



# CONNECTING THE SEARCH AND RESCUE SECTOR



## MARITIME VHF RADIO CHANNELS ARE CHANGING

New Zealand, along with a number of other countries, is required to change a number of maritime VHF repeater channels on October 1 this year.

These changes are being made to make space for newly allocated services for international ship tracking and data services, which will ensure New Zealand VHF radio system is compatible with the rest of the world.

The changes will largely affect Coastguard licenced VHF and NowCasting channels. NZSAR is funding Coastguard's costs. Although some maritime channels will be changing, the existing marine Channel 16 used for safety and distress purposes will not change.

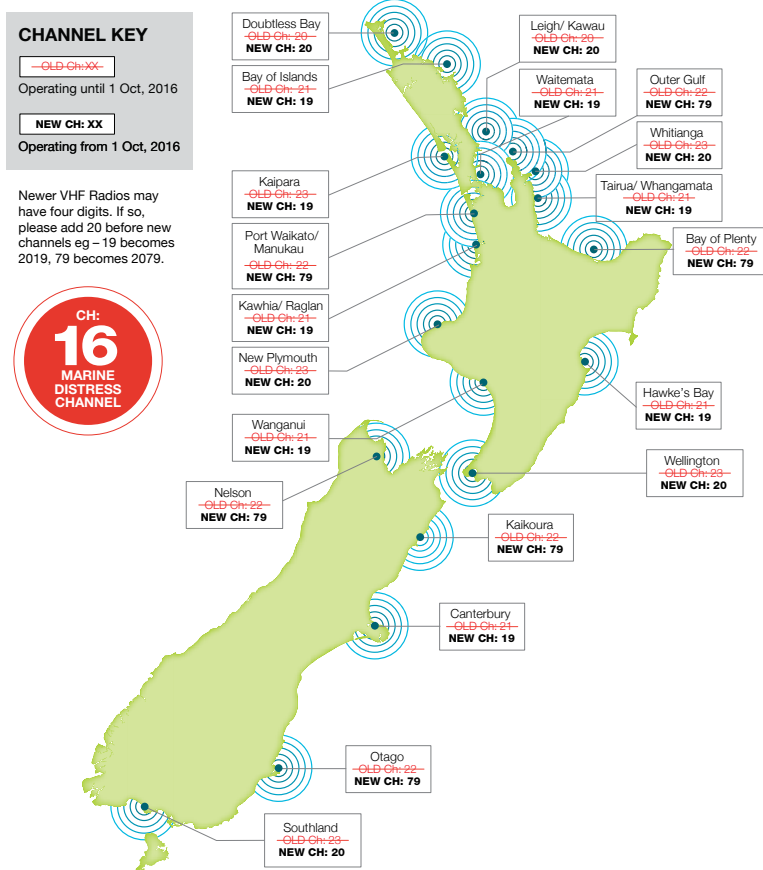
No one will need to buy a new VHF radio to access the new VHF or NowCasting channels - all current VHF radios will be able to access the new channels.

There is an important change to be aware of affecting the Coastguard and NowCasting channels. The 'official' new channel number will consist of four digits; however, 90% of VHF radios currently operating in New Zealand use only two digits. For newer VHF radios that may have four digits, boaters need to add 20 before new channels, e.g. - 19 becomes 2019, 79 becomes 2079.

Technicians will be physically present at each repeater site to make the switch, which will happen on or around 1 October. Maritime New Zealand, Coastguard New Zealand, Radio Spectrum Management (a business unit of Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment) and Broadcast Services have been working closely to manage these changes.

## Coastguard Nowcasting Weather Information Channels\*

New Channels to take effect from 1 October 2016



A website called [www.retune.co.nz](http://www.retune.co.nz) containing in-depth information has been set up and it includes maps showing both

old and new channels. There is also an extensive advertising campaign underway to highlight the changes. ●

### What boaters need to know:

- Users do not need a new VHF radio to access the new channels
- Channel 16 - the marine distress channel - is not changing
- New channel numbers will be four digits beginning with 20

- New channels will take effect from or around 1 October, 2016 (or once the work has been completed on each repeater site)
- To find out what local channels are changing and to view maps, go to [www.retune.co.nz](http://www.retune.co.nz) or [www.coastguard.nz](http://www.coastguard.nz)

## RAUORA II – THE NEXT GENERATION



A table top exercise using a dynamic simulation to develop the scenario is the focus of the RAUORA II MRO exercises.

