as excellent or good



95%

said assessments were fair



91%

had confidence they could use their new skills in a SAR operation

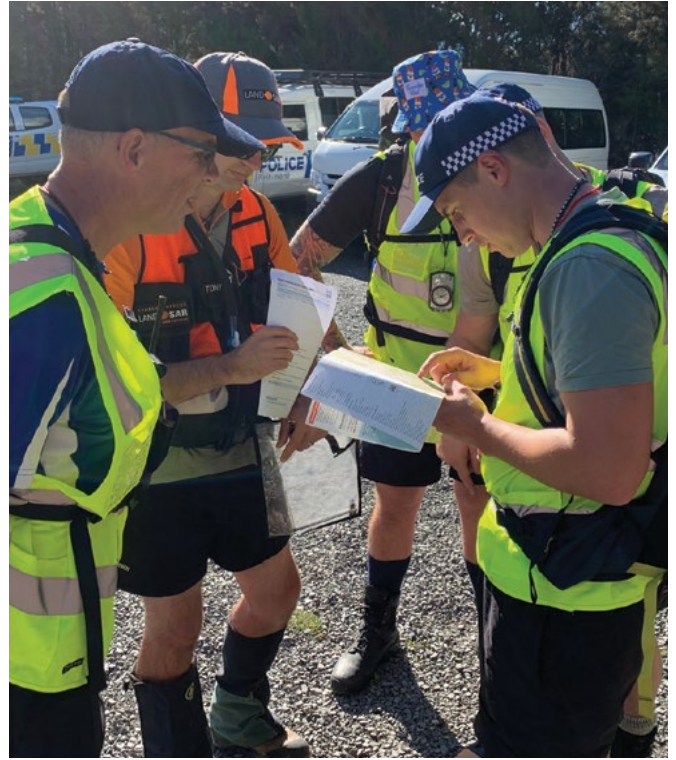
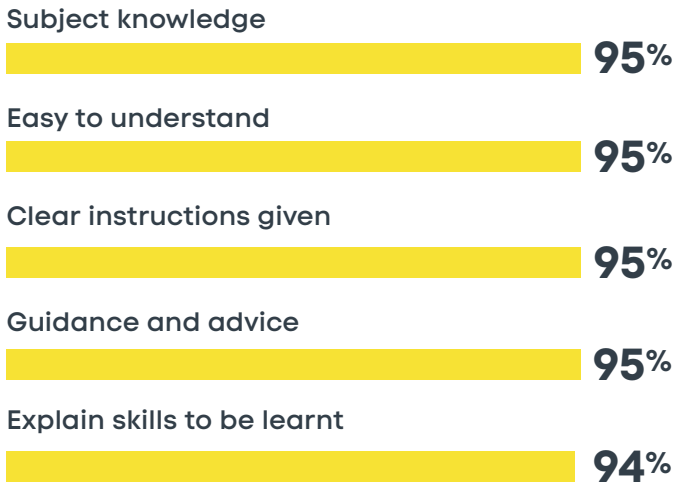


90%

of respondents rated the courses as excellent or good overall

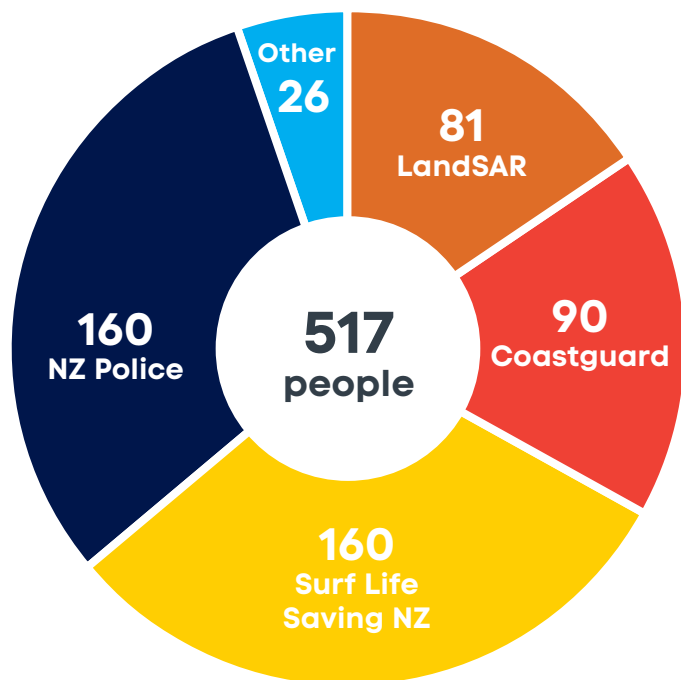
Feedback on SAR tutors

Our SAR tutors have a deservedly high reputation. From the feedback of 266 respondents about their most recent course, the proportion who rated their tutors as excellent or good in the following areas were as follows:



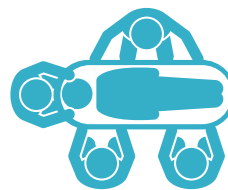
Who received multi-agency training?

A total of 517 people were trained by Tai Poutini Polytechnic in the 29 multi-agency management and coordination courses delivered through the year. Those attending came from a range of SAR agencies.



The best thing about SAR training

We asked participants what the best thing was about SAR training.



