

# **New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated**

## **Annual Report**



**For the year ending 30 June 2005**

**Cover photograph**

***Stretcher carry, Tauranga SAREX 2004. Photographer Bruce Sandford.***

**NZLSAR gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the New Zealand Police**

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## Voting Members of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc

**Seven Regional Representatives**  
**New Zealand Mountain Safety Council**  
**New Zealand Police**  
**Associate Member (Non voting)**  
**Amateur Radio Emergency Communications**

**N Z Federated Mountain Clubs**  
**Department of Conservation**  
**New Zealand Speleological Society**

### New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Committee Personnel Position and Residence

***Officers of the organisation.***

Roscoe Tait	Chairman	Auckland
John Walsh until February 2005	Deputy Chairman	Auckland
Tric Moller from February 2005	Deputy Chairman	Dunedin
Phil Rundle	Treasurer	Lower Hutt
Joe Hayes	Secretary	Nelson

***Regional Representatives.***

John Walsh until February 2005	Region One	Auckland
Roscoe Tait. Acting from February 2005	Region One	Auckland
Bruce Sandford	Region Two	Tauranga
Graham Thorp	Region Three	Taradale
Warrick Price	Region Four	Levin
Joe Hayes	Region Five	Nelson
Brian Holland	Region Six	Waikari
Tric Moller	Region Seven	Dunedin

***Deputy Regional Representatives.***

Dave Erson	Region One	Auckland
Brent Martin	Region Two	Tauranga
Ramash Swamy	Region Three	
John Scobie	Region Four	Stratford
Rod Lawrence	Region Five	Blenheim
Alan Gillespie	Region Six	Christchurch
	Region Seven	Wanaka

***Subcommittee Chairmen.***

Steve Davis	Communications	Christchurch
Clair Robertson	Search Dogs	Dunedin
Dave Erson	Specialist	Auckland
Barry Were	Training	Hamilton
Martin Grinsted until November 2004	NZ Speleological	Nelson
Colin Daniell from November 2004	Society	Christchurch

***Representatives of Organisations.***

Laurie Gallagher	FMC Representative	Raumati South
Wayne Hutchinson until May 2005	Dept. of	Christchurch
Don Bogie from May 2005	Conservation	Christchurch
Geoff Logan	New Zealand Police	Lower Hutt
Martin Grinsted until November 2004	NZ Speleological	Nelson
Colin Daniell from November 2004	Society	Christchurch

**The first object in the NZLSAR Constitution is:-**

To provide an effective and efficient land search and rescue capability throughout New Zealand.

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**Mission Statement**

**The Mission of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc. is:-**

- To be the provider of Land Search and Rescue expertise to the Police and public of New Zealand.
- To be recognised as a world leader in the provision of land search and rescue services.
- To encourage, support and provide opportunities for the development of search and rescue techniques.
- To provide encouragement and support to our SAR partners.

It is my privilege to present this the eleventh annual report of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated.

### **NZLSAR Committee Membership**

There were a number of changes to the membership of the national committee during the year. Warwick Price joined the Committee as Region Four Regional Representative, replacing Tony Macklin who had resigned in February 2004. Tric Moller resigned as Chairman of the Specialist Subcommittee and took on the role of Region Seven Regional Representative, replacing Russell Carr who had resigned in December 2003. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tric for the tremendous amount of work she has done in developing and nurturing the working Groups of the Specialist Subcommittee.

Dave Erson was appointed as the Specialist Subcommittee Chairman at the August National Committee meeting. John Walsh resigned as Region One Regional Representative and as deputy Chairman of NZLSAR in February 2004. Region One is having difficulty in finding a person to take on the Regional Representative role. For the time being Roscoe Tait is the acting Regional Representative. Tric Moller has been elected as the Deputy Chairman of NZLSAR with John's resignation.

At the AGM in August 2004 changes were made to the Standing Subcommittees section of the NZLSAR Constitution. The Aviation Subcommittee roles and functions incorporated as part of the Specialist Subcommittee remit. SAR Search Dogs were made a separate Standing Subcommittee. Clair Robertson was subsequently appointed Chairman of the Subcommittee. Martin Grinsted resigned as Chairman of the Underground Subcommittee and Colin Daniels was appointed by NZSS to fill the position from November 2004.

Wayne Hutchinson was appointed as the Department of Conservation (DoC) representative at the beginning of the year. However, he had to resign in April due to a change in his job with the Department of Conservation. Don Bogie,

who has been on the National Committee before as the DoC Representative, has been appointed as the DoC Representative. There have been a number of changes within the committee over the past year and, while it is sad to see people leave the National Committee, there is also a positive side in that it brings in new people with fresh ideas onto the National Committee. To those who have resigned, I would like to formally thank them for their time and contributions while they were on the Committee. The majority are still very active in SAR in their local area and we wish them all the best for the future.

### **Police Support:**

The support of the Police both locally and nationally is a major contribution to the success of NZLSAR. We are grateful for their continued support and encouragement at all levels of SAR across the country. Geoff Logan, the Police National SAR Coordinator, and our Field Officer, John Tristram, work along side each other at Police National Headquarters. This close liaison and the fact that John Tristram is regarded as part of the Operations Group at the Office of the Commissioner, has arisen from the good working relationship that has developed between the two organisations over the years.

### **Regional Committees and Representatives:**

The strength of the Land SAR organisation lies in the membership of the local SAR organisations around the country and in the relationships these organisations develop with the Police and within the regions. The regional committees play a vital role in this by communicating, coordinating training, etc with the Police and the SAR organisations within their region and the adjacent regions.

Chairman, Secretaries and Regional representatives, along with the other members of the Regional Committees play a vital role in the organisation. They are also heavily involved in SAR at both district and local level, which puts additional pressure on their time. The Regional Representative, along with the Deputy Regional Representative, play an

important role as they are the conduit between the Regions and the NZLSAR Committee and back to the Regions. Having this voice expressing the views and thoughts of the regions is one of the strengths of the organisation. The annual Regional Chairmen and Secretaries seminar in August each year is an excellent forum to air the views of the Regions.

#### **Standing Subcommittees:**

The Constitution of NZLSAR established five standing Subcommittees, the Chairmen of which are members of the NZLSAR Committee. These Subcommittees take on the bulk of the workload of NZLSAR and generally each subcommittee meets two or three times a year. The details of the activities of these Subcommittees over the past year are contained in the reports by the respective Chairmen further on in this annual report. Without the dedication of the Chairmen and members of these Subcommittees for the work that they undertake, NZLSAR would not be in such a strong position that it is at present. A summary of the activities of these Subcommittees is as follows:

#### **Communications Subcommittee;**

This subcommittee, chaired by Steve Davis, also acts as a technology subcommittee as it becomes more involved in areas outside pure radio communications. The development of SAR specific software programmes and their subsequent application and use in an operation has a huge potential to significantly enhance the operational management capabilities. This and other technological developments have led the Communication Subcommittee to examine its structure and consider the Specialist Subcommittee model of Working Groups.

#### **SAR Search Dogs Subcommittee:**

The SAR Search Dogs has been one of the outstanding successes of NZLSAR and this group is now a Standing Subcommittee in their own right. With its formation as a separate Standing Subcommittee, Clair Robertson's appointment as Chairman of the SAR Search Dogs was confirmed at the November 2004 Committee meeting. There are two four-day assessment courses run each year. The success is

such that the number of applicants on the assessment courses now have to be restricted. The number of assessed and certified SAR Dog teams continues to increase, especially in the North Island.

#### **Specialist Subcommittee:**

This Subcommittee was slightly restructured at the last AGM with SAR Dogs becoming a separate Subcommittee and Aviation now becoming part of this group. The Subcommittee is now made up of the Aviation, Medical, Swift Water Rescue and Vertical Rescue Working Groups. With the resignation of Tric Moller as Chairman and the separation of the SAR Dogs in August 2004, Dave Erson was appointed chair. Tric did a sterling job in getting the structure of the Working groups established and working extremely well.

- **Aviation:** There has been no activity with this group for a number of years. However, the circulation of the draft Helicopter Rescue Standards has created some discussion which hopefully will lead to a revival of this group.
- **Medical:** The development of academic standards for the Nominated SAR First Aider/Medic is progressing and when completed will fill a vital role in the response capability of our SAR Groups. .
- **Swift Water:** This group is relatively new and there was a well attended national Swift Water Symposium during the week prior to the NZLSAR Conference.
- **Vertical Rescue:** The revised draft of the Helicopter Rescue Standard has been circulated for wider comment.

#### **Training Subcommittee:**

The relationship with Tai Poutini Polytechnic and SARINZ continues to develop and grow as does the number of courses being run each year. With course fees covered by the Polytechnic, NZLSAR is able to use its funds in other areas. There has also been a significant improvement in the courses that are offered through Tai Poutini Polytechnic. SARINZ, as the major course provider, continues to put in a considerable amount of work in developing a robust framework for the courses it provides. This includes:-

- Comprehensive course work books
- An assessment process
- Pre-course requirements and work

SARINZ has been able to expand the number of instructors and as a result they now have the ability to run several courses on the same weekend as well as offering a much wider range of courses. This change now allows the Training Subcommittee to focus on broader issues such as policy, course content, etc.

As a result of the work of the Adviser Review Group, it was clear that the Adviser's role had changed considerably with the adoption of the CIMS model for the control of SAR operations. What also became obvious was that there was no document that clearly identified and explained the various roles that could possibly be filled (depending on the size of the operation) during an operation under the CIMS model. A working group of the Training Subcommittee was set up to develop a Guideline on CIMS for SAR and a draft document has been circulated for comment.

#### **Underground Subcommittee**

Colin Daniell has taken on the role of chair of this subcommittee with the resignation of Martin Grinstead. This group has been liaising with the Vertical Rescue Working Group and is now undertaking some research and development into rope systems as used in the underground environment.

#### **Finance:**

We now appear to have reached the cap with regard to the amount NZLSAR can expect to receive from the Police as our grant each year. The figure that has been indicated to NZLSAR is \$239,000. In order for the organisation to continue to grow we either have to have a good case to argue for an increased amount for the Police or find some additional funding from alternative sources. This topic was part of the discussion at the Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Seminar in August. A small working group of Dave Erson and Dave Robertson was established and empowered to look at alternative funding sources. They approached the NZSAR Council who were also looking at funding for the SAR sector. A paper was prepared for presentation to the Government via the NZSAR Council. Unfortunately, despite establishing a sound and arguable case the paper has not, as yet, progressed beyond the NZSAR Council.

#### **NZLSAR Review:**

In the eleven years since the formation of NZLSAR in November 1994, the organisation has grown rapidly, matured and achieved a tremendous amount during a relatively short period of time. At the time of the formation of the organisation, the National Committee of NZLSAR developed a series of goals, many of which came out of the workshops held in the early 1990's. They were believed needed to be achieved in order for land SAR in New Zealand to move forward and to improve the skills of its members and thus the response capability of the organisation. NZLSAR has now reached the stage where the majority of these goals have been achieved (or substantially so), especially in the areas of training and the development of standards. The mechanisms are also in place to ensure that these achievements are ongoing and sustainable.

SAR has changed significantly since the formation NZLSAR. Some of these changes have been driven by NZLSAR and others have come from external influences. The outdoor recreation industry has undergone a tremendous expansion with a huge range of 'new' activities being undertaken in a variety of different terrains by people with variable skill levels. Land SAR has had to respond to these changes and develop appropriate response capabilities. The skills and knowledge that is now expected of our members have also increased enormously. All of this has put a tremendous amount of pressure on our volunteer members.

The implementation the Health and Safety in Employment Amendment Act in May 2002 has put additional requirements on SAR organisations, mainly with the requirement to maintain good records of the training, assessment and experience of their members to ensure that they are capable and competent to undertake SAR operations. This raised the question about what support NZLSAR can or should provide to local, district and regional committees.

NZLSAR is now at the point where it needs to take stock and think about where it wants to be in ten of fifteen years time.

We need to look at issues such as retention, recruitment and training of our volunteers; response capabilities and issues such as funding, etc.

What has been lacking is a well thought out and structured Strategic plan for the organisation. In fact the development of such a plan is vital for the ongoing success of NZLSAR. To achieve this we need to seek the views of a wide range of people and agencies and to do this within a reasonable time frame. The use of an external agency reduces the possibility of bias and achieves the time frame. The Committee has engaged the services of Design Torque Ltd to undertake the collection of data, information and views and facilitate a workshop to develop the strategic plan.