Beginning in October in Northland and the Bay of Plenty, RAUORA II will further test the arrangements for responding to mass rescue incidents within the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region. The first series of exercises was run across all Police Districts over the past two years.

The RAUORA II simulation will emulate the rescue scenario, requiring an appropriate response to be instigated and managed. It goes beyond initial search and rescue operations to test 'the people phase', including welfare and reconciliation, as well as the command and control aspects.

The one-day exercises will enable each Police District to further evaluate the national mass rescue plan for their district, with active involvement from ambulance and CDEM agencies. By definition a mass rescue will be an overwhelming event, no matter where in the country it occurs. The exercise is designed as a day of learning, for inter-agency cooperation, and to aid improvement and the identification of insights, lessons, gaps, challenges and opportunities. ●

## FENZ KEEN TO BUILD STRONG LINKS WITH SAR

Better coordination between fire service and search and rescue personnel is just one of the improvements expected from setting up a single national fire service next year.

Legislation to set up Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) on 1 July 2017 is currently passing through Parliament. The new organisation will bring together more than 40 separate organisations, over 600 fire forces and brigades, more than 12,000 volunteers, and approximately 3000 paid staff into one new organisation.

The current fire services legislation is no longer relevant, as these days Firefighters do not just put out fires, they are also heavily involved in medical emergencies, motor vehicle accidents, flood response and urban search and rescue.

A big thrust of the change is to have better coordination among existing resources. Having a single unified fire service will allow clearer interaction with other emergency management agencies such as Police, Ambulance Services, Search and Rescue and Civil Defence.

Fire services have always worked closely with search and rescue organisations, often supplying people, communications, and command units from which rescue incidents can be managed. It is expected that this close cooperation would improve under FENZ.

The NZSAR Council supports the change. Secretariat Manager Duncan Ferner was frequently consulted during the Fire Services Review phase, and continues to provide search and rescue input during the transition to Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

David Strong has been appointed as Transition Director. There is more information about the Transition at [www.fenzproject.co.nz](http://www.fenzproject.co.nz). Email questions to [myvoice@FENZProject.co.nz](mailto:myvoice@FENZProject.co.nz) ●

## LIFEJACKET MESSAGES GET TO BOATIES ON THE WATER

In a world-first digital campaign, Maritime New Zealand has partnered with Google and Facebook to create a maritime safety initiative that geofences the entire country's coastline. Called Virtual Coastguard and supported by Coastguard New Zealand and the New Zealand Safer Boating Forum, the campaign delivers safety messages to boaties to get their lifejacket on, as they are getting out on the water, via their mobile phones.

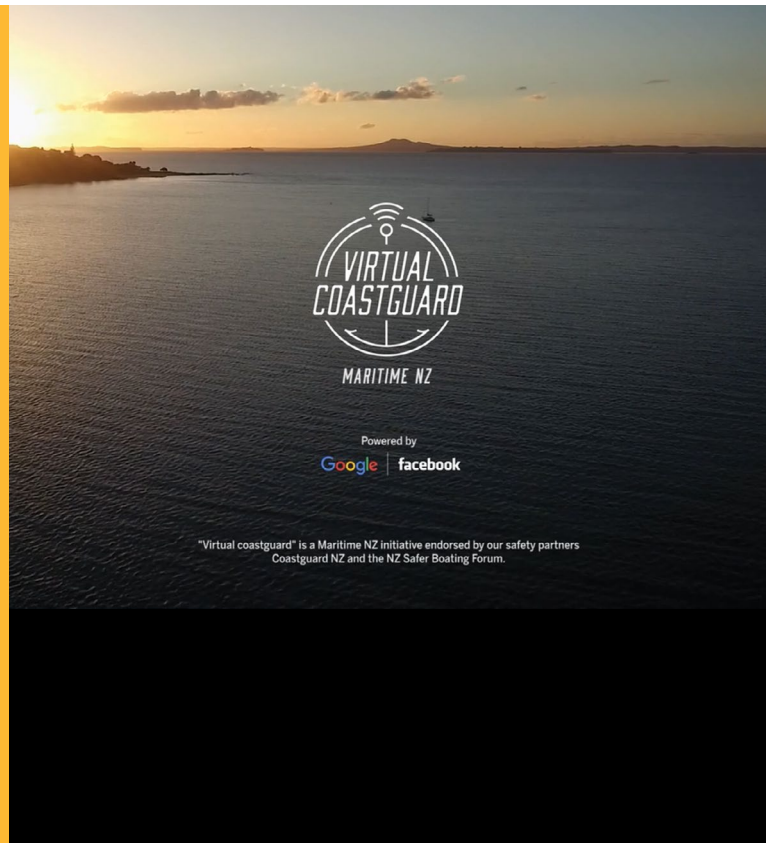
All boaties have to do is have their mobile and GPS on. Then, when they cross the digital geofence around New Zealand's coastline, a lifejacket advert is pushed out, reminding them to "Get it on or it's no good".