82%

said learning new skills



81%

said being ready to assist in operations



77%

said learning from experienced tutors



74%

said working in a team

LEFT
Canyon SAR search methods course, Queenstown.
Courtesy Dan Clearwater

ABOVE
National Police SAREX at Dip Flat, near St Arnaud



Developing coastal search and rescue capabilities

Surf Life Saving's NZ second National SAR Summit, held earlier this year, provided an excellent opportunity for SAR Squad members to hone their skills.

The Government funding boost received by the SAR sector in July 2020 enabled Surf Life Saving NZ to rethink how their SAR Squads were operating. Drawing on the experience of other agencies involved in SAR, Surf Life Saving NZ created their own SAR Standard Operating Procedures and training materials.

After months of planning, 24 squad coordinators and senior lifeguards converged on Dunedin for three days in May 2022 for the second National SAR Summit.

For Surf Life Saving NZ's National SAR Manager Allan Mundy, the most valuable part of the 2022 Summit was the opportunity to share learnings from past SAR operations.

"There's so much we can learn from operational debriefs, especially the ones that go over an extended period or where more than one SAR agency is involved. Creating an action-packed weekend meant we could maximise the opportunities for learning from each other."

As well as reviewing past operations in West Auckland and Marokopa, the classroom sessions provided an update on the Emily B Drifter Project.

Named after Emily Branje, a nine-year-old girl who was swept out to sea in 2019, the drifters are devices that can be placed in the water to record real-time drift patterns using live GPS tracking, helping local SAR teams to narrow the potential search area.

On the middle day of the Summit, the Surf Life Saving NZ contingent were joined by over 60 people from LandSAR, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, Coastguard, Police, St John and the local harbourmaster, for a joint marine SAR exercise.

Based across the Otago Harbour and Peninsula area, the SAR exercise had up to 12 vessels on the water at different times. One of the key objectives of the SAR exercise was to refine the remote deployment of Inflatable Rescue Boats.

One of the main challenges faced during Operation Marokopa in September 2021 was the time it took – in some cases up to three hours – to transport rescue equipment by road to a remote search area. Earlier in 2022, the Otago SAR Squad came up with the idea of helicoptering inflatable rescue boats into remote areas and proved the concept at a marine SAR exercise in Milford Sound.

ABOVE

Briefing the Multi-agency Marine SAREX, during the Surf Life Saving SAR Summit



During the SAR Summit, eight inflatable rescue boats were disassembled and deflated before being transported by helicopter sling-load to a remote beach on the Otago Peninsula. It took just 37 minutes to have all the boats reassembled and on the water.

Overall, it was a highly successful Summit that tested equipment and procedures while also building stronger relationships between individuals and agencies. The valuable insights gained have helped improve procedures, training delivery, and operational effectiveness.



ABOVE

Inflatable rescue boats being prepared for the water.
Courtesy Phoebe Havill

RIGHT

Delivery of inflatable rescue boat by helicopter sling load.
Courtesy Phoebe Havill



Across New Zealand, from Kaitaia to Rakiura / Stewart Island, are over 10,000 highly trained search and rescue volunteers. They are from all walks of life but share a common goal – to assist people in distress.

Volunteers make up 91 percent of the 11,225 people in New Zealand's SAR sector – one of the highest rates of volunteer SAR involvement in the world. Supporting our sector's volunteers is a high priority for the NZSAR Secretariat and is key to achieving the NZSAR Council's goal of capable SAR people.

It's been three years since Volunteering New Zealand produced the *2019 Volunteer Study for New Zealand Search and Rescue*. The report highlighted the challenges ahead, and offered recommendations for how the sector could respond to ensure the sustainability of the volunteer workforce.

Managing volunteers in the SAR sector

All four non-governmental organisations involved in SAR – Coastguard, LandSAR, Surf Life Saving NZ and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications – now have volunteer managers on board. They are supported with monthly meetings facilitated by the NZSAR Secretariat, which provide a forum for sharing issues and ideas for attracting and retaining volunteers.

Understanding our volunteers

This year, for the first time, we received and analysed information about the demographic makeup of the four NGOs' volunteer membership – specifically their age, gender, and ethnicity. The information is anonymised so there is no way of identifying individual volunteers.

This demographic information is collected quarterly. It gives the sector an accurate picture of the diversity of the volunteer workforce, and allows us to take the temperature of how volunteer engagement changes over time.

At the same time, the four NGOs are actively working to increase the diversity of their membership to better reflect the communities that they support.

IMAGES

Volunteers across the SAR sector



The 2022 Volunteer Engagement Survey

Earlier this year, the four NGOs surveyed their volunteers to better understand their levels of satisfaction and participation, any barriers to engagement, and their attitudes towards their volunteer experiences.

Approximately 3,300 volunteers responded to the survey, which also included members of the National Emergency Management Agency's New Zealand Response Teams. The survey included questions common to all the volunteers surveyed, as well as additional questions unique to each organisation.

Each agency involved in the survey received individual reports about their results, which they can use for their own analysis. All of them have reported that the information collected is helping them to identify pain points and areas for improvement.

The survey results also showed that vaccination mandates, bureaucracy and training requirements all impact on volunteers' satisfaction levels. Whānau or family life was the greatest factor competing with the respondents' ability to volunteer.