### **SAR Statistics**

Each year the SAR Statistics are published by the Police. As our end of year and the Police reporting period coincide, it takes a little while to collate and check the numbers so only some interim figures are available for this annual report. However, an analysis of the figures that are available for the past year and a comparison with previous years gives some interesting results. While the number of operations each year has been steadily rising the number of hours per operation has decreased and has been below the 10-year average for the last four years. When one looks at the trend lines for Hours per Operation and Number of training courses there is a definite correlation between training and the reduction in the number of hours for an operation.

### **Conference**

An extremely successful NZLSAR conference was held at Hopuhopu during the weekend of 16/17 October 2004. This was the second conference that NZLSAR has held and this one more closely followed the model of the Washington State SAR Conference with pre-conference workshops during the week prior to the conference. With the generous assistance of SARINZ Ltd, several overseas speakers were invited to attend to run a number of pre-conference workshops and to present papers at the conference. These presenters were more than complemented by many excellent

papers given by New Zealand SAR practitioners. I would like to thank SARINZ Ltd for their assistance in bring out Skip Stoffel, Bob Koester, Paul Green, Martin Colwell and Reed Thorne for the conference.

### **New Zealand Search and Rescue Council**

Laurie Gallagher continues to be the NZLSAR Representative on the NZSAR Council Consultative Committee. The SAR Council's focus is on the wider SAR picture and is mainly involved in high level policy and funding issues. The funding proposal mentioned above was developed in conjunction with the SAR Council.

### **NZLSAR Awards:**

Twenty five nominations were made to the NZLSAR Committee for NZLSAR Awards during the year. These were all passed by the committee and I would like to congratulate the recipients and to thank them for their contribution to SAR. The NZLSAR Awards are important in that they are a way for SAR organisations and NZLSAR to acknowledge, in a tangible way, the significant contribution that the recipients have made to Land SAR over many years.

### **Thanks:**

There are numerous people and organisations that deserve thanks for the assistance that they have given to NZLSAR over the past year. It is impossible to mention them all by name, as they have all made a valuable contribution that is very much appreciated. However, there are some who deserve special mention.

Firstly, the members of the NZLSAR Committee who not only give their time and input as members of the National Committee but are also active within their local, District and Regional SAR organisations. My sincere thanks to every one of you for your continued dedication and commitment to land search and rescue.

To those who Chair the Subcommittees and Working groups and the members of these groups who are the powerhouses that do a lot of the work for the National Committee. We are grateful for your efforts in developing programmes,

standards, training, etc. Without the work that these groups do, the organisation would not function at the level it does. It is through your work and dedication that we have managed to make such a tremendous improvement in the skill and knowledge levels of our members. Thank you for a job well done.

The five organisations that assisted in the formation of NZLSAR: Department of Conservation, Police, Federated Mountain Clubs, New Zealand Speleological Society and the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council, should be commended for their continued support and assistance. The Police, in particular, continue to strongly support NZLSAR. Apart from providing an office and associated facilities for our Field Officer they also provide support for all the SAR organisations around the country.

Thanks to our Field Officer, John Tristram, who keeps the wheels turning and spends a significant proportion of his time encouraging and cajoling busy volunteers with limited time to complete the various tasks they have undertaken for the organisation.

Thanks also to the Police from the National Operations Group, Tony McLeod, Gerry Prins and Geoff Logan for the support and encouragement they provide to NZLSAR and, in particular, to John Tristram. It is this close working relationship between our two organisations that is one of the major strengths of land search and rescue in New Zealand.

The strength of our organisation lies with our volunteers, the many people who give freely of their time and energy for SAR. Each person's contribution is different, depending on their ability, skills, other commitments, etc. All contributions, no matter how small, are welcomed and valued. They all go to make up what is a unique organisation that we can all be proud to belong to. To all these people, I wish to record a very special thanks for their efforts and contributions during the past year. Without your input NZLSAR would not be able to provide the high level of service it does to the public of New Zealand.

**Roscoe Tait**  
NZLSAR Chairman

### **National Field Officer's Report**

**W**ell I have just returned from a quick visit with Geoff Logan to see the second search for the woman missing in the Catchpole. The Incident Control Point was a large room in the Department of Conservation building at the Catchpole Visitors Centre with the communications taking place in a small side room. A network of computers hummed away and a colour printer churned out maps and written instructions. On one wall was a large TUMONZ map projected there from the data projector and it showed not just the total area but with different coloured lines where teams had searched. A variety of icons indicated the clues found or "places of interest". Nonchalantly overseeing the use of TUMONZ was a young chap, so young I wondered why he wasn't at school. However his quick orders to "click on that icon", "click on such and such in the drop down box" quickly showed and was confirmed by an aside from the Planning and Intelligence Manager that he was one of the "local TUMONZ gurus".

After a briefing by the Operations Manager I wandered outside and watched as a Search Team prepared to depart on a task. These people were going to do the same sort of task that I had done as a team member back in the mid 80's. As searchers they would do as I had done then, push through the scrub and at the end of one sweep, turn around and do another. But typically of so many searchers around New Zealand, these were different from my time and the difference was much deeper than the VHF radio in the chest harness and the ever recording GPS. Even the yellow vest while showing that these were people "with a purpose", didn't reveal the differences.

Sitting back in the office I am mulling over all those differences and trying to get them into some sort of perspective. I remember, some time in the late 80's, one of the last searches I was involved in where I had the role of Field Controller. A very young girl accompanied by an elderly male was missing in a patch of bush behind Eastbourne. I was operating out of a

pokey one-car garage, virtually on my own. A map with a sheet of acetate on it and some coloured pencils. A couple of sheets of carbon paper and a pile of message pads and off you go.

The difference of the SAR skill requirements for those I saw today at the search, compared to only a few years ago can only be described as huge. And this goes through all the facets of SAR from management to those with packs on. When the tramping club I was a member of encouraged me to become involved in search and rescue the main attribute they would have considered was that I was a "gun trumper". After a couple of searches, attending the annual SAREX and largely because I had a loud voice and a 6 feet 5 height I was considered able to be a Team Leader. And so after several more searches (no operations in those days) another couple of SAREX's and I became an assistant Field Controller. How very much different today are so many of the participants in land search and rescue.

Progressive SAR organisations now have an annual training programme with some sort of training most months of the year. Unlike searchers of not so long ago, those of today are expected to take the opportunity of attending courses on track and clue awareness, search methods, SAR First Aid, urban search, various rope courses and for Team Leaders there is a team leadership course. On the management side the Coordinated Incident Management System has been introduced to give structure and define roles and responsibility. For those working in the ICP there is a 40 hour Managing Land Search Operation Course to learn the techniques, methods and tools of modern search management. No more by intuition and flying by the seat of your pants.

And those search tools and techniques have increased. Even a few years ago the thought of using a search dog was looked at with some disdain, swift water rescue was virtually unheard of, Alzheimers was a difficult word to spell, not something you could do search training for. A laptop with Iman, Gman, Toolman, TUMONZ, Maptoaster – the list goes on.

And I believe it is no coincidence that so much of this change has come about during the 11 years of NZLSAR's existence. From its conception NZLSAR has asked "is there a better way"? It introduced Standards starting with those for Advisers which it took around the country and presented to nearly every Adviser. It saw the training offered by Emergency Management Limited, thought it was good and got finance from the Police so courses could be run for several years. Then when Tai Poutini Polytechnic picked up the cost with SARINZ as the training provider, NZLSAR continued to encourage training by paying much of the associated costs such as accommodation and venue. Then with much of the basic instruction and training being provided, NZLSAR introduced the now annual combined Regional Officers and Committee meeting. As well it provides financial incentives and encouragement for Regional Seminars and the biennial Conference, all designed to get the more senior people involved, meeting and talking. NZLSAR has and looks set to continue encouraging search dogs, medical, swift water and research for communications and underground. And now it has contracted consultants to look at the very structure of SAR to see where change is needed.

And all this reminiscing of years past brings me to the one just gone which was really just a slice of all of the above albeit a fuller and busier one. It has been an extensive, diverse and totally rewarding year. Sure there has been the odd rocky bit but that is in the nature of working with a wide and diverse group of people. I mean, I even got bitten by a search dog and they are the most favoured part of my job.

I have been welcomed too and taken part in Regional meetings in Regions Two, Four, Five, Six and Seven. I have been to numerous NZLSAR Award presentations, which are always a way for an organisation to say thanks to a member. I have attended in part or whole three dog courses where I found, as previously, the dogs are as interesting and as much fun to be with as their handlers (and the handlers are nice). I have had weekly meetings with the Treasurer and as always found his guidance invaluable. I have been invited

to and attended the Regional Seminars in Region Two and Four and will attend the Region Six and Seven combined Seminar on the 09/10 July. What I have enjoyed was regularly attending the Wairarapa, Wellington and Levin SAR Organisation meetings. I am very mindful that so much of the work that is done is done by volunteers in their own time and it was good to meet with so many of them over the past year.

And so a final word of thanks. To those mentioned above, the Committee members who employ me right through to

those who did what they may have thought was relatively unimportant and wrote an article for the News. I appreciate it all. And my biggest thanks go to those who give up free time and attend the training course supported financially by NZLSAR. You justified all the bits of paper I handled and I believe you will be the ones providing the most appropriate level of support for those lost or injured in the outdoors. Again thank you.

**John P Tristram**  
NZLSAR National Field Officer.

## Police Report

The last year has passed very quickly and many changes have occurred during those 12 months. The major event that impacted on the world was the Boxing Day Tsunami. Whilst the event occurred many miles from our shores the impact of the event has been felt by many. New Zealand Police were quick to offer a Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) response to Thailand and will continue to provide assistance in Phuket until the end of 2005. Over 100 NZ Police have spent 3 weeks or longer assisting in Thailand. As the majority of these people are SAR persons their absence will have impacted on SAR near you. Thank you for your patience when a less than optimal response is achieved in meeting non-operational requests.

### **SAR Statistics Data Collection Form (P130)**

The P130 forms have seen more complete capture of incidents that are SAR related. Action is still being taken to address the recovery of useful data from the system and also accessibility for the form for non-police.

### **Master Standard Operating Procedures (MSOPs)**

Many of you will be aware of the change that is occurring in marine SAR. With the transition of Marine (Salt water) SAR from Police to Maritime Safety Authority being managed over the next 12- 18 months change will continue to occur. Police MSOPs and District Mobilisation Plans (DMP's) on the Intranet have been amended to reflect the changing operating environment.

### **SAR Controllers Courses**

The courses were successfully completed by Police and NZLSAR members 8-19 August 2004, with good representation from both organisations. This enabled 36 people to complete the MLSO course. Unfortunately Coastguard made the decision not to support the Marine Search Controllers course. Police are committed to ensuring our members receive the requisite training, putting 32 members through the course, working on the premise "Knowledge is light in the backpack and not easily left at home". Police will continue to provide coordination for Class II coastal and inland waterway SAR responses until the transition is complete.

### **SAR Council/Secretariat**

The SAR Council is committed to seeking the best way forward in progressing a robust business case for sustainable funding for SAR through Government. Police continue to support this initiative and have offered advice and assistance to complete the required work.

### **CIMS/Field Guide**

At the time of writing, drafts of a guide on CIMS for SAR and the NZLSAR Field Guide were near completion. Both should assist in ensuring knowledge is being updated.

### **The Local Scene**

Thanks to all who have provided hospitality over the past year at various events. A much enjoyed and well attended quiz night at Masterton was held

at the start of the year and one of the larger exercises held was Exercise Blue Sky in Auckland which was an inter-agency exercise. Throughout the year numerous committee meetings were held, all of which take time to plan and coordinate and those who do so often go unnoticed. Thank you to all those who assisted in all these events from planning, coordination, umpiring and training through to those who participated. Each of your efforts aids in furthering a professional and timely response to those in need.

### **The Year Ahead**

With significant changes occurring with marine SAR, documents requiring updating, and the business case being

prepared, the current year is looking to be another busy one. The past year has seen your efforts help resolve 680 Land SAR incidents, a slight increase from 03/04. I believe that this trend will continue as we better capture the jobs we attend and as more people find the great outdoors more accessible.

I hope together we shall be able to continue to make significant advances in the efficiency and effectiveness of our SAR response and assist others in finding safe and enjoyable ways to explore our scenic land.

### **Geoff Logan**

Police National Coordinator: Search and Rescue

## **Department of Conservation Report**

**D**epartment of Conservation staff in many sites around the country assisted with SAR operations during the year. At Aoraki/Mount Cook the departments alpine rescue team were involved in 21 operations which included recovering five bodies from the three operations that involved fatalities.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of May the Prime Minister opened the new Emergency Services building at Aoraki/Mount Cook. The Emergency Services building cost \$370,000 (approx), with contributions from DoC, the NZ Police, South Canterbury St Johns, McKenzie District Council and Mt Cook village stakeholders. It houses the

Alpine SAR Team, Mt Cook First Response Ambulance, Mt Cook Fire Tender, DoC Rural Fire equipment, Civil Defence and provides a control room for the incident management team for any emergencies in the National Park.

