



Name	Agency
Bruce Webster	DOC
Mark Bailey	Te Whatu Ora

Name	Agency
Kathryn Steel	St John's Air Desk

#### 4. Welcome

Andrew Greig opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Karakia: Rob Hewitt

It was advised that the meeting was being recorded and the minutes would be taken by Robyn Bennett, who is providing minute taking services to the NZSAR Secretariat.

#### 5. Minutes of meeting on Tuesday, 16 May 2023

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record with the amendment of recording additional commentary to capture the fullness of the conversation regarding San Francisco and experts.

#### 6. Summary of actions from previous meetings

No actions noted.

#### 7. Sector Updates

Agencies provided brief sector updates.

##### **Ambulance NZ (David Waters provided this update)**

The Air Ambulance standard review is in initial drafting stage to provide a document for the expert panel to consider and review in the next month or so. Panel membership will include the SAR sector and NZSAR.

The annual aeromedical conference is in Adelaide on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September followed by a skills centre on the 7<sup>th</sup> – there is still time to register staff.

##### **AMSA (Australian Maritime safety Authority) (provided by Dan Gillis)**

AMSA Response Centre/JRCC Australia recently recruited five new Search and Rescue Officers. They are 8 weeks into training and will move into an “On The Job” training phase in early September. The training program for SAROs takes about 6 months to complete and will wrap up in mid-December.

AMSA will be moving to a new building in mid-2024. Currently working through layout for the new space and are doing some business process mapping to ahead of the move to try and optimise workflows and seating arrangements in the new centre.

In terms of incidents, maritime and aviation SAR workload was as expected in the last quarter. However, there was a significant incident in the North-West of the SRR where a Chinese fishing vessel capsized in cyclonic weather. AMSA coordinated the SAR using government assets from a number of foreign countries however 39 lives were

lost. AMSA is also receiving an increasing number of requests for use of our Challenger Rescue aircraft to assist with land SAR operations in remote parts of Australia.

### **Antarctica NZ**

No report provided.

### **AREC**

New staff are being recruited including three new Regional Managers (one starts in six weeks), a National Support Manager, and a part time Administrator.

The new website will be live by next week at the latest with the same URL.

Nationwide training will be rolled out next week in Canterbury and then the rest of New Zealand. The training will focus on new technology and NZSAR.

### **Aviation NZ**

The New Zealand Aviation Conference was held last week.

A helicopter crash in the North Island, and a skydiving accident have been reviewed. An EMS Coordinator has been recruited onto the committee.

NZHA are working on a safety initiative for around inadvertent IMC for operators. Work is taking place on a flyway team.

A discussion took place on UAVs drones' strategy. The following points were noted:

- Coastguard is using drones.
- Drones can be used to spot sharks. SLS NSW has produced a document for SLSNZ, and this is being reviewed by the SLSNZ Board. This costs a substantial amount of money to implement. The sector needs a strategy.
- Matthew Wheble stated this has been discussed in the Technology Forum. Work has been undertaken with MBIE and Police as there has been a new policy that relates to drone use and SAR. This will affect the use of drones and what it means for NGOs using drones.
- Callum Gillespie would like the issue of drones explored more.
- Richard Milner stated that this issue will be discussed at their meeting tonight.
- This tool could be used for SAR for fishermen who go missing off rocks.
- Richard added that they have had great success with drones. However, using drones sporadically can be dangerous for operators and increases the danger; they need to be used regularly.
- Adam Wooler commented that SLSNZ have paid seasonal rock fisher safety advisors who use drones to find out where rock based fishers are. This has been beneficial.
- Multiple people indicated interest in being involved in an UAV Working Group including Kate Weinberg, Steve Campbell, Adam Wooler, Carl McOnie, and Matthew Wheble.

It was agreed to add this to the next agenda for further discussion.

### **CAA**

No report provided.

### **Coastguard NZ**

Standard season activity profile: 26 SAR in the last month, 100 preventative tasks. Involved in the fishermen loss at Raglan. 27 July: rescued two people off Otago coast on a yacht.

Ask Your Team Tool: Staff engaged in terms of participation. Lots of information has been received. Best score was for flexible working arrangements. People hate going to meetings.

Volunteer recruitment campaign has been completed. 800 plus applications have been received. 300-400 volunteers short.

All units were asked what their needs are during a national campaign.

Celebrated opening of Opuia Base on 29 July 2023 in Northland.

Letters have been written to Minister of Transport, Associate Minister, and other parties regarding Maritime Rule Part 91 regarding lifejackets.

A bar safety course was held in Manawatu in August. Ninety people turned up. Nine more courses will be run in the next few months.

### **Department of Conservation: Aoraki Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team**

Nothing to report.

### **Fire and Emergency New Zealand**

No report provided.