64% felt that their volunteer hours were sustainable

72% said they were very likely to continue to volunteer

24% said getting time off work to volunteer was a barrier

37% volunteered for more than one organisation



New research yields helpful insights

Over the last year we have undertaken a significant research programme, which aims to inform and enable the NZSAR Council's strategic direction and the work of the NZSAR Secretariat.

Knowledge, perceptions, and expectations of SAR

Building on initial qualitative research in 2016, this quantitative research took place in March 2022. Nearly 900 New Zealanders were asked what they knew about SAR services, what they expected of them, and who should fund these services. The sample chosen for the research was reflective of New Zealand's population demographics.

Knowledge

Nearly half of New Zealanders (44 percent) have at least some knowledge of SAR services. Over 80 percent of survey respondents were able to identify Police, LandSAR, Coastguard and rescue helicopters as being involved in SAR operations.

Finding out about SAR

We asked New Zealanders where they find out about SAR services.



59%

said news media



32%

said friends and family



24%

said social media



21%

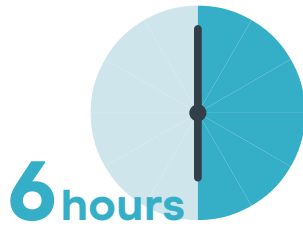
said websites

Expectations of SAR responses

People expect to be rescued quickly! Most would expect:



A response to start within an hour of emergency services being notified



To be found and brought to safety within six hours

As a sector, we know there are many reasons why a person may not be rescued within six hours – weather, terrain, and availability of responders are just a few examples. Future marketing campaigns will remind people to be prepared to survive overnight and wait for rescue teams.

Tramping and hunting activity survey

In June 2022, we asked 1000 New Zealanders about their day and overnight tramping and hunting activity over the last 12 months. The results were then extrapolated out to align with census data from 2018.



1.4 million New Zealanders have gone on a day tramp or hunt over the last 12 months.



539 thousand New Zealanders have gone on an overnight hunt or tramp in the last 12 months.

Channels review

We commissioned qualitative research to understand the impact and relevance of our internal communications within the SAR sector.

In-depth interviews were conducted with 15 individuals from 10 organisations within the sector, ranging from chief executives to field volunteers.

The consensus was that our website, quarterly *Link* magazine and our Annual Report are well presented, relevant and useful. There was widespread interest in new digital channels to increase the reach of our communications.

Since the review was completed, we have launched an electronic newsletter, created news articles for our website, and started sharing information on LinkedIn.

Environmental Scan

The NZSAR Environmental Scan provides a detailed analysis of social, technological, economic, environmental influences, and political trends and developments, on the demand for and supply of SAR services. It applies to the entire NZ Search and Rescue Region, spanning 30 million square kilometres.

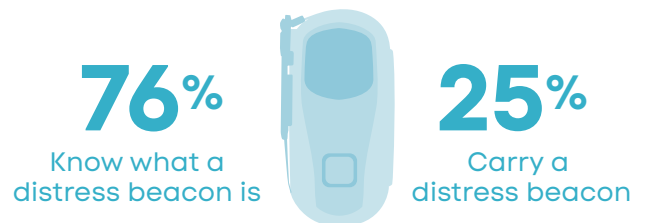
Information in the previous versions of the scan was refreshed and the information about the impacts and implications of COVID-19 was also updated. Information about SAR in the Antarctic and Pacific regions has been included in the scan for the first time.

Distress beacons

Over the last two summers, the NZSAR Council has funded a digital marketing campaign encouraging people to carry distress beacons. We commissioned research into the effectiveness of the campaign and people’s knowledge of distress beacons.

Knowledge and use of beacons

The results of the research showed that:



GIVE THE GIFT OF A DISTRESS BEACON

BUY NOW



Around **12%** of New Zealanders saw the advertisement between October 2021 and April 2022

More than 60 percent said the advertisement made them more likely to take a distress beacon on outdoor adventures.

We know that using a distress beacon leads to better SAR outcomes. Our focus now changes from raising awareness of distress beacons to addressing the reasons why people don’t hire or buy them.

LEFT

Detailed search planning during the National Police SAREX at Dip Flat, Marlborough. Courtesy NZ Defence Force



Celebrating selflessness and operational excellence

“I know well the challenges you face on a daily basis: weather conditions, difficult terrain, the pressure to act fast, keep people safe and get a good outcome. I have enormous respect for those of you who face these dangers and stresses regularly and often at a moment’s notice.”

With these words, His Excellency Dr Richard Davies welcomed recipients and guests to this year’s NZ Search and Rescue Awards. This year’s ceremony was held at Government House in Wellington and was also live streamed for the first time so friends and family of the recipients could watch from home.

As well as presenting two Gold Awards and eight Certificates of Achievement, His Excellency shared a few stories from his time working as a doctor in the remote Falkland Islands – including how he commandeered a kitchen door as a makeshift stretcher, before discovering it did not fit in the back of the Land Rover being used for emergency transport.

The Minister of Transport, the Hon Michael Wood, also attended and paid homage to the teamwork that underpins the work of the search and rescue sector.