During the year the department's representative to the committee changed from Wayne Hutchinson from DoC's Southern Regional Office to Don Bogie the Technical Support Manager for Canterbury Conservancy.

### **Don Bogie**

Department of Conservation  
Representative

## **Region One Report**

**R**egion One consists of three SAR organisations: Far North SAR based in Kerikeri, Northland SAR based in Whangarei and Auckland Land SAR. Generally the past year has been a relatively quiet one for the Region. Having said that, there were two events of note during the year; these being the week long

search for Iraena Asher at Piha in October and AKLSAR's participation in organising and running of the CureKids Great Adventure Race in April.

The members of the Region One Committee are:-

### **Roger Ladd**

Chairman, Adviser, Far North SAR, Kerikeri

### **Kevin Bell**

Secretary, Northland SAR, Whangarei

### **Grant Conaghan**

Adviser, Northland SAR, Whangarei

### **Dave Erson**

Regional Training Coordinator and Deputy Regional Representative, Auckland Land SAR

### **Roscoe Tait**

Treasurer and Acting Regional Representative, Adviser, Auckland Land SAR

### **Mark Hall, Police**

Inspector, Auckland

**Glenn Hawke** Northland SAR, Whangarei  
**Pete McGhee** Far North SAR, Kerikeri  
**Cliff Metcalfe** SAR Sergeant, Whangarei

The Regional Committee, while maintaining contact via phone and emails, had not had a face to face meeting for some time for a variety of reasons. In May the Regional Committee did meet and new officeholders were elected. The Regional Committee has made a commitment to encourage more participation in joint events and to meet regularly, with the next meeting scheduled for August 2005.

### **SAR Awards**

Two long serving members of the Region and Auckland Land SAR, John Walsh, Adviser and Roger Curl, both from Auckland, retired from Search and Rescue in February 2005 and were nominated for a NZLSAR Award. John Walsh has been involved with SAR for almost 30 years, many of them as a Land SAR Adviser in Auckland. John has made a significant contribution to both Auckland Land SAR and to the NZLSAR. He held a number of positions in Land SAR; he was Chairman of the Region One Regional Committee as well as being the Regional Representative and Deputy Chairman of NZLSAR.

Roger Curl has been involved in Auckland SAR for some 25 years and has given sterling service during his long association with Auckland land SAR. Roger was involved with the setting up and running of the AKLSAR SAR Skills Weekends, which were aimed at giving prospective new members a taste and an understanding of what is involved in search and rescue. From these initial courses he developed the NZLSAR Field Guide which has been distributed around the country.

An appropriate Award ceremony is scheduled for later this year. The presentation of these awards is a fitting recognition of the long service that John and Roger have given to SAR over the years.

### **NZLSAR Conference**

Several members from Region One attended the NZLSAR Conference and pre-conference courses held at Hopuhopu in October 2004. All those who attended found it extremely worthwhile both for the content of the courses and papers at the

conference as well as the net-working opportunities. Region Two and their Conference Organising Committee are to be congratulated on a well run event. We are all looking forward to the next conference in 2006.

### **Training**

Training has been reasonably steady over the year and consists of a mixture of locally organised and run training and external courses. A number of Tai Poutini Polytechnic courses, mainly using SARINZ trainers, have been run throughout the Region. Over the year the following courses have been run:- TCA -1 (2), Search Methods (2), TUMONZ, Team Leader (2), First Aid (2). In addition there has been local training exercises and SAREXs.

Planning is well underway for a Regional SAREX to be held in the Whangarei area in September 2005. While some members of the three SAR groups participate from time to time in each others SAREXs, this is the first time that there has been a full Regional SAREX.

### **Operations**

The two northern SAR Groups (Far North and Northland) do, from time to time, assist each other on SAROPs. This year there have been few operations in the northern part of the Region. Most of the SAROPs that have occurred have either been just notifications or, if the teams have been called out, have been resolved very quickly.

Auckland SAR, on the other hand, has been a little busier with some 19 notifications during the year. However, for over half of the notifications the FIRST group was called out but not deployed as the situation had resolved itself during this initial phase. In a couple of cases the only deployment has been our SAR Search Dog team of Malcolm York and Jack. AKLSAR continues to assist the Police with urban searches for people suffering from dementia, usually of the Alzheimers type.

There was, however, one major search operation in Auckland during the past year. This was the search for Iraena Asher who went missing at Piha, a small Auckland seaside community on the west side of the Waitakere Ranges. This search, which occurred during the NZLSAR pre-conference courses in October, lasted for five days and was unsuccessful in finding any sign of her at all. Iraena's whereabouts is still unknown and is of concern to all those who took part in the search and in particular for her friends and family. This was the first major SAR operation to have occurred in the Auckland area for many years. The teams worked extremely hard in what were very trying conditions.

The other major event that occurred in the AKLSAR area was the CureKids Great Adventure Race, which was held in the southern Waitakere Ranges on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2005. This event was held for the first time last year. As with last year, AKLSAR developed the race safety plan as well as providing the radio communications, checkpoint marshals and a SAR response for all of the off-road sections of the race. This year's race was extremely successful, with 35 teams from 20 companies participating in an event which was longer than last year and had more off track sections. The thirty five members of AKLSAR FIRST Team assisted on race day in a variety of roles, including running race control. Many of them had also spent a number of days

assisting with scoping the route and in developing the communications plan. Four repeaters were required to give the required radio coverage and the use of the Floppy Jim VHF handheld aerials made a significant difference to the coverage that could be achieved. The race raised \$440,000 for CureKids, which uses the money to fund medical research into children's illnesses.

#### **Publicity**

AKLSAR has been able to obtain some funding by talking to some of the Lions Clubs in the Auckland area. As a result they were invited to have a SAR display at the Lions 50<sup>th</sup> Convention held in Auckland over ANZAC weekend. The offer was taken up as it was a great opportunity to spread the SAR message nationwide and publicise and explain the work that Land SAR volunteers do for the community to the Lions Clubs. Hopefully, other SAR organisation can now pick up on this and obtain some funding through this initiative.

#### **Acknowledgments**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers for giving their time so freely to SAR. Not only for the operations, but more importantly for the time and effort they have put into training to maintain and hone their skills and in learning new skills.

#### **Roscoe Tait**

Acting NZLSAR Region One Representative

### **Region Two Report**

The Region Two Committee Officers are:-

<b>Tiena Jordan</b>	Chairman	<b>Donna Bergerson</b>	Secretary
<b>Brent Martin</b>	Treasurer	<b>Bruce Sandford</b>	Regional Rep/Training Coordinator

We have ten areas within the Region, each area has two representatives, with one having voting power at the Regional meetings, and one Police representative. These are Taupo, Turangi, Hamilton, Waitomo, Thames, Tauranga, Rotorua, Kuaotuna (a new group), Whakatane and Waihi.

The Region has two meetings a year, (February and July) held at the Rotorua Police Station. Average attendees at each meeting is 20 people.

Over the last financial year the Region has run about 24 TPP courses with an average of about 90% turnout for each course.

The main changes that have happened within the Region was the formation of a new area (Kuaotuna) up by Whitianga, and Opotiki becoming incorporated with the Whakatane Group. The second is yet to be finalised.

Goals achieved. A very successful SAR conference last October near Hamilton. Two very good SAR dog Training weekends.

**Bruce Sandford**  
NZLSAR Region Two Representative

### Region Three Report

Another good year for the people who support SAR in Region Three. The Region continues to be very active and involved in all aspects of SAR. In preparing this report I happened to come across the first report I wrote when Region Three came into existence in its present form. I repeat the first paragraphs here as they are still very relevant in today's climate:-

*"This is the first year in operation for the Eastern Region and it has generally been a year where people have been looking at a new focus having evolved out of parts of the old Regions 2 and 3 following the changes to the constitution and structure of the NZLSAR Regions.*

*I have found the changes very stimulating, in that the Region has its own character and while it follows all the tried and true methods of SAR, the emphasis can be a little different to the approach in other areas. It is also interesting to find that each of the areas that make up the Region Three, (Hawke's Bay, Wairoa & Gisborne), have a similar approach to SAR so there is a strong affinity between the areas and all goes well for inter-area support for the big operations.*

*The committee has some very active people who are keen to get in and do the 'real' work of SAR. (i.e. the work at the coal face). The commitment for the political side has less support but I don't see this as a bad thing so long as we can find sufficient people to fill the key jobs. This allows the concentration of work to be focused on the practical side of the job which is where it should be if the interest of the team is to be maintained."*

The Region continues to work in support of SAR in much the same way as described several years ago. However, as we move ahead and observe the developments at national level we believe it is now time for the Region to spell out clearly what our situation is and where we need to go to provide effective support to

the Police in the Region. Some national policy decisions have been less than useful to the Region and while we will continue to be mindful of national thinking, it has become clear that we need to work more closely and directly with the District Police to provide the services they require.

#### **Operations**

Incidents have been slightly up on the last couple of years and it would be good to be able to describe all operations as successful. Certainly, more than 95% of all incidents were resolved effectively and efficiently. In fact 100% of the operations have been resolved by SAR initiatives. However, in the absence of an agreed definition of a successful operation it is less easy to class the remaining 5% of operations. While these have all been resolved through SAR initiatives, the circumstances surrounding the location of the victim made the solutions beyond the limits of normal search methods.

Work is being undertaken within the region to isolate the problem incidents and effect solutions to assist us in similar future situations. Each year we seem to find that incidents have a tendency to follow a common theme. No reasons for this have been found as there is little background commonality between the incidents but it continues to suggest that lessons learned from debriefs can be extremely useful with subsequent incidents.

#### **Training**

Seminars supported by NZLSAR have continued in the Region and have been well supported. As in previous years the seminars have been conducted in the field in the Wairoa area. They are held over two days and cover virtually all topics covered in the new policy introduced by the National Committee. Other SAR topics of interest to the Region are also included. More than 60 SAR personnel from throughout the Region have participated on each occasion and it is difficult to see why the National Committee have problems with these seminars when so

many people are gathering to further the aims and objectives of SAR over a full weekend.

National courses undertaken during the year include:- Mapping with computers in Gisborne, TCA in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay, First Aid in Hawke's Bay and a TCA course in Wairoa has been programmed for early in July. At the time of writing, reports received from the attendees have all been positive. They are ideal for new members and give them a good introduction to many of the skills required on operations.

In addition to the above all areas have continued with their local SAREX's and training programmes. These are particularly important as the information gained from National Courses cannot be put into perspective and the initiative can quickly be lost if the national training is not followed by both local training and real operations. The Region doesn't see the need for regular running of the same national course as most of our members have been working in the area for between 10 and 40 years. They not only have in-depth knowledge of the areas in which we operate, they have also had an in-depth experience in SAR for most of their outdoor life.

### **Conclusions**

The solution to what could be classed as an unsuccessful operation, especially those that fail to find the victim for what ever reason, needs to be identified and researched to find methods of tightening up our performance. Our statistics don't currently identify these important results sufficiently to allow the work to be done on them but it is clear that there has been more non result operations nationally over the last two years than has occurred in our Region in the last 40 years. I would hazard a guess at the possible reasons but I have insufficient information to make a definite call.

One of Dave Brewer's key recommendations in his report to NZLSAR was to undertake a 'needs analysis' to identify the resources (in all forms) that are required to maintain a successful SAR organisation in each area. Clearly this hasn't been achieved and urgent work is required to get this aspect of SAR

organisation and control completed. In undertaking this work it is important to ensure that the following key points are adhered to when undertaking the 'needs analysis'. These include:-

- A structured approach based on the needs of the victim.
- Only operations that require a full activation of volunteers or the dispatch of volunteers into the field should be considered in the 'needs analysis' of resources.
- Incidents that amount to alerts, roadside or ski field rescues and the like, can be used to indicate the potential for an incident but care must be taken not to let these incidents distort the 'needs analysis'. Our current statistics appear to have a strong emphasis on the insignificant incidents which will require a lot of work to sort out what is or isn't relevant.
- The 'needs analysis' should include the types of skills required and the level of training necessary to maintain a suitable response to each specific area. For example, alpine operations generally require small teams of highly trained volunteers whereas low level bush requires different skills and often huge search areas.
- The needs analysis must be undertaken by the skilled local SAR people (probably advisers) who have an in-depth knowledge of their own area of operation. External assistance may be offered, if an area requires guidance but in most cases it wouldn't be necessary.
- The national body needs to recognise the results of a 'needs analysis' and provide support that reflects that result rather than follow a national model that doesn't apply in all respects to all areas.