They can also receive the life-saving prompt through a free marine weather mobile app.

Boaties have so far received more than 21.9 million messages while they are either going out on the water, or checking a marine weather forecast. Virtual Coastguard has also sparked interest among boating safety organisations overseas. Maritime New Zealand is happy for others to take up this idea and build their own geofence systems.

Watch Maritime New Zealand's video of how the system works <https://vimeo.com/175756890>

If you wish to contact Maritime New Zealand about Virtual Coastguard, please email [media@maritimenz.govt.nz](mailto:media@maritimenz.govt.nz) ●







**A high powered jet ski has collided with two waka ama (outrigger racing canoes) at dusk in the vicinity of Kaipakirikiri Point, Marlborough Sounds. Three people are dead in the water and an injured survivor is clinging to the upturned hull of a waka ama. On land there are four seriously injured people, four who are not injured, and two others who are concussed and begin walking overland.**

This scenario, which faced the multi-agency search and rescue exercise (SAREX) in the Marlborough Sounds in June, was loosely based on an actual event. The Marlborough Sounds and surrounding areas attract people from all around New Zealand, and the world, for both land and marine based recreational activities.

SAREX Controller Senior Constable Al Hendrickson says, “the potential for a casualty, be it one injury or death or several injuries and deaths from a marine related incident in the Sounds, is a very real situation. Every day there are near misses, especially in summer. With the influx of tourists and bach owners to the Sounds, combined with alcohol, parties and boats, the ingredients for a disaster are ever present.

“A multiple casualty type incident will require a response from all emergency services. So, for the first time we brought most of the emergency organisations and agencies together to refresh and practice our skills to ensure we are ready to respond effectively at a moment’s notice. This included St John, Coastguard, LandSAR, AREC, Harbourmaster, and the Police SAR squad.”

Although all had a common goal, individual agencies also identified specific training objectives: LandSAR’s focus was on shoreline search techniques and investigative interviewing; the Harbourmaster practiced traffic management on water for emergency response; Coastguard tested its brand new marine ambulance and rescue vessel and; St John tested its response and care of victims, and working with Coastguard on the best plan of action for the victims.

David St John, Coastguard Picton’s Operation Manager, says his unit welcomed the opportunity to not only work alongside other agencies but also to put their new vessel through its paces.

“We tested a number of new facets that will make this vessel so effective in our area. We were able to put it up on rocks – so the LandSAR team could just step off then step back on again with the injured survivors in stretchers – where previously they would have had to lift stretchers up and over the boat from the water. And, as



we are fully kitted out with emergency equipment, our paramedic could attend to the injuries en route to shore.”

Al says there was a lot going on over the 28-hour exercise, but it was fantastic to see how well everyone worked together. Especially in the initial phase where Coastguard nailed the brief, almost to perfection. “We all now have a far better understanding and overview of how each other works and the challenges and capabilities they have.

“There is room for improvement and we’ve identified a few issues for us to work on, such as more personnel needing training to take on roles in the Incident Management Team. And although the safety throughout the exercise was taken very seriously as we had a designated external Safety Advisor for the whole exercise which proved to be very successful, safety briefings in one area were identified as inadequate.

“We’re now planning a desktop exercise as we all recognise the need to continue working together to keep up the momentum of what we learned. A one-day SAREX is also in the planning for a lost yachtsman on an outer island in the Sounds to again test LandSAR and Coastguard deploying to this situation and supporting each other. This scenario was a previous SAR operation, so worth training for again.”