“In search and rescue, no-one operates truly alone. Teamwork is an essential component of every search and rescue operation, from those selling sausages to raise money for the organisation, to those out in the field doing the searching, to those who run the debrief session and write up the incident report.”

Congratulations to all our Award winners!

ABOVE

Dr Richard Davies and the Hon Michael Wood with this year’s award recipients



Gold Award – Operational

West Coast Police SAR Squad
 Christchurch Police SAR Squad
 South Westland LandSAR
 Hokitika LandSAR
 Methven LandSAR
 Aoraki/Mount Cook Alpine Rescue Team
 The Helicopter Line – Mount Cook
 Precision Helicopters
 GCH Aviation Rescue Helicopter

For the rescue of a tramper near Mungo Pass on 23-27 February 2021.

On 23 February 2021, Police were informed that a tramper crossing the Main Divide had missed his pickup. The tramper was not carrying a beacon, but Police assessed that he was well-prepared, so held off commencing a search.

On 26 February, a search of his planned route was conducted via helicopter. A full-scale multi-agency search began on 27 February, with two simultaneous operations carried out on either side of the Main Divide, on foot, via helicopter and 4WD vehicle.

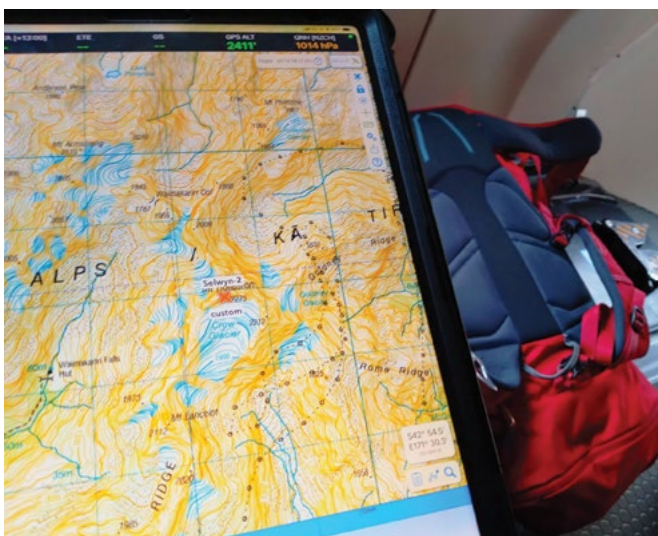
The very steep terrain near Mungo Pass required the specialist alpine capabilities of The Helicopter Line – Mount Cook and the Department of Conservation Aoraki/Mount Cook Alpine Rescue Team.



With deteriorating weather and limited helicopter fuel remaining, the tramper was spotted and recovered using a long-line. The tramper was initially treated at the hut for significant injuries and hypothermia before being transported to hospital for further treatment and recovery.



Certificate of Achievement – Operational



Christchurch Alpine Cliff Rescue Team
 GCH Aviation Greymouth Rescue Helicopter
 Christchurch Police SAR Squad
 Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand

For the rescue of two climbers from Kaimatau / Mount Rolleston on 22-23 October 2021.

On 22 October 2021, two climbers activated a beacon from near the summit.

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand tasked the Greymouth Rescue Helicopter, but cloud prevented a rescue that evening.

The next morning, the helicopter crew deployed the Christchurch Alpine Cliff Rescue (ACR) Team to the nearby Crow glacier. In dangerous conditions, they aided the two climbers back to the glacier to be extracted.

Karekare Surf Life Saving Club

For the rescue of an adult and two children from Karekare Beach on 21 November 2021.

An off-duty lifeguard spotted an adult and two children swimming near a notorious rip. The beach was not currently patrolled, but she realised the seriousness of the situation, called for backup and then entered the surf to assist until an inflatable rescue boat could deploy.

On the beach, members of the Karekare Surf Life Saving Club provided CPR to the adult swimmer, reassured the public, established two helicopter landing zones and coordinated the additional responding agencies.



Senior Constable Mark Lendrum

For the rescue of four adults near Kaiaua on 6 February 2021.

The Police Air Support Unit (Eagle) helicopter responded to reports of a sinking boat.

Senior Constable Mark Lendrum 'hover exited' into the water near the four occupants, who were clinging to a single seat cushion. Mark fitted the helicopter's flotation aids, then gave away his own flotation vest.

The Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust arrived to winch people to safety. So the helicopter could depart sooner, Mark remained in the sea until he was retrieved by the Coastguard vessel Lion Foundation Rescue.



Whangārei Police SAR Squad

Northland LandSAR

Far North LandSAR

Whangārei Coastguard

Ruakākā Surf Life Saving Club

Skywork Helicopters

Whangārei Fire Brigade

For the rescue of a person from Mount Parihaka on 8–11 July 2021.

On 8 July 2021, Police were notified that a man with dementia had not returned to his home in Whangārei.

In the cold and rain, more than 120 people searched for him in urban, coastal and bush environments. On the fourth day, teams located him in a steep creek bed. He had sustained serious injuries from a fall and died shortly after being found.



Gold Award – Support

Alan Doy
Taranaki LandSAR

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Taranaki LandSAR.

During more than 30 years' service to Taranaki LandSAR, Alan Doy has performed a range of operational and support duties to an exceptionally high level.