I note that some areas are claiming high increases in incidents. If this is really the case then a good 'needs analysis' will identify what resources and training is needed for that area but this should not be justification to force similar resources and

training on other areas with different needs. The trend in operations in many areas including Region Three has been relatively static for more than 40 years.

Training needs should be more clearly analysed. There is no better training than that which is obtained from a real operation followed by an in-depth debrief. If this is the case one needs to ask why areas with increasing numbers of operations require higher levels of training.

We need to lift the bar so we can improve on our performance on the difficult operations. I believe we are essentially

rearranging existing known skills that are already in use. There are many ways we could extend our research to improve on that situation. Many of our programmes are the result of committee and sub committee decisions. Better results would be achieved from solid research documented and published in a manual of best practice. The manual should take account of local needs and be subject to continuous review.

**Graham Thorp**  
NZLSAR Region Three Representative

## Region Four Report

**T**he members of the Region Four Committee are:-

<b>Laurie Gallagher</b>	Chairman, Wellington
<b>Jenny McCarthy</b>	Secretary (elected 5/05), Palmerston North
<b>Rod Smillie</b>	Secretary (resigned 3/05) Wanganui
<b>Sheryl Turner</b>	Treasurer, Levin
<b>Warrick Price</b>	Regional Representative, Levin
<b>Ramash Swamy</b>	Deputy Regional Representative, Taranaki
<b>Jean Garman</b>	Training Coordinator, Palmerston North
<b>Dave Kerwin</b>	Wanganui
<b>Peter Finucane</b>	Waimarino
<b>Murray Johnston</b>	Police, Masterton
<b>Bill Nicholson</b>	Police, Palmerston North
<b>Matt Prendergast</b>	Police, Taranaki
<b>Neil Higgins</b>	Taranaki
<b>Joanne Holden</b>	Police, Wellington
<b>Peter Karam</b>	Police, Taumarunui
<b>Darcy Forrester</b>	Police, Wanganui

### Committee Membership

Due to work pressures Rod Smillie resigned as our secretary in March of this year. Expressions of interest were called for and Jenny McCarthy from Pahiatua was elected to the position. Sheryl Turner has indicated that she will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM in September, and Ramash Swamy has also indicated he will be standing down as

Deputy Regional Representative at the AGM.

### Region Meetings

The Committee is meeting four times a year - after every NZLSAR committee meeting which allows for a good information flow at the Regional meeting. There has been a much better representation from the districts at the committee meetings this year.

## Training

Jean Garman has done a good job coordinating the regions courses. During the year we ran the following Regional courses:

Tracking	18	24/25 July 2004	Palmerston North
MLSO	14	30 July /02 August 2004	Wellington
MLSO	12	Aug. (2 x National courses)	Wellington
TCA1	20	21/22 August 2004	Wellington
Team Leader	18	September 2004	Taranaki
First Aid	15	02/03 October 2004	Wairarapa
Helicopter	?	02/03 October 2004	Taranaki ACR
Search Methods	21	29/31 October 2004	Palmerston North
TCA	20	12/13 February 2005	Palmerston North
Iman/Gman	11	19/20 February 2005	Palmerston North
Search Methods	14	12/13 March 2005	Wellington
TCA	16	19/20 March 2005	Taumarunui
Iman/Gman	12	09/10 April 2005	Wellington
Foundation Ropes	20	16/17 April	Wellington
Search Methods	15	31 April/01 May 2005	Wairarapa
Team Leader	17	07/08 May 2005	Wellington
TCA1	15	14/15 May 2005	Wellington
TUMONZ	11	21/22 May 2005	Wellington
First Aid	20	12/13 June 2005	Palmerston North
CIMS 4	11	25/26 June 2005	Wellington

As well as these, DoC organised a MLSO course in Ohakune in May with SARINZ, which was also attended by three SAR members from our region, plus some from Region 2.

### Dogs

There has been a noticeable increase in the use of search dogs on operations, and more dogs are coming through the system. Region Four now has two NZLSAR dogs available for operations - Sue Chesterfield and Nugget passed the assessment for air-scenting at the North Island Wilderness Search Dog training and assessment week at Tihoi in April, and Grant Cooper and Luka have moved to Region Four (Waiouru) from Hamilton.

### Regional SAR Competition

This was hosted by Taranaki on 28 May and was hugely successful. It was considered a highlight of the year. The Palmerston North team won the competition. Wellington will host next year's competition.

### Operations

#### Taranaki

32 SAR operations. Of these, 11 operations took over 100 hours to resolve. The most significant were:

- Keays/Strid, Fanthams Peak, September 04 (Lost)
- Velasco, Egmont, November 04 (fall, broken ankle)
- Hoskin/Stratford, Egmont summit, November 04 (fatal plane crash)
- Quince, Paritutu, January 05 (Suicide)
- Washer, Waingongoro Track, February 05 (fall, head injury)
- Vernon, Egmont summit, March 05 (death)
- Whittaker, Awakino, June 05 (missing)

#### Taumarunui

Four SAR operations. The most significant was:

- Hooker, Tongariro Forest, 5 days, December 04 (body located outside search area)

#### Wanganui

Four SAR operations. The most significant was:

- Kirkby, Wanganui, four days
- Hooker (as for Taumarunui, above)

#### Palmerston North

55 operations involving volunteers. The most significant were:

- Dent, Ruapehu, October 04 (lost)
- Demalmance, Manawatu River, November 04

- Hunt, Manawatu River, November 04

### **Masterton**

14 SAR operations. The most significant was

- Webster search, Tararuas, 2 days, August 04 (hypothermia, diabetic problems)
- Wilkinson (as for Wellington, below)

### **Wellington**

106 callouts, of which 56 required only police action and 37 more involved

discussion with an Adviser. Twelve became operations utilising volunteers.

Most significant were:

- Wilkinson, Four days, Tararuas, January 05 (hypothermia & exhaustion)
- Alexander, Paraparaumu, four days, May 05 (unresolved)
- Stewart, Orongorongos, six days, June 05 (unresolved)

### **Warrick Price**

NZLSAR Region Four Representative.

## Region Five (Tasman) Report

**T**he members of the Region Five Committee are:-

**John Scobie**, Blenheim, Chairman  
**Leanne Edwards**, Secretary, Nelson  
**Eric Macdonald**, St Arnaud, Treasurer  
**Joe Hayes**, Nelson, Regional Representative  
**Ian Watts**, Nelson, Regional Training Coordinator  
**Paul Rennie**, Blenheim, Communications Coordinator  
**Peter Adams**, Kaikoura  
**Sarah Brewer**, Motueka, Cave  
**Ross Cocker**, Westport  
**Wouter de Maat**, Takaka  
**Sean Judd**, Reefton

**Mike Fitzimmons**, Nelson  
**Hugh Flowers**, Nelson  
**Mike Irvine**, Blenheim  
**John Jellyman**, Motueka  
**Robin Manera**, Haast  
**Keith Morfett**, Hokitika  
**Malcolm Langley**, Hokitika  
**Greg Pickford**, Nelson, Cave  
**Ian Selwood**, Greymouth  
**Russell Tucker**, Nelson

During the year we held four regional face-to-face meetings at the central location of Reefton. These meetings start at midday Saturday and finish at midday Sunday. This is a proven recipe within our region as it allows senior SAR members from different areas to mix and socialise after the days business and form contacts outside their area.

The region has been reasonably active throughout the year with 106 Class 2 searches and 7 Class 3 searches. Several of these searches lasted between 3 days and 7 days and covered a variety of scenarios. In particular the West Coast area had a busy spell from a Japanese tourist swerving off the road and plunging 300 meters down a bank into the Tasman sea; an elderly gentleman missing after a hunting trip and found deceased; another Japanese student confused with DOC signage on a day walk and took the long way home (the signs have been corrected); a local Greymouth person driving back from Nelson and plunging into a flooded Buller River. The Tasman ACR team was also utilised three times with 2

evacuations and one body recovery. Haast SAR had about 5 hunters overdue over a short period during the roar. The Southern Traverse multi-sport event called on SAR 4 times to evacuate both contestants and marshals through not having a proper safety plan implemented (in our opinion) and this will be addressed prior to this years event.

Another unusual scenario was a 63 year old male suffering a mental condition who crashed his car and then absconded into the bush and played adult hide and seek for three days. Concern was held for his welfare as he did not have his medicine with him. Nelson and Marlborough areas also had there fair share with a visitor camping at Pelorus going missing from his campsite. Unfortunately his body was located at the bottom of a swimming hole. The Sorresson search in the Kahurangi National park was also finally solved. Part of Karls clothing was found just outside the search area and then his remains located on a second search. Karl Sorrenson had been missing for approx three years and had been the subject of a couple of

exercises to try and determine where he was.

Throughout the year Tasman held the following training courses; 4wd (2) TCA (3) MLSO (1) , Tracking (1) Foundation Rope (2), Team Leader (1), Intermediate Rope (1). Most training was conducted at Tai Poutini campus in Reefton. There had been a couple of other courses planned but these had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers as people have been too busy operationally.

Tasman continues to attract new people to SAR, particularly in the search assistant role. This position covers information management and comprises data entry and the presentation of this information to meet the requirements of the Incident Management Team. Karen King and Linda Cook have been instrumental in setting up this course and training approx 18 people throughout the region. These people are one of the first called so that everything is documented from the start. Previously we believed we only captured about 10% of the information and the other 90% was walking around in peoples heads or was in boxes under the bed or in garages. Now we believe we capture approx 80% of information. It has also proved invaluable in that when a search is being extended and another shift is coming on, the scenario and up to date info can be emailed to the incoming IMT prior to them coming on site so they are up to speed when they arrive.

Tasman continues to be proactive in the use of search dogs and using them in searches before areas become too contaminated. This group continues to put a tremendous amount of time into training to keep their dogs ready for action.

The Tasman White Water team has also been utilised throughout the year and are a team of dedicated paddlers willing to respond at a moments notice.

Again we have had a loyal band of volunteers both in the IMT and field throughout the year who are willing and ready to respond to people in distress at a moments notice. Without these people we could not function properly so a huge

thank you from the region and NZLSAR. Your enthusiasm and dedication is second to none and I am sure a great comfort to families when they have someone missing.

Another big thank you goes to the Tasman Police district. The three Police SAR squads mix socially, training and operationally with the civilian side, which makes for a very harmonious working environment. A lot of this comes from the respect the Tasman District Commander Grant O Fee and Inspector Hugh Flower have for the contribution that volunteers make throughout the region. Another string in Tasman's bow is the position of Assistant SAR coordinator for the Police. This position is held by Russell Tucker and is one of the keys to the liaison between police and civilian. Russell is the major drive behind Tasman being a leader in SAR management systems.

Unfortunately Tasman SAR lost two much respected SAR friends and colleagues during the year.

In the latter part of 2005 Ken Large passed away in Marlborough. Ken was an advisor and played a very big part in Marlborough SAR for approx 40 years. He was still active and skilled in the new systems and a gentleman to work with. He will be sadly missed.

Another is Eric MacDonald who was an advisor in Nelson. Again Eric has been a part of SAR for over 25 years. Eric's knowledge and skill both in the field and as part of an IMT team was well respected and his funeral on the shores of Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes, was a fitting tribute to his involvement with the outdoors.

Tasman SAR thanks you both for the tremendous contribution you made to the region.

People may forget what you told them, they will probably forget what you showed them but they will never forget how you made them feel.

May you both Rest in Peace.

**Joe Hayes**  
NZLSAR Region Five Representative

**T**he members of the Region Six Committee are:-

**Rod Lawrence**, Christchurch. Chairman.  
**Brian Williams**, Tekapo. Deputy Chairman  
**Dave Saunders**, Christchurch. Secretary  
**Gordon Hassle**, Timaru. Treasurer  
**Brian Holland**, Waikari. Regional Representative  
**Don Geddes**, Methven  
**Steve Davis**, Christchurch, National Communication Subcommittee Chairman, Regional Training coordinator

**Peter Summerfield**, Christchurch, Police SAR Coordinator

**Phil Simmonds**, Christchurch, Deputy Police SAR Coordinator  
**Gary Brehaut**, Timaru

**Dave Gaskin**, Timaru  
**Geoff Olorenshaw**, Christchurch  
**Teresa Wright**, Timaru

### Meetings

Region Six is comprised of the North Canterbury District centred around Christchurch and the South Canterbury District which is based at Timaru.

Meetings are now being held in Ashburton with the venue being the Ashburton District Council. This is very central with most of the committee being at Timaru and Christchurch except for a couple whom have to travel a little further. Thanks to the Council and Don Geddes for making the venue available. We have had one tele-conference meeting.