Al says the general feedback on the SAREX was “definitely worth doing”, “long overdue” and “when’s the next one?” ●





Police SAR coordinators from around the country spent time presenting and discussing case studies following the recent LandSAR conference in New Plymouth. Sharing ideas and identifying aspects of best practice they noted common elements that are helpful to pass onto the wider sector. Two of these are the importance of media and family liaison roles during operations.

## OPERATION LLOYD – TARARUA TRAMPERS



Source: [www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz43591/Kapakapanui](http://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap/nz43591/Kapakapanui)

- 1** 29/04/2016 Rental car located
- 2** 26/04/2016 Seen off track; advised to follow orange markers
- 3** 26/04/2016 Intentions recorded in the Kapakapanui hut book
- 4** 29/04/2016 Seen walking in this direction
- 5** 30/04/2016 Located by search party

Carolyn Lloyd and her daughter Rachel were found by rescuers after spending four nights in the bush after losing their way on the Kapakapanui Track, near Waikanae. The alarm was first raised in Palmerston North by their hotel, and after a number of enquiries it was determined that they were most likely undertaking a walk in the Tararua Forest Park. The search of the road ends found their rental vehicle late in the day, and from there further investigations helped to establish a timeline of their activity.

The analysis of the clues and the information available made it very likely that the pair had gone off the track on their first day of walking. After a night of good

planning and preparation, the search was able to start at 6am with teams tasked and in the field.

As the Lloyds were U.S. citizens, this case attracted international attention, as well as the need to keep the U.S. Embassy informed. An Inspector was allocated to the role of family and embassy liaison, and had direct contact with the Incident Management Team. This meant accurate and timely information was relayed as appropriate, avoiding an information vacuum as well as creating a trusted relationship - which becomes increasingly important as an operation lengthens in duration. ●

## OPERATION WAITARERE ALEX FISHER

Ten-year-old Alex Fisher went missing in the small community of Waitarere Beach in the second week of the October school holidays, 2015. The community has a permanent population of about 600 residents, which expands to over 3,000 people during holiday periods. The search for Alex lasted three days; his body was found in the sand dunes. It involved a large search team of Police, LandSAR, Army and members of the local community - an extensive search operation that attracted significant media attention.