His first search was in 1989 and he quickly became a field team leader then eventually shifted to Incident Management Team roles.

With a near-photographic memory of the Taranaki backcountry, he was able to provide key local knowledge, enabling efficient resource deployment on operations.

His professional surveying skills in Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) facilitated the recording and presentation of complex data during searches and when developing readiness plans. His expertise is recognised widely; he has been invited on several occasions to provide GIS support and advice for other complicated operations throughout the North Island.

Alan has made a significant contribution to the governance of Taranaki LandSAR, with 17 years on the committee and four years as Chairperson. Alan is highly respected within the Taranaki SAR community, as a humble yet exceptionally valuable member of any operation, exercise, or training activity.



ABOVE

His Excellency Dr Richard Davies at the 2021 NZ Search and Rescue Awards



Certificate of Achievement – Support



Phoebe Havill
Surf Life Saving New Zealand

For her service and commitment to Surf Life Saving New Zealand and the Wāhine on Water programme.

Phoebe Havill and her colleagues identified that a key barrier to more females filling senior life guarding roles was the Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) qualification.

She led the creation of the Wāhine on Water programme, which provides female-only IRB training, direct mentoring and support to females in surf lifesaving. Phoebe has continued to champion the programme, which continues to develop the talents and contributions of the female volunteers.



Peter Kara
Coastguard New Zealand

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Nelson.

Peter Kara joined Coastguard Nelson in 2006 and soon became unit President. He leads with a style that prioritises the welfare of his volunteers and their families.

A major achievement was his contribution to the fundraising, building, and launching of *Hohapata – Sealord Rescue*. This state-of-the-art rescue vessel was the culmination of 14 years' fundraising and volunteer project work.

Peter is a humble and inspirational leader, highly regarded by his peers, the local community and iwi alike.



Richard Craig
Coastguard New Zealand

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Kaikoura.

Over a Coastguard career of nearly 35 years, Richard has contributed to all aspects of operating a Coastguard unit including rescues, maintenance, training, fundraising, and governance.

He played an integral role in planning and fundraising for the purpose-built *Kaikoura Rescue*. Later, he was formally recognised whilst serving on that vessel, for a challenging rescue performed 30km from shore, in five-metre swells and 120 kilometre per hour winds.



Ray Harkness
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and WanderSearch.

Ray Harkness has contributed more than 20 years' service to search and rescue, through his involvement with Amateur Radio Emergency Communications and LandSAR.

He is a highly regarded expert, both in providing communications in challenging situations, but also providing advice to field teams regarding the terrain they are about to encounter on an operation.

Ray established the Trust that funds the WanderSearch programme in the Wellington region. He continues to perform many crucial roles which enable the programme to succeed.

Spotlight on SAR people

New Zealand's search and rescue sector is made up of highly trained, dedicated people from all walks of life. We asked some of them what they enjoy the most about their role.



Sergeant Sam Pearson is an Air Warfare Specialist with 5 Squadron, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

I'm part of the team on board the P-3K2 Orion, operating the infrared, radar and sonar systems during long-range maritime patrol missions. We're able to respond to all sorts of incidents including plane crashes, beacon activations and missing vessels, with most of our work in the Pacific Islands.

My most memorable search and rescue operation was when we got tasked by the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ to look for a missing fishing boat near Tonga. We searched for a day and a half with no result and were just about to start re-evaluating the search area when I saw a tiny black dot on the infrared sensor I was monitoring. That sensor picks up heat, so I figured it was a seagull. When we got a better look, it turned out to be the missing fisherman in a tiny inflatable boat waving his oars at us. We dropped a smoke marker nearby to help the Tongan Police locate him, then headed for home.

The unpredictability of search and rescue is the aspect I enjoy the most. You can plan for what you think you might find, but ultimately you have to react to what's in front of you. I thrive on the uncertainty and the potential to do something new every day.



Carolyn Tapley is a Coastguard board member, and operational crew member for Coastguard Canterbury.

I'm self-employed, which is stressful, but as soon as I arrive at the Coastguard base and we put the boat on the water, all those worries disappear.

It was about ten years ago that I began volunteering as search and rescue crew with the Coastguard. I wanted to give back to the community, but needed something which was challenging, both physically and mentally.

I really enjoy mixing with groups of people that I don't normally come into contact with in my day-to-day life. We're all here for the same common goal, so everyone gets on well together. It's a great feeling to know that if I was ever in the water needing help, they'll do everything they can to find me.

As a board member I have a fiduciary duty to do all I can to support our organisation and members. As crew we are dedicated to keeping our people safe by training weekly. Having the right equipment, vessels and training enables us to maximise our potential and do things we never thought were imaginable. When the chips are down, we revert to what we have learnt, keeping us all safe and at the same time saving lives on the water.



Daniel Erickson is a volunteer for Southland Amateur Radio Emergency Communications.

Bringing the lost back to their families, going to remote places where no one would usually go, and providing solutions in the most challenging environments is what makes me tick. The sense of accomplishment in helping the team locate and recover a loved one cannot be beaten. That satisfaction is what makes it all worthwhile and keeps me coming back and volunteering my time.