The mutual support at all levels of NZLSAR is what makes the whole organisation tick. Thanks for all the efforts of those involved in the committees at the different levels. Thanks too, for the attendance of National Field Officer John Tristram at some of our meetings and also the National Chairman Roscoe Tait. The interest and attendance from the National level is appreciated.

### Training

There has been the usual number of Courses available for the past year, similar to the previous year. We appear to have reached a point where some courses have had to be cancelled for lack of names. It has always been a problem for the Training Coordinator, Steve Davis to prompt SAR personnel to attend these courses.

District SAREX's have been held. The Canterbury one had a slightly different format this year in an effort to make it different and interesting. The exercise

was relatively low key trying out two IMT's and exercising SAR skills. Good feedback was received from those who were involved in the exercise.

### Operations:

Land Operations **79** (2004 -2005), **85** (2003-2004), **60** (2002-2003) Class 2 Small decrease on last year.

Mt Cook as usual figures high in the Region Six statistics with quite a number of fatalities this year. The operations involving injuries were also quite significant. The Mt Cook First Response Rescue Teams are at the pinnacle of SAR in New Zealand. They are a well oiled professional team and at times carrying out very difficult rescues and recoveries. They are also very much in the eye of the media.

There have been a few longer term operations. Most other ops were of a short duration and resolved themselves after initial response.

### Regional Seminar.

This seminar involving Regions Six and Seven personnel from Southland, Otago and Canterbury was held at Gunn's Bush, Methodist Camp near Waimate on 9th & 10th July 2005. There were 42 plus registered for the weekend and it was an even better than the first Combined Seminar held in Hanmer Springs with the then Region Four (Tasman) some years ago. The venue was a little cool but was warmed up with the calibre of the personnel present. Great time for networking and a full agenda. We were even able to watch the last test on the big

screen. Excellent presentation by guest speaker Rod Davies, Team Leader from the Mt Cook Rescue Team. Good feedback and comments from the Seminar. Thanks to everyone's contribution and to the hosts and local organisers Gordon Hasell and Teresa Wright. Maybe looking at a South Island Seminar in two years time.

#### **Regional Representative:**

I will be completing my three year term at the next National Meeting in August. I have decided not to stand again and have indicated my intentions. At this stage I have other priorities, but I am still keenly interested in SAR matters and will stay

involved at a more local level. I have not been able to attend all the meetings and as a result there is a loss of continuity. The advent of a deputy representative has been an advantage. Being a Regional Representative requires some commitment to the job and there is always plenty to do if your time allows. I have enjoyed my time at the National level, although at times have felt quite frustrated. The recent new initiatives look promising and I look forward to progress with the strategies indicated.

#### **Brian Holland**

NZLSAR Region Six Representative

### **Region Seven Report**

#### **The members of the Region Seven Committee are:-**

**Dave Robertson**, Dunedin. Chairman.

**Alan Gillespie**, Wanaka. Deputy Chair

**Nicola Vallance**, Secretary (retired)

**Tric Moller**, Regional Rep/Training

**Russell Carr**, Queenstown

**Bruce Calder**, Dunedin

**Adrian Dance**, Roxburgh

**Tony Chittock**, Balclutha

**Barry Hansen**, Balclutha Police

**Jon Von Tunzelman**, Te Anau

**Bill Olsen**, Regional AREC

**Cyril McFadzien**, Gore

**Derek Beveridge**, Police Oamaru

**Robbie Dobson**, Maniototo

**Andrew Pealing**, Dunedin

**Dave Rowan**, St John Ambulance

**Terry Richardson**, Police

**Bruce Smart**, Invercargill/Training

**Alan Johnson**, Police Te Anau

**Peter Garden**, Gore

Another hectic operational year has been completed in the Southern Region. While final statistics are not yet available the Region has performed an estimated 190 operations during the year, the bulk of which have been performed in the Central Lakes Area (Te Anau, Queenstown, Wanaka) making significant demands on both civilians and Police. These operations have ranged from the bizarre (boat "flying over the Waitaki Dam") to the incredibly tragic with the loss of a most popular and committed Police SAR squad member, Travis Hughes, during a Police reconnaissance flight in Queenstown.

While the majority of operations have been completed within twelve hours a significant number of protracted incidents (up to one week in duration) have been performed. Becoming increasingly obvious in these incidents is the diversity of resources being utilised both in terms of manpower and the significant impact of technology. Nowhere was this more in evidence than on the NZ Army Unimog incident in the Kawerau Gorge.

A trend which appears to be increasing in the Region, particularly in the Central Lakes area is the occurrence of multiple incidents on a single day. Yet another challenge for SAR managers.

Approximately 90% of all operations in the Region have utilised helicopter assistance (at times multiple helicopters in one day). This resource while hugely valuable must be tempered by an awareness of the inherent risks involved for all personnel.

The Southern Regional Committee has met three times during the year with eight to fifteen members attending. With Glenn Michell's resignation as Secretary after five years of great service Nicola Vallance was appointed as successor. Sadly for the Region Nicola has recently accepted a job in Christchurch so the position of Secretary is currently vacant. As with other large land mass Regions, nominating a "central" meeting venue which optimises travel times can be a challenge. To more fairly share this burden the Region is

looking at options of alternating venues for Regional Meetings.

Between operations a full complement of training initiatives and exercises have been completed. Courses held in the Region include: TCA, Search Methods, Team Leaders, Personal Rope, Foundation Rope, SAR first aid, TUMONZ and Swift Water Rescue. Sadly a Regional MLSO had to be postponed and will run in the next financial year. A Regional training panel of three representing the three distinct geographical areas within the Region has been initiated in an attempt to maximise the coordination of training throughout the Region.

In September 2004 sixteen members from the Southern Region attended a combination of pre-conference courses, swiftwater symposium and/or the NZLSAR Conference in Hopuhopu with a unanimous positive response. Thanks must be extended to the National Committee for assisting with support for personnel to attend this highly successful event.

An invitation to join with Region Six for a Seminar weekend near Waimate early July 2005 has been enthusiastically received and a good attendance is expected. An opportunity to share SAR ideas and experiences between neighbours can only benefit personnel and therefore the community at large.

In March 2005 NZLSAR awards were presented to two long standing Dunedin SAR personnel, Stu Warrington and Tric Moller. This was held at a combined ceremony to commission a Rescue Equipment Storage container for use by the First Response Cliff and Water Rescue Teams in Dunedin.

In conclusion I wish to thank all SAR personnel both police and civilian, from throughout the Region who have given so readily their time, skills and experience in order to provide a professional, effective SAR service to the community.

**Tric Moller**  
NZLSAR Region Seven Representative

## Communications Subcommittee Report

The Communications Sub-Committee has continued to review communications equipment and policies for Land SAR and

maintains a watch on technologies that could be useful for Search operations.

### The Communications Subcommittee members are

<b>Steve Davis</b>	Chairman
<b>Ross Thompson</b>	FMC
<b>Rex Aubrey</b>	Police
<b>Bruce Mclachlan</b>	DOC
<b>Matthew Lloyd</b>	
<b>Jeff Sayer</b>	AREC
<b>Ian Gardiner</b>	NZLSAR/MRS
<b>Terry Waghorn</b>	NZLSAR
<b>Graham Thorp</b>	NZLSAR
<b>John Tristram</b>	NFO

We are working toward splitting the sub-committee into initially two working groups.

### Technology Platforms

- Communications
- Computing
- Positioning
- Other

### Information

- Applications
- eMapping
- Operating Systems

- Other

However we will look at breaking these into further smaller working groups if required. At this stage the existing members of the CSC fall into the Platforms group, and we are mainly looking for people for the Information group, with an emphasis on the applications. I have had a few expressions of interest, but would like to hear from some more. If any of you know of anyone that would be suitable for

this working group then either talk to them about it and let me know if they are interested in pursuing it further, or let me know how to contact them so that I can talk to them about it.

My thanks go to the team on the Subcommittee for their continuing efforts for Land SAR.

### **Meetings**

We have held two face-to-face meetings during the past year. The first meeting was in October 2004 just after the NZLSAR Conference at Hopuhopu, and another in March 2005 in Christchurch. As well as full agendas and active discussion at both meetings we had guest speakers from Tait Electronics and HTS Communications at the February meeting. This was of great benefit in our looking toward future technology and equipment.

### **Radio Equipment**

Again we did not get any allocation of funds for Radio Equipment for SAR from the Police budget for the 2004/2005 financial year, and indications are that we may only get an allocation for maintenance replacement of older HF Radios for the 2005/2006 and 2006/2007 financial years. So our plans for other communications equipment additions and updates are still on hold.

### **VHF**

The reprogramming of the Police SAR VHF Radios has been completed, and hopefully close to all privately held SAR VHF Radios have also been reprogrammed. The new channel plan is available at the following link. <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/newchan nelplan.pdf>

While Channel 13 was initially setup to allow communications with the Air Force Iroquois which do not have ESB narrow band equipment, this channel is licensed nation-wide by Police, and so can be used by other air-craft operators for SAR purposes. A reminder that the fixed repeater policy and application forms are available on the NZLSAR Web page – see <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/vhfradi os.html>

### **HF**

The audit and maintenance check of Police SAR HF radio equipment has been completed and a number of TR-105 and Condor/Codan sets have been found to be unserviceable. All attempts were made to return as many serviceable units back as possible. Over the next two years all of the TR-105 and Condor/Codan sets will be replaced as there are no longer replacement parts available for them. The replacement radios will be an updated version of the POLSAR. During the audit it was found that radios were not well allocated around the country, and an attempt has been made to make a fair spread of HF radios for all areas, remembering that you can always request more from neighbouring Police districts. While use of HF may not be so popular due to the success of the VHF Portable Repeaters and Handhelds, it is still the “primary” means of communications for SAR in the back-country and should be issued at all searches in the back country at least as a backup.

### **Other**

Work continues on evaluating and developing systems for tracking search teams automatically using GPS via radio including watching developments that lcoms are working on. Attempts to date to create a robust package using existing radios have not been satisfactory.

A number of trials have been done with portable Direction Finding systems for locating PLB/EPIRB/ELT and also for tracking dementia patients wearing a transmitter pendant. A number of areas have found this technology to be another useful tool for their SAR Toolkit, and one model has found to be very effective and easy to use. A DF Unit for PLB/EPIRB/ELT is available for Trials, Training or Operations. Contact Steve Davis as below for more information.

### **Electronic Maps**

LINZ are working toward the implementation of a new map series to move to the new Geodetic Datum, and new Grid Projection. It was expected that this would happen in the next 2-3 years, however it looks like it may be a bit longer than this. Once the new map series is released it is expected that Topo map images will be freely available for use in

various mapping applications, including TUMONZ. Current image files of Topo Maps and Ortho Photos for use with GIS software are available to SAR groups for SAR applications. For more details or to request files send an email to [sarmaps@z12ucx.gen.nz](mailto:sarmaps@z12ucx.gen.nz)

See <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms> on the NZLSAR web site for various communications and technology information relating to SAR.

**Steve Davis**

Chairman NZLSAR Communications Sub Committee

## Search Dog Subcommittee

### The National Search Dog Assessors are:-

**Larry Charles**, Murchison, Tracking

**Mathew Dodd**, Nelson, Wilderness

**Brian Heward**, Wanaka, Avalanche

**Markus Milne**, Dunedin, Wilderness

**Linda Pike**, Christchurch, Wilderness

**Andrew Pealing**, Dunedin, Wilderness

**Simon Trotter**, Christchurch, Avalanche

**Brent McDonald**, Arrowtown, Avalanche, Tracking

**Iain Watson**, Palmerston North, Tracking

The past year has seen some major changes for Search Dogs, with the NZLSAR Search Dog Subcommittee being formed, allowing co-ordination of search dog activities at a national level, and direct representation on the NZLSAR Committee. Thanks to Tric Moller, who brought this about through her work as Chair of the Specialist Subcommittee.

To train a search dog to an operational level is a real achievement, requiring many additional hours on top of the handler's own SAR training. Some teams train also in USAR, to serve the community in times of disaster, and others cross-train in more than one SAR discipline. We have three teams who have qualified in the past year in three LSAR disciplines – tracking, bush/wilderness (air-scenting) and avalanche search, and two handlers who have two operational dogs apiece.

To train a new dog can take a couple of years - that's a lot of weekends and evenings of family time (and the occasional work day!). As with other first response team members around the country, our dog handlers complete first aid, TCA, search methods training etc, as well as training their dog(s). This means they should be well known to SAR managers/advisors as team members before they become operational as search dog handlers. Once qualified, they are a mobile resource, available to not only their own region, but throughout the country. Handlers are willing and able to travel for a search, and are an ideal resource for night shifts, as darkness is not a barrier to the

dogs and scent conditions are often good overnight. Instructions for calling search dog teams from outside your area are available on the website and we hope to streamline this process further in 2006.