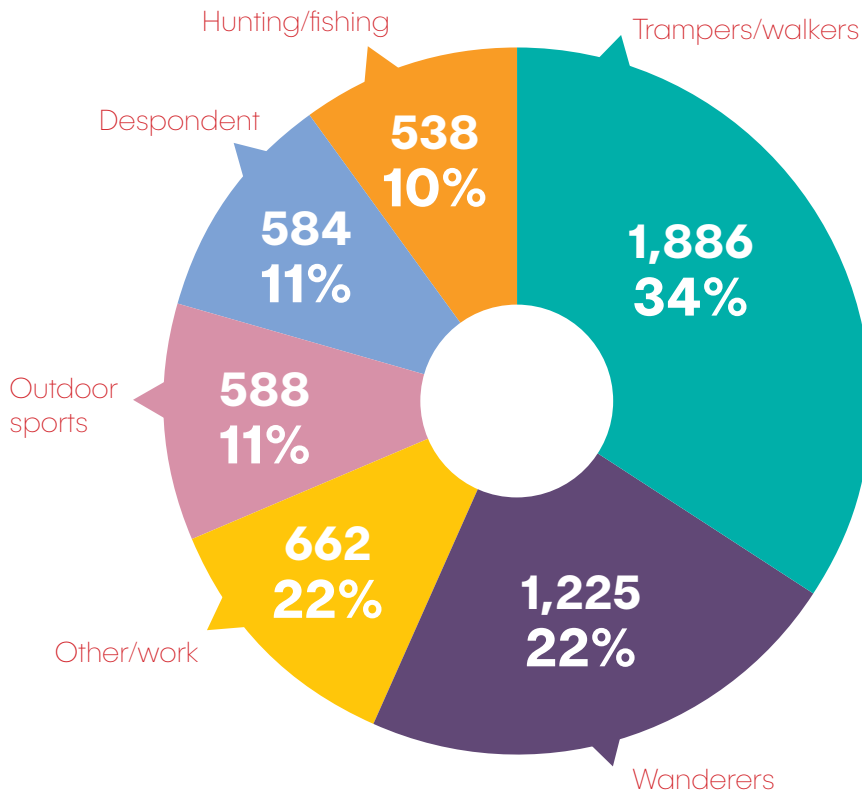


Appointing designated personnel to liaise with the media and the family in such a case is extremely valuable. The public have a very strong interest in this type of search, and regular updates to the media help ensure they are well informed, while providing the opportunity to give advice on how the community can assist. Family liaison is critical as it supports the family and keeps them abreast of the developments. Regular briefing for the liaison personnel helps to ensure that what they are passing on is informed, up to date and correct, particularly in the immediacy of the social media environment that exists today. ●

# STATS ATTACK

# WHAT THEY WERE DOING

Over the last six years, there have been 1,225 SAR incidents for Wanderers



Many people believe that land based SAR incidents are mainly for those who are lost in the bush, or are stuck on the side of a mountain.

The police form - P130 - for category 1 land SAR incidents has a field that records the type of subject behaviour when they got into difficulty. This graphic has taken those 24 behaviours and collated them into 6 broad categories of subject behaviour over the last six years.

What we see is that the outdoor recreation sector (trampers, climbers, hunters etc.) only make up 55% of Police led land based SAR incidents. SAR incidents for wanderers (people with dementia, autism, missing children etc.) account for more than one-in-five Police led land based SAR incidents.

## NZSAR AWARDS

Do you know an organisation, a group, or an individual who you think should be acknowledged for their contribution to search and rescue? There are two categories - operational activity and support activity.

More information about these two categories, the NZSAR Awards and the simple nomination process can be found on our website at: [www.nzsar.org.nz/awards](http://www.nzsar.org.nz/awards).

The 2016 Awards nominations close 31 January 2017.

## CALENDAR

SAREXs and SAR training see:

[nzsar.govt.nz/Calendar/Events](http://nzsar.govt.nz/Calendar/Events)

Health & Safety Seminar: 17-18 September, Wellington

NZSAR Council: 21 September, Wellington

Combined Workshop: 22 November, Wellington

Rauora II Northland: 5 October, Whangarei

Coastguard Conference: 14-16 October, Taupo

Rauora II Bay of Plenty: 28 October, Rotorua

## WEBSITES

We've changed our web address: [www.nzsar.govt.nz](http://www.nzsar.govt.nz)  
This newsletter is available as a PDF on this website.

Safety information and tips for the public planning outdoor activities: [www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz)

Information about 406 Beacons, including where to purchase, rent and register a distress beacon: [www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz)

Avalanche Advisory: [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz)

FENZ Transition: [www.fenzproject.co.nz](http://www.fenzproject.co.nz)

VHF Changes information: [www.retune.co.nz](http://www.retune.co.nz)

# DUNCAN'S DESK



Over the short (somewhat disappointing), and reasonably mild winter, the NZSAR Secretariat has undergone a few changes. We've moved to refurbished premises (near the home stadium of our champion Hurricanes team) and we have new email and website addresses (see below). Most importantly, we have a new NZSAR Council Chair, Peter Mersi. Peter has replaced Martin Matthews as the Secretary of Transport. Prior to this appointment, Peter was the Chief Executive at Land Information New Zealand.

Every three years, our government funding, and the funding made available to our SAR partner agencies via the Service Level Agreements, is independently reviewed. This is a chance to explain what the existing funding is used for, outline what we have achieved with the money, and an opportunity to propose new possibilities. Being public money, this is a long and detailed process – and

it's not over yet. While this has been our top priority over the past few months, we have also got on with a number of other projects.

The NZSAR data store has proved very useful in preparing the headline numbers for the Annual Report due out next month, and to inform the various business cases we needed to prepare for the funding review.

All three of us from the Secretariat and Dave Comber from the Council attended LandSAR's Conference in (a very blustery) New Plymouth. The conference was undoubtedly a great success. The broad programme included something for everyone and served to provoke a range of healthy debates. Immediately following that, a smaller group participated in a short SAR case study seminar. It was the first time we have run one of these and it proved to be a good forum to identify and share insights in how we can perform SAR more effectively. A couple of examples are outlined in the Insight article on page 4.