### **Land Search and Rescue**

It has been a busy year; up 20 percent from previous year. July is on track for SAR operations compared to July 2022. 396 assisted and 954 self-assisted. 102k volunteer hours in the last year. For every hour of operation there is one hour of training being completed. 153 training events in the last 12 months; 1,200 LSAR volunteers and 200 other participants from other sectors.

### **Land Safety Forum**

No report provided.

### **MOC/Kordia**

Seasonal average over the last quarter. MOC is 30 years old. A stocktake of audits including WAVE and VHF network is being undertaken.

Still recruiting in a tight labour market.

Working on long range issues.

API application programming interface for satellite broadcast.

There have been several above average hoax calls in Dunedin and Auckland. Recordings have been sent to Police and Radio Spectrum Management. In terms of

catching the hoaxers, those that have a pattern could be directionally found or located but it is rare to catch them.

Congratulations were extended to Coastguard regarding their Opuia base.

Don Robertson stated that they have licenced amateurs that could assist.

Brendan Comerford stated that he will remind RSM that AREC might be able to assist.

### **Ministry of Transport**

No report provided.

### **Mountain Safety Council**

Building new tools ahead of summer, which includes the ability to plot your own track. There is a deliberate shift in audience target in plotting their own tracks.

Winter snowpack: This is presenting as unpredictable. Work is being undertaken with NIWA regarding high weather altitude systems and Avalanche Canada to look at what the New Zealand winter will look like. The recent The Remarkables avalanche was discussed. It is expected that there will be unpredictable weather avalanche forecasting.

### **NEMA**

No report provided.

### **New Zealand Defence Force**

No report provided.

### **New Zealand Police**

The Police SAR Coordinators conference and Police only-session was good. This included a presentation on data insights through the MSE system, which garnered interest in what can be achieved going forward in prevention and in the deployment of people. The SAR team makeup can now be looked at.

Implemented training selection and competency framework; Bay of Plenty left to do. BBA will start soon to develop strategic work for the Police SAR and Assistant Coordinators. This will include succession planning and resilience going into the future.

There are concerns relating to the difference between giving an advisory on a SAR and a commander control handover. This needs to be discussed at an operational level as there could be risk. This will be raised in a separate forum.

Two vacancies; one has been readvertised.

Aviation work is progressing. Good support.

Implemented fatigue policy.

Have signed off on equipment systems for Police SAR.

Finished district engagement around New Zealand. Have engaged with Māori responsiveness managers in each district and engagement is being built with iwi liaison and ethnic services to address challenges in isolated communities. This has resulted in some models. The goal over the next six months will be consistency in engaging with Māori and ethnic services groups.

If people are going on DOC land, approvals are not being sought or in an inappropriate method, mainly for venture racing. A discussion needs to take place with DOC, possibly Sally Jones. Opportunity for DOC to get into this space.

Nicholas Sutcliffe commented that there is a lot of work going on to improve the concessions process. How to manage visitor risk is being looked at.

Don stated that AREC offers a service.

### **Te Ao Māori Engagement**

Land Search and Rescue karakia launched in Christchurch.

There is a Kaihautū appointment of 0.5 with Land Search and Rescue.

Tauranga: Worked with mana whenua during an exercise. There was some miscommunication, but a plan is now being worked on.

Northland: A one day wānanga in Northland will be run asking whanau what can be provided. A lot of work is being done through several agencies. There is a need to find out what is still falling through the gap.

The Māori engagement paper will be presented to the NZSAR Council on 5 September 2023.

Invitations will be sent out this week on the Kaihautū Hui with Water Safety NZ and other agencies. Te Atiawa will talk about their area and numerous agencies will be involved. A plan will be devised over the next few years to help people.

### **Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand**

In a winter lull.

There is a need to follow up on big incidents from earlier in the year.

Been a wider MNZ operational uplift.

Some personal management issues need to be worked through e.g., leave is quite high.

The SARO course is being deferred to next year.

Working on better coordination with aviation.

A benchmark activity with JSCC in Australia is being undertaken to look at supporting each other.

There is a report pending on the exercise with the US Coastguard.

### **St John Air Desk**

No report provided.

### **Surf Life Saving New Zealand**

The new CE, Steve Fisher, started on 5 July 2023.

Adam's role as Special Projects Manager ends at the end of August, and he will be brought back into the team in an operational management role.

SLS Northern Region has voted to merge with SLSNZ and this will take place on 1 October 2023. Eventually there will be a new Regional Manager who will report up through the structure to the SLSNZ CEO.

A staff conference, including Northern Region staff, was held in Taupo.

Flood rescue: Clubs are responding even if they are not properly equipped or trained. A position statement has been created on flood rescue. This is pending a response from Duncan Ferner.

A Coroner has recommended that all Councils approach clubs to undertake a coastal risk assessment.