An agreement with Origin Pacific Airlines means our search dogs can travel in aircraft cabins, so handlers do not have to transport crates, and the dogs arrive ready to work.

Search Dog Assessments take place over a four-day course - the South Island Course was held at Twizel in November 2004, involving 27 dogs and 40 people. The North Island Course at Tihoi (near Taupo) in April 2005 catered for 20 dogs, plus handlers and observers. Thank you Mark and Grant for the course co-ordination, and to John T. for all the work behind the scenes in bringing people together for these major events. The standard of teams presenting for assessment was very high, and we can all be proud of the teams who graded novice and operational.

The Avalanche Course will be held at Cardrona at the end of August, and the next South Island assessment Course in Blenheim, in November. Search advisors and managers are urged to attend these events whenever they are able to, to see the dogs in action and to meet the handlers.

The first Subcommittee meeting was held in April this year, and managed to come up with an incredible amount of work to be

done! Top of the list was to provide better training support for teams, with access to other handlers and assessors throughout the year. Many handlers are geographically isolated, and may be training on their own in their area, or having to travel hours to meet up with other search dog teams. We decided to run two training weekends per Island this year, and three per Island next year. Easter saw us camped at Lewis Pass, and in August the Southerners will return to Twizel, while Northerners head for Rotorua.

The second major undertaking was a review of the operational standards, and the provision of advanced endorsements for some areas that are not currently assessed. This process is proceeding well, with draft standards currently in circulation – thanks to Andrew Pealing for his work on these, and for setting up our dedicated website ([nzlsar-dogs.org.nz](http://nzlsar-dogs.org.nz)) which will carry dog-specific information, and handle registrations for the training and assessment events.

Further initiatives from the Subcommittee include training for NZLSAR managers and advisors on the use of dogs, with potential for us to provide training materials and input into SARINZ courses, and the ongoing support of our operational handlers through sponsorship and fundraising initiatives. As many handlers train on their own or in small groups, it can be difficult for them to access funding for basic equipment. We have two deals underway this year – Eukanuba is providing the operational dogs with bags of premium quality dog food, and Macpac

is providing dog jackets. We are grateful to both these sponsors for their support of search dogs and NZLSAR.

I must extend my thanks and admiration to the assessors and instructors for the additional workload they have undertaken in assessing teams, and in helping others to train search dogs. Our assessors sit on the Subcommittee, organise and run training events, co-ordinate the annual assessment courses, assess all operational teams, and are operational handlers in their own right. They are something else again! We also owe thanks to their families, who sacrifice time together for the sake of others, and of course to all the subjects who help with training by hiding for the dogs. Huddled under tussocks in the dark, buried in a snow cave or lying patiently in a ditch, they are the essential element in training the dogs.

While we do not currently track dog operations separately, all teams have been active on operations in their regions and many have travelled to other regions to assist with major searches over the last year. They have helped search some huge areas, located a number of clues, and had several finds.

Our canine partners live to search – when asked to get up in the middle of the night to tackle the toughest areas in the worst weather, they think they've won Lotto. They're an inspiration. Thanks.

**Clair Robertson**  
Chairman NZLSAR SAR Dogs  
Subcommittee

### Specialist Subcommittee Report

It was with some trepidation and excitement that I volunteered, was nominated and appointed to the Chair of the Specialist Subcommittee. Trepidation because of the outstanding achievements of the previous Chair Tric Moller and excitement because of the host of important items on the table for discussion and development. At this point I must declare my hand and advise that I have moved cautiously and slowly into the role. Circumstances both within and beyond control (as they are want to do) have

largely meant that my role has been as a regular contact and sounding board for the leaders of the various working groups. This year's efforts notwithstanding, there are at least two major meetings of minds coming up early in the next financial year which should see some resolution of outstanding issues and development of future plans.

## **Medical**

### **The Group members are:-**

<b>Carey Dobbs,</b>	<b>Dr Dick Price</b>
<b>Dr Jenny Visser</b>	<b>Dr Charmaine Tate</b>
<b>Dr Hamish Dunn</b>	<b>Glenn Mitchell</b>
<b>Dr Mike Brewer</b>	<b>Tric Moller</b>

This group has not met formally in the 04/05 year. I am however pleased to report that the proposed Nominated SAR Medic (First Aider) academic standards are in the process of being written which should ultimately result in a course delivered within the current training framework, that provides for extension of core First Aid skills and competencies for appropriately skilled and experienced SAR group members. This course should also have the added benefit of creating, maintaining or developing SAR group relationships with Medical Advisers. There is a Medical weekend workshop scheduled for November 2005 in the South Island which combined with a Medical Working Group meeting should allow this group to take stock of current medical practices and investigate future points of interest and development.

## **Technical/Vertical**

### **The Group members are:-**

<b>Grant Prattley</b>	<b>Van Watson</b>
<b>Murray Cullen</b>	<b>Don Bogie</b>
<b>Lindsay Main</b>	<b>Andrew Welsh</b>
<b>Dave Bergman</b>	

This group has met informally in the 04/05 year primarily to discuss and complete the draft NZLSAR Helicopter Standards. These standards have now been circulated for comment and feedback, which has been forthcoming and gratefully received. As a result of feedback from the Aviation sector a meeting is being held in July 2005 with representation from NZLSAR, the Technical working group, NZ Police, Ministry of Defence plus representatives from CAA and AIA. This meeting will allow NZLSAR to outline the rationale for the creation of standards and will allow the aviation sector to comment on specific elements of the standards. The Technical working group will then meet the following weekend to discuss the findings in detail.

The planned Rescue Needs Analysis is still on the table for completion and is something that hopefully can be

completed and findings released in the upcoming year. I must note here that the Technical working group members are (primarily through their employment) constantly involved with such things as equipment testing, rescue training, rescue operations and as such provide NZLSAR with an extremely valuable resource.

## **Aviation**

This Subcommittee has been in abeyance for some time now and as such has been done away with. However with the discussions around the NZLSAR Helicopters Standards and the forthcoming meeting, I anticipate the positive establishment of key relationships between NZLSAR and the aviation sector which may yet result in the re-establishment of an Aviation representative or at least a formalised contact point for any future discussions.

## **Swift Water**

The NZLSAR Conference in 2004 played host to a Swift Water Symposium with nationwide representation from white water operators and practitioners along with SAR Advisers and NZ Police. There was very healthy debate and discussion from participants and it was pleasing to see the level of current water based response capability to NZ Police in a variety of locations. I have to report that since the symposium I have not been in contact with the various units and therefore have not yet brought the various regional groups together to meet with the view to extending the current levels of interface with NZ Police and NZLSAR groups. Nonetheless the resource and response capability of these units exists and I encourage local SAR groups to establish and develop relationships as appropriate.

I will, over the course of the next year, arrange appropriate regional based workshops or meetings for these groups combined with NZ Police and SAR groups, to further discuss such things as SOP's, response capability, combined training opportunities, pre-planning, along with possible models to extend to areas where a response capability does not yet exist. I attended a SAREX in Hokitika in December 2004 and saw first hand the skills and abilities of the Tasman White Water unit. Apart from the obvious water

skills of the practitioners I was particularly impressed with the level of interface with the Tasman SAR groups in terms of pre and operational planning and the willingness of the water team to develop an understanding of how SAR operates and the skills necessary to provide a complete response capability.

In conclusion, there are many projects on the table for the various working groups and I look forward to discussion,

development and resolution of items that will impact on NZLSAR member SAR groups ability to continue to provide excellence in their resource and response services to NZ Police. I must also note the sterling efforts of the previous Chair Tric Moller in driving forward all the things that have been achieved to date.

**Dave Erson**  
Chairman NZLSAR Specialist  
Subcommittee

## Training Subcommittee Report

### Meetings

Two meetings were held during the year, one at Hopuhopu prior to the Conference and the other in Nelson. So that non-

Subcommittee members can have an input, the meetings are sometimes held in different locations. The next meeting will be in Hamilton.

### Membership

**The Subcommittee membership at the end of the year.**

<b>Laurie Gallagher</b>	FMC Rep on NZLSAR	Wellington
<b>Brian Holland</b>	Region 6 Rep on NZLSAR	Canterbury
<b>Dave Erson</b>	Chairman Specialist subcommittee	Dunedin
<b>Geoff Logan</b>	Police Rep	Wellington
<b>Dave Saunders</b>	FMC Rep on this committee	Christchurch
<b>Roscoe Tait</b>	Chairman NZLSAR	Auckland
<b>Russell Tucker</b>	Tasman Training Coordinator	Nelson
<b>John Tristram</b>	NFO	Wellington
<b>Barry Were</b>	Chairman	Hamilton

The only change to the Subcommittee membership was the replacement of Tric Moller by Dave Erson as new Chairman of the Specialist Subcommittee. We are grateful of the tremendous contribution that Tric has made for the specialists around the country and to the Training Subcommittee.

### SARINZ

The NZLSAR membership is fortunate to have access to the high quality training offered by SARINZ. I believe that there is no other country in the world that is able to provide such a resource to the volunteers. Now that the rate of development of new courses has slowed the SARINZ focus has shifted to improving the existing courses. The student workbooks have been systematically reworked to a very high standard although there are still a few courses to go. Similarly an instructor guide is being prepared for each course with step-by-step instructions and copies of all relevant materials. During the last twelve months a total of 100 SARINZ

courses have been run compared to 77 last year.

I believe that the general understanding of the process for booking courses and the role of SARINZ is improving. The efforts of the Regional Training Coordinators is helping to ensure that the minimum number requirements of courses are met. Despite the best efforts of all involved some courses have still been cancelled due to insufficient numbers, sometimes at the last minute. These cancellations cause a huge inconvenience for many people and we need to do our best to avoid them. Many of the SARINZ courses now include a requirement for recording reflective practice. The Subcommittee understands that there is some confusion related to the completion and signing off process. It is intended to use the NZLSAR newsletter to clarify the process and requirements.

Some people have been refusing to enrol as TPP students and others have not

provided the appropriate evidence of citizenship. This places an unfair financial burden on SARINZ and in some cases displaces people that would have been happy to enrol.

The laptop computers and GPS units purchased by SARINZ have seen a small amount of use outside of training courses. They are still available for exercises and operations (when not in use on a course). An MOU with SARINZ has been written but not signed as yet. Once the issues, which are relatively minor, are settled the signing should happen.

SARINZ Ltd at its last years AGM announced that surplus funds would be returned to the SARINZ Trust. The Trust is keen to see this and other funds they hold invested in research and intend to set up a research committee to manage the funds. It is likely that they will seek volunteers from NZLSAR for this committee.

Once again we are grateful for the tremendous efforts of the SARINZ Ltd management team of Trevor Burgess (Acting Business Manager) and Grant Prattley (Programme Manager). Special thanks also to Margaret Burgess who works away behind the scenes for SARINZ to ensure that the courses and administrative things happen.

### **Other Courses**

The four wheel drive courses run by Malcolm Langley through TPP are proving popular with 14 courses held during the year. The feedback from these courses is always complementary.

Merit Consultants in Blenheim have launched a new course for Search Assistants and run it at least three times. This has been assessed and deemed to be eligible for the NZLSAR course subsidy. At this time the funding options for the course are still being worked on. Until then the course costs (apart from food and accommodation) are met by the participants.

### **Course Quality**

The training committee is aware that some courses are not suited to everyone. Consequently the Subcommittee is considering two strategies to monitor the standards of all NZLSAR subsidised courses. The first is a process for the independent assessment of courses with feedback provided to the committee. The second is the provision of a separate feedback form that participants can use to send complaints or compliments directly to NZLSAR (via the Training Subcommittee).

### **Program Advisory Committee (PAC)**

The PAC formed by Tai Poutini has continued with the critical role of approving the standards written for each course. The NZLSAR representatives on the committee understand their responsibilities for ensuring that each course approved is appropriate for SAR and that the content reflects the requirements of our industry.

The committee met once this year. The members are: **Joe Hayes** (Tai Poutini), **Geoff Logan** (NZ Police), **Russell Tucker** (Tasman SAR), **Roscoe Tait** (NZLSAR), **Laurie** Gallagher (NZLSAR), **Barry Were** (NZLSAR).

### **Tai Poutini Polytechnic**

Once again Joe Hayes of TPP has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the courses keep running and that NZLSAR members are aware of the courses available. It is great to see Joe at the Regional Seminars around the country promoting the courses. Joe is putting together a booklet that outlines the SAR related courses they have available. This should be released later this year and will help SAR members understand the content and prerequisites of each course.

### **Courses**

The range of courses available to NZLSAR volunteers has been extended with the addition of the following new courses: CIMS, First Aid and Avalanche.