I recall one operation where the lost person had been missing for several days. Thinking outside the box, I was able to directly contribute to the effort to find them. Knowing that your input has absolutely made the difference in allowing a family to get reunited is huge, and seeing how much the family appreciated our efforts, I couldn't help feeling immensely proud of our team and my contribution.

Being an AREC volunteer means I get to enjoy the adventure of the unknown, access great training and skill-building opportunities, and be a valued member of a tight-knit team. Working with like-minded people and using all the technology available is what I love most.



Jo Newburry is the Secretary of Reefton LandSAR and an operational field team member.

After a long gap, I re-joined LandSAR just over a year ago. I was drawn back to LandSAR because it involved the activities I love to do in my spare time. Here was a chance to give back to the community, but also to benefit from the access to training and experiences to fill the gaps in my outdoor knowledge.

In a recent search for a missing runner near Punakaiki, I was able to put all that training to good use in challenging conditions. We got a lovely thank-you card from the woman, which made all the scrambling through supple-jack at night in the rain seem worth it!

Our people are all individuals, but they have an incredible variety of skills and experiences which complement one another. Everyone, from the national support team down to our local group, respects the contributions that each person makes and goes out of their way to be inclusive and supportive.

Besides volunteering in the field team, I've got skills with computers, so I also contribute as group secretary. There's no ego here – everyone's role is vital to the outcome which is finding people and bringing them home again.



Detective Constable Ilisa (Xena) Higgins is on the Wellington Area Police SAR squad.

My full-time role is an investigator on the Wellington Child Protection Team. I am also one of the on-call members on the SAR squad.

I'm a country girl at heart, and always loved the outdoors. So, in 2017 when a mentor of mine suggested I try out for the SAR squad, I followed their advice and haven't looked back.

My role in SAR is to lead and coordinate the response within the Incident Management Team, but I'll take every opportunity I can to get out on the search with the field teams. I just can't ask people to do tasks that I wouldn't be prepared to do myself, so it's vital that I keep current with my field skills and experience.

Getting to meet and work with a talented bunch of people from all walks of life is a hugely satisfying part of being in SAR. When a young autistic boy went missing in Wellington, the wider community rallied around to help the SAR response, and it was an inspiring thing to be a part of. Plus, the feeling you get when you bring someone home to a worried family makes all the hard work worthwhile.



Mark Bolland volunteers for Kotuku Surf Life Saving Club, Coastguard West Coast and Coastguard Lake Brunner.

I've seen quite a bit of change in marine search and rescue on the West Coast, since my introduction in 1988. The Police came knocking on the Surf Club door for us to respond to a capsizing on the Grey River Bar and we deployed in the Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB) which we'd only recently received.

Our surf club IRB crews responded many times to incidents on the Bar, until 1995 when the local Marine Search and Rescue group (later becoming Coastguard West Coast) purchased an English lifeboat, more suited for the conditions. This was crewed by experienced commercial fishing skippers and our surf club team.

I'm just one of many who've put a whole lot of time and effort into keeping people safe on the West Coast's seas, lakes and rivers. And at the end of the day, we're a small community and we all know it's important to help each other out.



Nick Burt is a Senior Search and Rescue Officer with the Rescue Coordination Centre NZ.

The thing I enjoy most about search and rescue is being able to help people. It was the same in my previous job at the Maritime Operations Centre, and when I volunteered as a firefighter and an ambulance officer. There's always a real buzz in the operations room when someone is found.

Volunteering is a good way to get started in search and rescue, whether that's for Coastguard, LandSAR or a different agency. Having been a volunteer myself, I have an appreciation for what they are going through when we work with them on a rescue. I really value the work done by the volunteers.

Often people from different backgrounds combine their experiences, which influence positively on a SAR operation. When I first left school, I trained as a power distribution line mechanic. We had a helicopter strike power lines in French Pass, which brought down the lines and the helicopter into the water. It was quite possible that the lines may have still been live, exposing a significant risk to rescuers. With this prior knowledge we were able to ensure it was safe before rescuers put themselves in danger.



Duncan Ferner, Director NZSAR Secretariat (right) with Peter Mersi, Chair of the NZSAR Council

Secretariat's report

The thing that stands out to me as I look back on the year is the adaptability of our search and rescue people. Whether it's been COVID-19 lockdowns and mandates, extreme weather events, changing trends in volunteering or the rising demand for search and rescue services, the sector has pivoted quickly and provided an excellent service for those who need to be found and rescued.

It's been two years since the sector received a significant funding boost from the Government. Since then, we have seen the various search and rescue agencies maturing and growing into the sustainable, high-functioning organisations that were envisaged when the funding was put in place. I acknowledge that increased funding comes with additional compliance and reporting requirements – my thanks to those of you who have leaned into that work.

COVID-19 has required challenging conversations, rapid adaptation and needing to absorb new information on the fly – not that dissimilar to what unfolds during some search and rescue operations! As a Secretariat we coordinated a sector-wide approach to the various impacts, and represented the collated sector view back into the various Government departments leading the national response. We were also able to support some of the more lightly resourced volunteer SAR agencies with temporary staff, focusing specifically on operationalising the various COVID-19 rules and frameworks.

Our joint post-operational information system, SARdonyx, now holds three years' worth of SAR data, providing a record of SAR trends during a time of significant upheaval. The addition of the District SAR Assistant Coordinators within each Police district has also given us increased confidence that we are capturing SAR data more accurately than ever before.