A lot of work has gone into preparing for the next series of Rauora Mass Rescue exercises. These will be 'walk' level, desktop exercises focusing on bringing together the wide number of agencies likely to respond to a mass rescue event. The first two will be held in October 2016 (Northland – 5 October, Bay of Plenty – 28 October) and the next two (Southern & Tasman) will be held February/March 2017. The Secretariat will need help running these exercises. If you are interested in helping – please contact Carl van der Meulen.

The Air Observer and Air Observer Team Leader training packages have been completed. This long awaited training will begin once daylight savings starts. As it's very expensive to deliver, selection to attend this training will be closely managed. Potential students will be required to complete the pre-course air observers' package, now available on START ([nzsar.govt.nz/Knowledge-Training/Start](http://nzsar.govt.nz/Knowledge-Training/Start)).

We have been pleased to receive the very positive results from the Independent SAR Student Survey (see article page 8). This survey ([nzsar.govt.nz/Publications/Research](http://nzsar.govt.nz/Publications/Research)) has provided us with another strong indication that the SAR(ACE) programme is delivering high quality, relevant, useful and appropriate SAR training to SAR people throughout the country. The survey has also pointed to a few areas where we can work with the training provider to further improve what they deliver on our behalf.

Health and Safety remains a strong focus. We recently held our biannual SAR sector Health and Safety Committee meeting and by the time you receive this Link, we will have held the SAR sector Health and Safety Seminar. We want to sustain this focus, while not losing sight of our purpose and role.

Stay safe.  
Duncan Ferner  
[d.ferner@nzsar.govt.nz](mailto:d.ferner@nzsar.govt.nz)

## WE'VE MOVED

The NZSAR Secretariat has moved offices. You will now find us at:  
1 The Boulevard, Harbour Quays, Wellington.

The website looks the same – although the address has changed: [nzsar.govt.nz](http://nzsar.govt.nz)

As have our email addresses:

Duncan Ferner: [d.ferner@nzsar.govt.nz](mailto:d.ferner@nzsar.govt.nz)

Rhett Emery: [r.emery@nzsar.govt.nz](mailto:r.emery@nzsar.govt.nz)

Carl van der Meulen: [c.vandermeulen@nzsar.govt.nz](mailto:c.vandermeulen@nzsar.govt.nz)



Link is produced by New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

[www.nzsar.govt.nz](http://www.nzsar.govt.nz)



Like the Adventuresmart facebook page and contribute to it

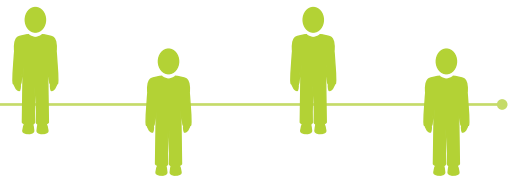
[www.adventuresmart.org.nz](http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz)



[www.beacons.org.nz](http://www.beacons.org.nz)



# SAR (ACE) SNAPSHOT



SAR Adult and Community Education (ACE) is funding provided by the Tertiary Education Commission, coordinated by NZSAR and delivered by Tai Poutini Polytechnic. It makes training available and achievable for all SAR personnel. Courses are requested by the SAR sector and cover a myriad of disciplines, field skills, leadership and management.

SAR (ACE) Snapshot appears twice a year in Link. It canvasses the courses on offer, profiles the tutors and analyses trends and techniques.

## ENSURING COURSES ARE FIT FOR PURPOSE

Each year a Search and Rescue Sector Training Moderation Plan is developed by the SAR Training Governance Group, focusing on 3-4 training courses.

Each course is moderated by two sector-nominated specialists – one a subject matter expert, and the other an academic expert. The purpose of the moderation is to assure the sector of the currency, technical appropriateness and overall training coherency of the SAR course portfolio.

The final moderation report makes recommendations to the SAR Programme Advisory Committee to ensure continuous improvement in the training and delivery of courses. TPP and the SAR agencies associated with the course work together to address any of the moderation recommendations relating to the content or course delivery. This may include the establishment of a working group to ensure relevant subject matter experts are consulted.

TPP also conducts its own internal moderation to align assessments and modernise the way it delivers the courses to ensure modern and innovative teaching methods are utilised.

Searching the Suburban Environment, Search and Rescue Leadership and the SAR Managers courses have been externally moderated this year.