## Number of Courses by Year

	94/ 95	95/ 96	96/ 97	97/ 98	98/ 99	99/ 00	00/ 01	01/ 02	02/ 03	03/ 04	04/ 05	
TCA	2	5	14	13	7	12	14	7	10	19	16	119
Tracking				3	3	6	9	10	8	9	9	57
MLSO 2 day	5		2	4	4	3	1	1	1			21
MLSO 5 day							3	5	2	4	6	20
Suburban Search				2		2	2			1	4	11
Search Methods			3	1	3	5	5	6	3	11	15	52
Team Leaders				1	3	1	3	2	2	1	9	22
Refresher						2	1	1	1			5
Alzheimers										7	0	7
Lost Person Behaviour								1			0	1
TUMONZ										3	8	11
IMan/GMan											3	3
CIMS											3	3
First Aid											4	4
Intermediate Ropes									5	9	2	16
											2	
Personal Ropes Foundation										3		5
Rope										3	9	12
Slope Rescue										2	1	3
Helicopter										2	3	5
Avalanche											2	2
Vertical Rope										1	4	5
4Wheel Drive											14	14
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>398</b>
<b>NZLSAR</b>												
Adviser												
Standards	4	11	3	1	2	1	1					23
Field Controller												
Standards				10	4	1						15
Search Dogs							3	2	2	2	3	12
CIMS								5				5
Vertical Rescue				1		1	1	3				6
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>61</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>459</b>

## Number of Courses by Region for 2004/2005

	Region							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
TCA	2	2	2	3	3		3	15
Tracking		2		1	1	1		5
SM	2	2		3		2	1	10
MLSO		2		1	1			4
CIMS				1				1
Team Leader	2	3		2	1	2		10
1st Aid	2	2	1	2				7
TUMONZ	1			1		3	1	6
Suburban Search		1				3		4
Alzheimer's Incident/Group Management		1		2		1		4
Personal Rope								
Foundation Rope		1		1	1		1	4
Vertical Rope		1						1
Slope Lowering								
Helicopter								
Avalanche								
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>

The total number of course participants of around 1400 would suggest that many members have attended more than one course during the year.

The \$30 per person per day subsidy from NZLSAR for food and accommodation has assisted considerably in making the training very close to zero cost for the participants and Groups. We are fortunate that the initiatives of TPP and SARINZ have made this possible and hope that the politicians allow this to continue.

The efforts of the Regional Training coordinators are reflected in the regional course totals. Those regions with high numbers of courses have worked hard to make them happen. Also the average number on each course has increased slightly this year – again largely due to the efforts of the training coordinators.

The graph on page 43 shows that the duration of searches has been decreasing as the number of courses has increased. Unfortunately, there are no 2004/2005 hours per operation figures to hand.

## Other Matters

### Operational Reviews

The Subcommittee still believes that there is a place for formal Operational Reviews for certain operations which meet pre-determined criteria. The Police are still considering the matter.

### New Course Development

A protocol is being formulated that will define the process for taking new courses from idea through to delivery and moderation. This is in response to frequent requests for new courses some of which are specific to very small target groups. Also other potential new courses which could have huge benefits for the NZLSAR membership may have an unnecessarily low priority for their development. The committee hopes to manage these issues much more effectively in the future.

### Standards

There have been no reviews of existing standards during this period.

### CIMS Guidelines

These have been released in an interim or draft form and the process for formal adoption has been sorted. It is likely that

the Guidelines will be formally adopted during the first quarter of the 2005/2006 financial year. SARINZ have put together a two day CIMS course for SAR management teams based on the Guidelines.

### **Field Guide**

The rewrite of the Field Guide had not been completed at the end of the financial year, although it is believed to be nearing completion.

### **SAR Workbook**

The workbook will be revised and republished once the Field Guide is printed.

### **ToolMan – Forms and Checklists**

Karen King of Merit Consulting has done a great job of developing ToolMan as the repository for the NZLSAR standard forms. This product is available for download from the NZLSAR website. At present the program is undergoing a major revamp and as a result could have considerably more functionality at some stage in the future. The date for the next annual review of the forms has been set as 30<sup>th</sup> September 2005.

### **P130 in Word Format**

It is still intended that a Word version of the form will be available for volunteers to complete. This may be incorporated into ToolMan.

### **Search Assistants**

Tasman continues to lead the way with the recruiting and training of Search Assistants. The role and potential of the Search Assistants is becoming better understood although at this stage I am not aware of any other Region that has specifically recruited and trained people for the position. I expect that this will start to change during the next 12 months. Karen King and Linda Cook are still the key drivers of this initiative. Their effort and determination in establishing and defining the role are awesome.

### **NZLSAR Conference**

The second NZLSAR Conference, hosted by Region Two, in October 2004 was an outstanding success. With more than 200 NZLSAR members present and five international speakers plus a whole week

of pre-conference courses the learning taking place was huge.

I believe that the benefits of these conferences last way beyond the two days of the events through the bringing together of so many people with common interests. Holding these conferences once every two years, is I believe, frequent enough to ensure good outcomes without placing too high a burden on the few people willing to commit to the organising of such events. Thanks largely to the financial commitment of SARINZ in meeting the costs of the international speakers the conference was able to be run at a small profit.

At this stage the venue and convenor for the next conference has not been confirmed. It is recognised that to secure the services of the international speakers the dates need to be set in the near future.

### **International Conferences**

The funds in the Training Subcommittee budget for sending NZLSAR representatives to conferences held overseas have finally been utilised.

The Washington State Conference in May 2004 was attended by Barry Were and Karen King. Several presentations were made during the conference related to SAR in NZ and the use of Computers in SAR.

New Zealand has been represented at this conference for several years and our presence and contribution were highly respected. These conferences provide an awesome opportunity to evaluate our position on a global scale. My overall impression is that NZLSAR is well on the way to having the best trained and resourced SAR organisation in the world. The model for managing future applications for travel assistance to international conferences will be fine tuned and promoted in the hope that the funds will be utilised each year.

### **Competitions**

Although competitions were held last year in the Waikato, New Plymouth and Canterbury there were no applications for funding for a team to travel to another's competition. It is intended a similar sum will be in the 05/06 budget to encourage this travel.

### Review

The Subcommittee has been discussing its membership composition and believes that this should be reviewed. This review should be added to the outcome requirements for the NZLSARR Review.

### Conclusion

This has been yet another busy but great year for NZLSAR. The numbers of volunteers who are making themselves available for training is awesome. The result, when the trained volunteers put

their training into practice during callouts, should result in a performance which will both save lives and bring credit to the organisation.

I am hugely grateful for the contribution of all the Subcommittee members. We have come a long way although there is still so much we want to achieve.

### Barry Were

Chairman  
NZLSAR Training Subcommittee

## Underground Subcommittee Report

**T**he members of the Underground Subcommittee members are:-

**Colin Daniell**

Christchurch

**John Patterson -**

Nelson

**Dave Smith**

Te Kuiti

**Kip Mandeno**

Napier

**Grant Prattley**

Temuka

**Van Watson**

Waitomo

### Meetings

The Underground Subcommittee met once during the year, in Waitomo on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2005. The meeting was held in conjunction with a Foundation Ropes Course run by SARINZ. The main outcome of the meeting was a consensus to develop a Cave SAR Guideline to apply the NZLSAR Rope Rescue Standard to cave rescue in NZ.

Rescue course are planned for the West Coast in 2005

### Activity

There was a spate of cave rescues around Christmas. Harwoods Hole received its normal callouts as a result of people failing to navigate their way through the cave. Another cave on the tourist route, Clifden Cave, flooded and trapped a pair of tourists for six hours.

### Testing

We have started testing rope rescue belay systems on the type of rope that is commonly in use for Cave Rescue in New Zealand.

All the Cave SAR groups in NZ have been training throughout the year. The annual South Island cave SAREX in Nelson proved to us, once again, that the time taken to move a stretcher underground can be extraordinarily long. It took an hour to move the stretcher the first 40m.

### Courses

Seven cavers attended the Advance Rope Rescue course that preceded the NZLSAR Conference. This was followed up with 16 cavers attending a SARINZ Foundation Ropes course in Waitomo. A Foundations Rope and Intermediate Rope

### Colin Daniell

Chairman NZLSAR Underground Subcommittee

## Treasurer's Report

**T**hese accounts do not record the true cost of the year's activities because of the volunteer work of Committee and Subcommittee members and the support, additional to the Grant, received from the Police in many ways including accommodation and associated services for the National Field Officer.

Although the accounts show a surplus of \$2,935, \$48,009 was added to provisions for special purposes, thus reducing Accumulated Funds by \$45,074. A reduction to Accumulated Funds was planned by using past surpluses and the 2004/05 budget presented to the Police in April 2004 listed spending plus transfers to provisions totaling \$308,800 for which a

grant of \$206,000 was requested. This was received in full.

Actual spending plus transfers to provisions on budget items was about \$60,000 less than the \$308,800 but this \$60,000 is reduced by the \$25,000 provided for strategic plan costs. Costs of the strategic report were not in the original 2004/05 budget although strategic plan costs were in the 2003/04 budget and unused.

Among major financial highlights are the following.

\$10,000 was budgeted for the October 2004 Conference and the final cost was \$797 after a profit was returned to NZLSAR by the organisers. A further \$3,212 assistance to regional officers is

included in the Regional Administration expense item.

The new Search Dogs Subcommittee ran several successful events with the result that the \$25,375 spent exceeded the original budget of \$18,300.

Regional Training Support of \$50,683 is marginally above the \$50,000 budget and as some regions have claimed for relatively few courses, the potential expense could have been much greater.

The financial year ends with Accumulated Funds of \$160,090 plus \$148,618 reserved for special projects or purposes.

**Phil Rundle**  
NZLSAR Treasurer

**Financial Report**

**NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2005**

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds	160,090	205,164
Publications Fund	36,456	26,456
Redundancy Provision      Note 6	24,462	21,153
SAR Research Fund	45,000	35,000
ACR Training Fund	10,000	10,000
Regional Software	7,700	8,000
Strategic Plan Provision      Note 8	25,000	-----
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>308,708</b>	<b>305,773</b>
	-----	-----
Represented by:		
Bank accounts		
Westpac current a/c	1,038	3,563
Westpac call a/c	108,235	26,258
	-----	-----
	109,273	29,821
Term Deposits-Westpac	192,000	297,000
Debtors and prepayments      Note 4	28,683	11,410
	-----	-----
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>329,956</b>	<b>338,231</b>
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors      Note 5	21,248	32,458
	-----	-----
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>308,708</b>	<b>305,773</b>
	-----	-----

The Notes 1 to 11 to the Accounts form part of these Accounts.

-----Treasurer

-----Deputy Chairman

**NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005**

	2005	2004
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Police Department Contract	206,000	239,000
Interest	22,866	17,490
Donations		100
	-----	-----
Total income	228,866	256,590
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Audit Fees	1,820	1,500
Committee meetings	19,671	17,275
National Field Officer		
Salary and ACC Levy	51,972	55,215
Travel	7,024	3,543
Other Expenses	1,043	1,092
	-----	-----
	60,039	59,850
National Office		
Administration and Stationery	6,520	2,914
Travel, Publicity	9,587	3,858
Library		86
National Conference	727	
SAR Systems Audit		
Software Development		500
Communication Subcommittee	4,296	2,943
Search Dogs Subcommittee	25,375	13,860
Specialist Subcommittee		
Courses and Activities		
Subcommittee Expenses	6,296	4,218
	1,044	1,447
	-----	-----
	7,340	5,665
Training Subcommittee		
Courses and Activities	12,095	7,625
Subcommittee Expenses	5,374	9,007
	-----	-----
	17,469	16,632
Underground Subcommittee		
Subcommittee Expenses	3,147	257
Underground SAREX		9,559
	-----	-----
	3,147	9,816
Regional Admin. Support	18,957	15,209
Regional Training Support	50,683	16,386
Regional Software	300	3,000
	-----	-----
Total Expenses	225,931	169,494
Operating Surplus	2,935	87,096
Publication Fund Movements		2,561
	-----	-----
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>89,657</b>
	-----	-----

These statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to these financial statements

**NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED**  
**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005**

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	2005 \$	2004 \$
Opening Balance	205,164	136,921
Surplus for the year	2,935	89,657
	-----	-----
Total Recognised Income for the year	2,935	89,657
Less Transfers (to) from Reserves	<u>(48,009)</u>	<u>(21,414)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>160,090</u>	<u>205,164</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Publications Fund		
Opening Balance	26,456	23,895
Transfers from Accumulated Funds	<u>10,000</u>	<u>2,561</u>
Closing Balance	<u>36,456</u>	<u>26,456</u>
Redundancy Provision		
Opening Balance	21,153	10,300
Add transfer from Accumulated Funds	<u>3,309</u>	<u>10,853</u>
Closing Balance	<u>24,462</u>	<u>21,153</u>
SAR Research Fund		
Opening Balance	35,000	35,000
Add transfer from Accumulated Funds	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Closing Balance	<u>45,000</u>	<u>35,000</u>
ACR Training Fund		
Opening Balance	10,000	10,000
Closing Balance	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Regional Software		
Opening balance	8,000	
Transfer (to) from Accumulated Funds	<u>(300)</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Closing Balance	<u>7,700</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Strategic Plans Provision                      Note 8		
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	25,000	
Closing Balance	<u>25,000</u>	
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>148,618</u>	<u>100,609</u>
CLOSING EQUITY	<u>308,708</u>	<u>305,773</u>

These statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to these financial statements

**NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED**  
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2005**

**1. Reporting Entity:**

The financial statements presented here are for the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc. There are independent Regional and District land search and rescue organisations and they do not have their results included with these accounts of the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc.