The Safeswim platform is being rolled out gradually over the next few years. Automated safety warnings for rip currents, strong offshore winds and large surf on Safeswim are being trialled this season.

It has been a busy last three months, at least a 30 percent increase. Lifesaving space has increased metrics with summer going longer. This means planning forward patrols, which could include the top of North Island doing patrols in the second school holidays.

Decline in volunteer hours. 300-400 lifeguards down; this has not recovered from Covid. National recruitment programmes are being looked at.

Northern Region: Work will take place on rationalisation of SAR squads.

SAR Summit in Tauranga: Core objective of summit was exercised.

Next 12 months focus is light and long i.e., moving lots of gear over long distances.

A national review on Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland floods has been completed and the findings are with the Board. SAR squads were interviewed, and the focus was on the wellbeing of lifeguards, online clinical operational debriefs and the learnings were looked at. Most of the learnings are being implemented e.g., intersquad cooperation and communication.

A new SurfCom Manager has been employed in the Ops room jointly shared with Coastguard. They are recruiting two full time Supervisors to provide much greater out of hours/season support to SLSNZ Clubs & SAR Squads. A full time Radio Network Manager has also been employed based in Dunedin.

*Break: 10.40-10.50 am*

### **Water Safety New Zealand**

Wai Ora Sector Strategy has been reprioritised. Now focusing on what can be done in the next 18 months. The focus is on 14 outcomes across the pillars.

The biggest chunk is around the power up of data. A code has been created to make drown-based data available for everybody to use.

The data capability with Wai Ora leadership team was launched, and this has raised challenges and questions. There is data around deaths. This needs to be overlaid with ACC and hospitalisations and near-death data is to be analysed. Working closely with SARdonyx. Participation data is being completed with phone companies.

The last five fatalities off the rocks in Raglan have been from other ethnicities. They have reached out to Federated Farmers to help.

Research focus: Will build an advisory team to ask what the missing parts of the puzzle are. There is a need to leverage off what Australia is doing.

The drowning report is out. Profile: older New Zealanders, those gathering food, male.

The funding round has closed with 60 applicants for \$4.5M.

A clear, succinct project that will address the priorities outlined in the strategy is needed.

There is a challenge around forecasting data e.g., MetService, and it is unclear as to how this should be addressed.

International Life Saving Federation's World Conference on Drowning Prevention is being held in Perth in December 2023. Nine abstracts have been accepted. Some of the presenters could be enticed to come to New Zealand.

### **Te Whatu Ora and National Ambulance Sector Office**

Currently working on the use of approved funding. Funding has been approved in some regions around fuel repositories and improving helicopter infrastructure. Funding needs to be allocated by the end of the year.

Ongoing work with a northern provider to facilitate the standardisation over the year for the AW169s.

An order for a new Airbus H145D3 has been completed with delivery 2024.

The restructure has taken a while. 15 staff, three permanent staff in NASO. Institutional knowledge may be lost.

### **Youth Search and Rescue**

The National Operations Manager started three weeks ago. Cultural and compliance role will start early October. There will be four new branches in 2024. Looking at demographics over 5-20 years. Carl McOnie and Steve have met. Sector partners are invited to look at targeting different areas for 2025 year.

Enrolments are underway for 2024; 250 students will be in the programmes in 2024.

Work has been completed on a systems development workshop with Datacom to look at what could be achieved by 2031. Datacom are having a hackathon next year and are looking for projects; SAR could be a topic

Going to Melbourne EDGE technology conference.

### **NZSAR Secretariat**

Aimee Flanagan was welcomed to the team as Senior Advisor, Learning and Development. As a result of a restructure the NZSAR Secretariat now has two teams. Andy is one of the team leaders and there will be one other plus two other staff. Recruitment has commenced.

Police Coordinators Workshop was held last week.



Transport accident investigation into the *Enchanter* has been released. The SAR recommendations are being implemented.

Flood rescue work: Work has continued, and agreement is being sought on NGOs and other agencies. This work has currently stalled. A more detailed update will be given to participants.

MNZ, Police and NZSAR Secretariat have been looking at future options for aviation in SAR. The two workstreams are likely to include aviation standards and enhancing the way we task aircraft for SAR. This will be discussed at the NZSAR Council on 5 September 2023 to seek endorsement to continue the work.

Richard noted he would like to be involved.

## 8. NZSAR Risk Matrix

This paper was not discussed due to the absence of the Director.

## 9. Exercise Whakarauora Tangata

Win van der Velde gave a presentation on the recent exercise as follows:

- Series of phases based around a central scenario.
- Cat II Maritime event – SAR led by RCCNZ.
- Exercise period – July 2023-May 2024.
- Four Police Districts have agreed to participate: Bay of Plenty Southern, Wellington, Eastern.
- In each District:
  - Tabletop Incident Management Team Exercise (IMTEX).
  - Functional SAREX to exercise the actual response.