## COURSE PROFILE

### Marine SAR Technical (MSART)

**Duration:** One day block course

**Pre requisites:** Open – with completion of pre-course START learning

**Supplementary:** Managing the Marine Response

MSART is a new course for SAR personnel operating in the marine environment. The course is directed at those people who are part of an IMT, but is equally beneficial for both field and IMT students. On completion of this course participants will be able to: use marine maps to determine Search Area Determination (identifying appropriate search areas based on a number of factors. i.e. leeway, current, tides); Search Area Coverage (using different search patterns, parameters and calculations to increase probability of detection [POD]) and use probability of detection formula for marine environments.

**Course tutors:**

**Martin Paget (New Zealand Police)**

**Rachel McKenzie (Coastguard New Zealand)**

# TUTOR PROFILE

## Jason Tweedie

EMSAR specialist rope rescue and industrial rope access programmes

From the coal face of alpine search and rescue to SAR Tutor, Jason Tweedie is passionate about the outdoors. He is an avid skier and mountaineer, and is fully involved in alpine and rock environments as an active team leader of the Alpine Cliff Rescue team in Christchurch. He is a level 4 IRAANZ rope access technician.

A keen surfer, he lives by the beach in Christchurch, but maintains a strong connection to the West Coast via a section of land at Kumara Junction. He and his wife Julie are parents to 4-year old daughter Paige who keeps him well grounded and motivated.

A Plumber and Gasfitter by trade, Jason's search and rescue experience began at Mt Cook 10 years ago, as a member of the Mt Cook Rescue team. His drive to teach stems from those beginnings but it's the enthusiasm of his students that he values.



Jason Tweedie

"SAR people are very passionate. Their dedication and constant desire to learn more ways to help others inspires me to teach them skills that are cutting edge and up to date with best practice worldwide. And it's such good fun to be with them."

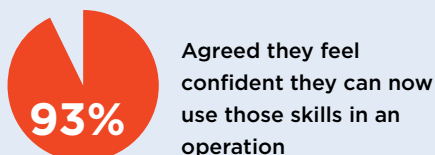
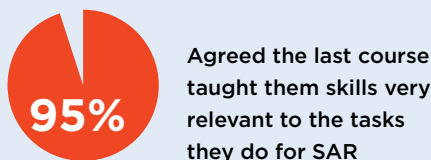
Jason belongs to LandSAR New Zealand where he provides specialist support to committees and groups around the country. He is trained in the management of land search operations and is a member of the Incident Management Team.

## Getting the best out of training

Given that 95% of SAR people are volunteers, it is imperative that they receive maximum benefit when we ask them to give up their time to train. As part of NZSAR's commitment to quality we ran an independant survey of students who attended SAR(ACE) training during 2015. We received responses from 203 people, who rated search and rescue courses highly.

## Course content, skills and competencies

In terms of the relevance and appropriateness of course skills and competencies, and the relevance and applicability of course content to SAR activity, the students' feedback is excellent:



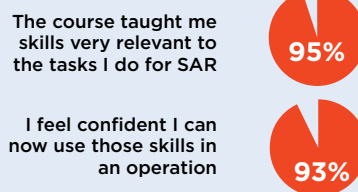
## Quality of tuition programmes

The results for tutors was outstanding; over 90% of the students rated tutors "excellent" or "good" for their subject knowledge, advice, and easily understood instructions and explanations.

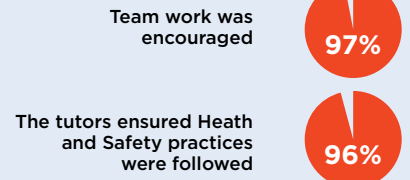
### THE TUTORS... rated excellent or good



### THE SKILLS TAUGHT... agree or strongly agree



### ON THE COURSE... agree or strongly agree



### The best thing about SAR training...

Everyone was asked what the best thing is about training in search and rescue. They selected:

- Being ready to assist in operations **88%**
- Learning new skills **82%**
- Learning from experienced tutors **78%**
- Working in a team **74%**
- Gaining confidence **67%**
- Achieving qualifications **31%**

The full report can be found at: [www.nzsar.org.nz/publications](http://www.nzsar.org.nz/publications) in the research section.