The NZSAR Secretariat is fully staffed and has continued to push ahead with a wide variety of work. While delivery of some workstreams has been compromised by COVID-19 and resource constraints, our team has worked hard to support the sector in meeting the NZSAR Council's goals of a robust and integrated SAR system, efficient and sustainable SAR organisations, capable SAR people and SAR prevention. As always, our small team is well supported by a loyal band of contractors and consultants.

It was a difficult year to deliver SAR training as it was extensively impacted by illness, lockdowns, and travel restrictions. Despite these challenges, it was pleasing to see the delivery of 73 percent of planned courses, and we anticipate being able to return to the normal training cycle next year.

Research and analytics have continued to inform all parts of our work. Over the last 12 months we have commissioned several large pieces of work that build on research done several years ago (refer article page 26). We intend to repeat these in the future, so we can continue to monitor trends over an extended period.

New Zealand's SAR sector could not function without the efforts of thousands of volunteers. Making up 91 percent of the sector, our people juggle day jobs, study, family commitments and life admin while also turning up to trainings, attending committee meetings and venturing outdoors to rescue people in distress at a moment's notice. This year we have continued to see good things being delivered by the volunteer managers who are now embedded within each of the volunteer SAR agencies. I'm heartened by the results of research we commissioned that show the vast majority of SAR volunteers are engaged with their work, feel supported and enjoy what they do (see article page 24).

This year marks the end of Peter Mersi's time as Chair of the NZSAR Council. Peter has chaired the Council with great skill over the last six years in his role as Chief Executive of Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport. His constructive leadership has left a lasting positive impression on our sector, and we wish him well in his new role as Commissioner of Inland Revenue Te Tari Taake.

Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to the sector for their support. The NZSAR Secretariat team could not do what it does without the input and advice of a great number of people. In particular, the NZSAR Council and the NZSAR Consultative Committee have lent us a listening ear, challenged our thinking, debated our ideas and given freely of their expertise.

Thank you.

Governance

NSS: National Security System
SAROPs: Search and Rescue Operations

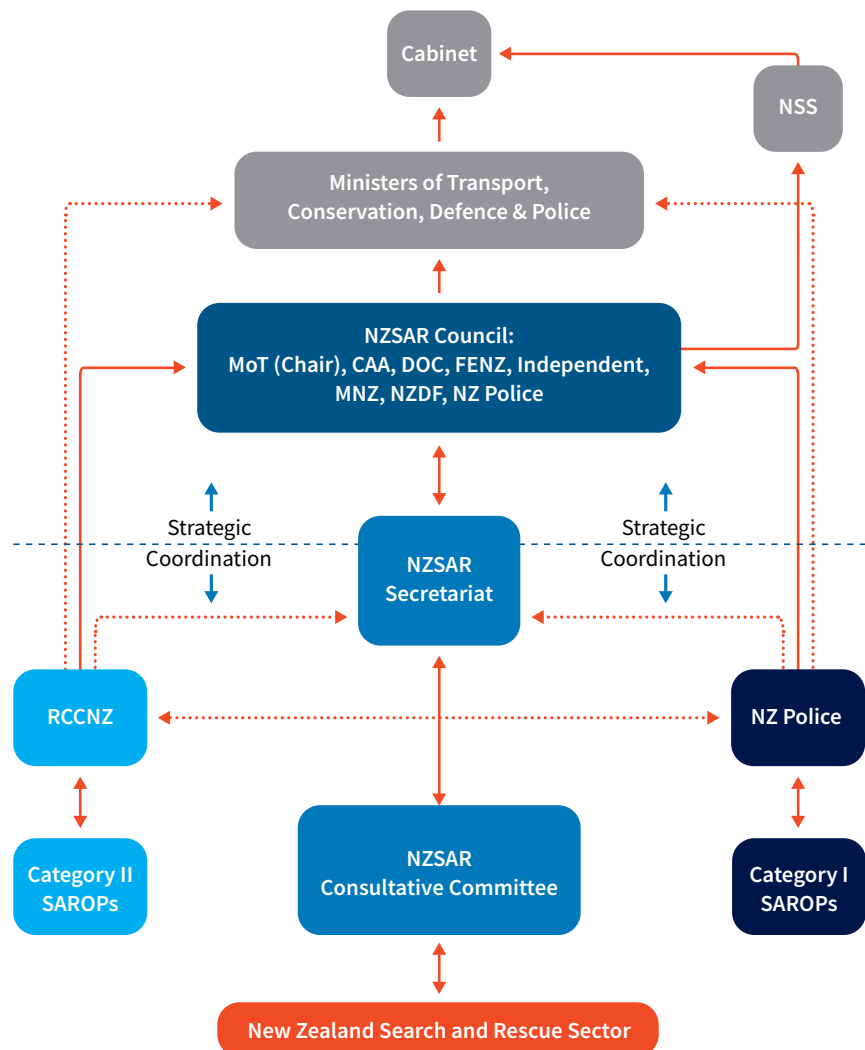
NZSAR Council

Provides national strategic governance and leadership to New Zealand’s search and rescue sector.