### Objectives

- What we want to do/know is:
  - Confirm whether our existing plans, agreements, systems and procedures work – do we know who can do what, how to contact them, etc.
  - Do we understand our roles and responsibilities?
  - Are there areas that we have not considered?
  - Are there other risks?
- Focus is on processes and plans not testing individuals.
- Scenario: Boutique cruise ship floundering on approach to New Zealand. Cruise ship of approx. 350-400 ft with crew and passengers totalling 256 persons.
- Bay of Plenty District – 26 July 2023 – IMTEX led by Police  
Scenario: Ship hit Astrolabe Reef and due to a fire, crew and passengers were forced to evacuate. Weather caused lifeboats and life rafts to be spread across a range of islands and beach locations, as well as boats bringing people into the harbour.

45 planned for exercise and 68 turned up.  
SAR exercise in November 2023 in the South Island will follow the same theme.

In November 2023 – Ground, sea, air SAREX to practise functional coordination of response activities/plan developed on 26 July.

- Initial lessons and looking ahead
  - Increased understanding of capabilities/cross pollination of knowledge.
  - Better understanding of roles and responsibilities – still more needed on defining ‘swim lanes.’
  - Real time running of events worked well – 0600 start.
  - Need for an integrated IMT – not just Police.
  - Need to improve familiarity with CMS.
  - Need to maintain common operating picture – situational awareness.
  - Work to do on passage of information and information management.
  - Police Investigative Management Tool application tested as part of reconciliation process.

## 10. Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines

Dr Mick Kearney spoke to the paper.

The main point is that once the manual is implemented then can look in future at inland bodies of water and start looking for funding for a national campaign.

The following recommendations were endorsed by the committee:

- 1 That NZSAR Consultative Committee endorse “A Guide to Public Rescue Equipment for the New Zealand Coast.
- 2 The NZSAR Consultative Committee provide a letter endorsing sector support for “A Guide to Public Rescue Equipment for the New Zealand Coast.”

### Action

- Mick and Andy will liaise regarding sending a letter from either Andy or Duncan.

Adam thanked NZSAR Secretariat for the funding. This is a big step forward to standardise public rescue equipment. Work is taking place with Standards New Zealand to promote the guidelines.

Mick was thanked for his work.

## 11. Drift Modelling

Matt Wheble provided a background and stated that feedback had been received on the report, which has been discussed and reviewed by the Technology Forum.

This will assist in reducing drownings and locating people faster.

Matt spoke to the recommendations.

The Consultative Committee noted the report, and the recommendations made. While most of the committee supported the recommendation, Police required more time to consider the report.

It was agreed to put this on hold.

## **12. Changes to NZSAR Awards Policy**

Tania Seward spoke to the changes which were as follows:

The changes have come about because of discussions around Cyclone Gabrielle work, and queries about what happens when nominations are submitted by individuals but not backed by the respective agencies. There is also a minor administrative change

It was noted that some individuals may not be suitable for recognition, and that Support category nominations should come back to the agency for their comment. Tania does check with agencies.

The Consultative Committee agreed with the changes as follows:

- Add that additional Awards can be granted at the discretion of the NZSAR Council.
- Amend the wording of the policy of previous nominees not being able to be nominated a second time – as information on unsuccessful nominees is not shared on the NZSAR website.
- Add that nominations can only be withdrawn by the original nominator and/or their agency. Concerns about a nomination from another agency or an individual should be directed to the NZSAR Secretariat in writing and will be passed to the Awards panel for their consideration.

After a brief discussion, the Consultative Committee requested an additional change: To remove 'personal risk' as a selection criteria in the Operational category.

This policy will now be presented to the NZSAR Council for ratification.

It was noted that only one award nominee has been received for the 2023 Awards to date. Communications will be sent out soon requesting nominations.

## **13. Noting Paper – Quarterly Activity Report**

The Quarterly Activity report provided a summary of SAR activity during the period 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023. It was noted that there was a typo regarding the number of hours on page 6 for AREC.

## 14. Noting Paper - NZSAR Secretariat Workplan 2023-25

The Consultative Committee is invited to note the NZSAR Secretarial Workplan 2023-25.

## 15. General Business

There was no general business.

## 16. Next meeting

14 November 2023

## 17. Actions, decisions and noting

#	Item	Actions	Responsibility	Actions taken/ Status
7	<b>UAV Working Group</b>	<b>Action:</b> To be added to November 2023 meeting agenda.	Andy	
10	<b>Public Rescue Equipment Guidelines</b>	<b>Action:</b> Mick and Andy will liaise regarding sending a letter from either Andy or Duncan in support of PRE guidelines.	Andy & Mick	