In keeping with the Council’s high-level strategic function, its membership is drawn from the chief executives (or delegated to a senior executive) of Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force, Department of Conservation, Maritime New Zealand, Civil Aviation Authority, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, and an Independent Member.

NZSAR Secretariat

Provides the NZSAR Council with information, support services and advice. It also provides sector leadership and implements measures to effect strong strategic coordination of New Zealand’s search and rescue sector.



NZSAR Consultative Committee

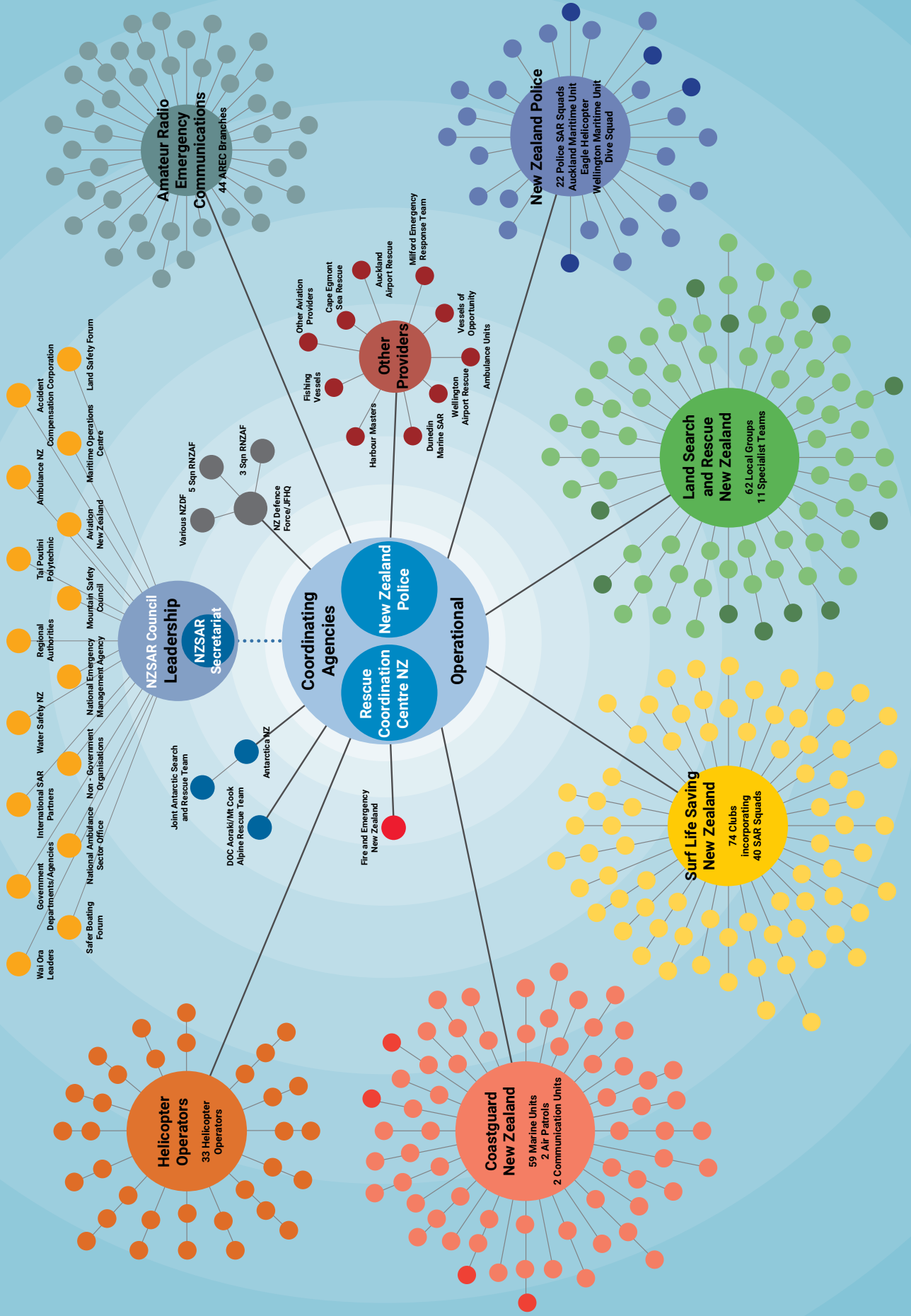
Provides a national forum for all New Zealand SAR stakeholders, including voluntary groups. Consultative Committee members include:

- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Ambulance New Zealand
- Antarctica New Zealand
- Aviation New Zealand
- Civil Aviation Authority (CAA)
- Coastguard New Zealand
- Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)
- Hato Hone St John
- Land Safety Forum
- Land Search and Rescue New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand (MNZ)
- Maritime Operations Centre
- Ministry of Transport (MoT)
- National Ambulance Sector Office
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA)
- New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF)
- New Zealand Mountain Safety Council
- New Zealand Police
- NZSAR Secretariat (Chair)
- Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ)
- Surf Life Saving New Zealand
- Water Safety New Zealand

The Council, Secretariat and Consultative Committee operate cohesively to ensure their objectives are successfully delivered.

OUR SECTOR

Partners



NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa

New Zealand Search
and Rescue Council
nzsar.govt.nz