**2. Statement of Accounting Policies**

These Financial Statements are presented in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

**General Principles:**

These financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost. Accrual accounting has been used to match income and expenses. Amounts are stated exclusive of GST, except for certain Debtor and Creditor balances, where appropriate.

**Differential Reporting:**

This entity qualifies for differential reporting under the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand's reporting framework as it not publicly accountable and it is not classified as being large. This entity has taken advantage of all available differential reporting exemptions.

**Changes in Accounting Policies:**

There have been no changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in previous years.

**Donated Services:**

New Zealand Land Search & Rescue Inc. relies on the voluntary service of members. Since these services are not normally purchased and because of the difficulty of determining their value, donated services are not recognised in these financial statements.

**3. Taxation:**

No provision has been made for income tax as the Society, being a charitable body, has been granted exemption from income tax.

**4. Debtors and Prepayments:**

These are principally accrued interest, GST paid on expenses and recoverable from the Inland Revenue Department and the prepayment disclosed in Note 8.

**5. Creditors:**

These are salary and holiday entitlements earned but not paid, a provision for the cost of auditing these accounts and for other expenses incurred but not paid.

**6. Redundancy Provision:**

While no redundancy is contemplated, the Committee has resolved to make this provision in case funding difficulties occur in the future.

**7. Contingent Liabilities:**

There were no known contingent liabilities as at balance date. (2004 nil)

**8. Commitments:**

The Committee entered into a contract with Design Torque for the development of the Strategic Plan for \$39,750. Half of this had been paid as a deposit at Balance date and is represented as a prepayment in the accounts. The remaining \$19,875 is an outstanding commitment for this contract. The Committee resolved to provide up to \$25,000 toward the cost of the Strategic Plan in these accounts and a Provision of \$25,000 has been created. (2004 commitments nil)

**9 Related Party Transactions:**

There were no transactions involving related parties during the year, other than those disclosed elsewhere in these Financial Statements.

**10 Search Dogs**

This new Subcommittee was formed during the year and search dog activities previously included within the Specialist Subcommittee are now reported separately. The previous year's figures for Specialist have been restated.

**11 National Conference**

The October 2004 Conference near Hamilton was organised and run by a group from Region Two. The Conference ran to a surplus before reimbursement of Committee and other representatives expenses and the overall result was a net cost of \$727

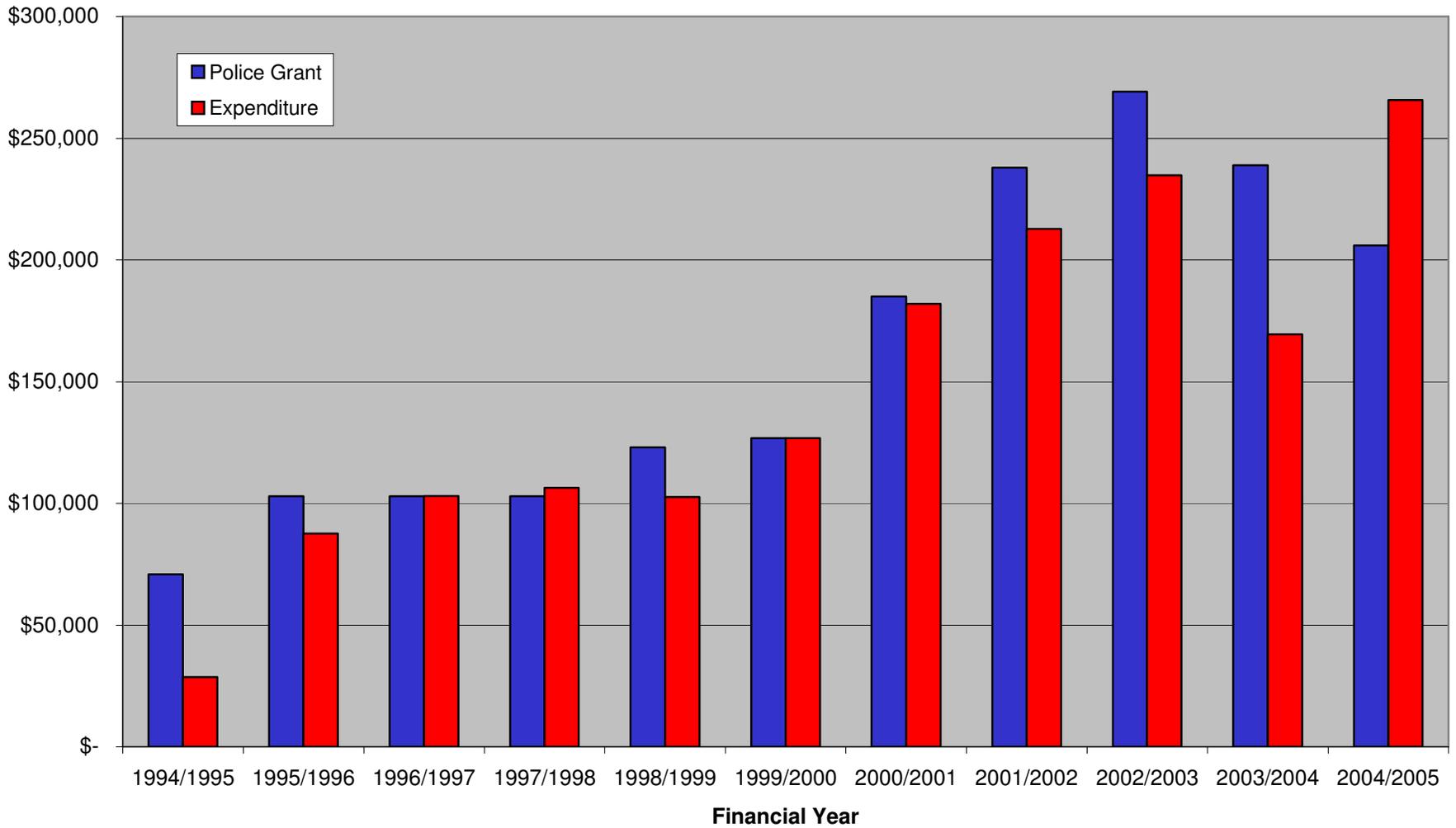
Components were payments of \$16,444 in the NZLSAR accounts and were for advances to the organisers, reimbursement of individuals expenses and GST items. Receipts of \$15,717 included sponsorship which was passed on to the organisers, the final balance of the organisers accounts and GST items.

## Auditors Report

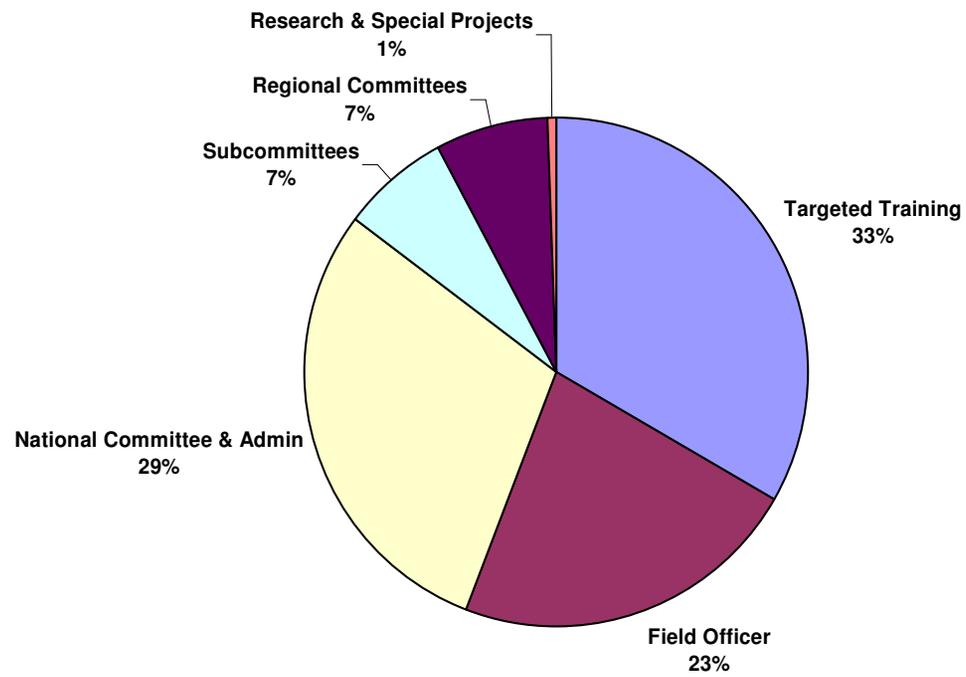
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### NZLSAR POLICE GRANT vs EXPENDITURE



**NZLSAR**  
**Expenditure - Percentage Split by Category**  
**2004/2005 Financial Year**



## NZLSAR Search and Rescue Statistics for the 2004/2005 year

The 04/05 figures below are an interim assessment taken in July 2005. The final and more comprehensive figures will be available in the Police SAR Annual Report to be issued shortly.

	04/05	03/04	02/03	01/02	00/01	99/00	98/99	97/98	96/97
<b>Land operations</b>	802	673	582	524	545	400	398	423	483
<b>Operational hours contributed</b>		N/A	18,156	20,587	41,512	17,620	14,368	20,146	15,812
<b>Number of personal involved</b>		N/A	2,785	2,762	3,362	2,262	2,108	2,829	3,139

**NOTE.** The distinction between Class I and Class II operations was dispensed from 2003/2004 and are now included in Class II. The above figures for year prior to 2003/2004 have the Class I and Class II figures combined in order to make comparisons from year to year.

## Performance Report

This section gives an overview of the performance of the organisation and activities for the 2004/2005 year. It is in two parts, the first is a summary of the NZLSAR Committee and Subcommittee activities plus an overview of the national SAR operational statistics. The second part is an overview of the performance against each of the budgeted items in the Business Plan that was presented to the Police for the 2004/2005 year.

### Part 1

#### **NZLSAR Committee and Subcommittees activities during the 2004/2005 year.**

<b>Committee meetings held</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance by Committee members</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance by Deputies</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Total attendance person days</b>	<b>83 (87%)</b>
<b>Possible total attendance person days</b>	<b>95</b>

The August meeting comprised one day of the Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Seminar and a one day Committee meeting. The February meeting of the Committee was held over two days, Saturday and Sunday.

#### **STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES:**

**Note:** At the AGM in August 2004, the Aviation Subcommittee become a working group of the Specialist Subcommittee and SAR Search Dogs was changed from a Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee to a Standing Subcommittee in its own right.

<b>Communications Subcommittee meetings held</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance</b>	<b>14</b>

#### **Specialist Subcommittee**

<b>Aviation Working Group meetings held</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Medical Working Group meetings held</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Numerous emails, etc</b>	

<b>Swift Water Group</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Vertical Working Group meetings held</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SAR Search Dogs Subcommittee meetings held</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Training Subcommittee meetings held</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>One meeting was held over two days.</b>	
<b>Underground Subcommittee meetings held</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total person days of attendance</b>	<b>7</b>

Many of the Committee members serve on other Subcommittees and Working Groups. These groups have specific tasks or objectives to research and investigate with a view to reporting back to the NZLSAR Committee a suggested course of action. The membership of these Subcommittees and Working Groups is as below.

**Finance**

**Roscoe Tait, Chairman**  
**Graham Thorp**

**Phil Rundle**

**Remuneration**

**Roscoe Tait, Chairman**  
**Dave Erson**

**Phil Rundle**  
**Geoff Logan**

**Review**

**Roscoe Tait, Chairman**  
**Roger Barrowclough**  
**Steve Davis**  
**Paul Dale**  
**Brian Holland**

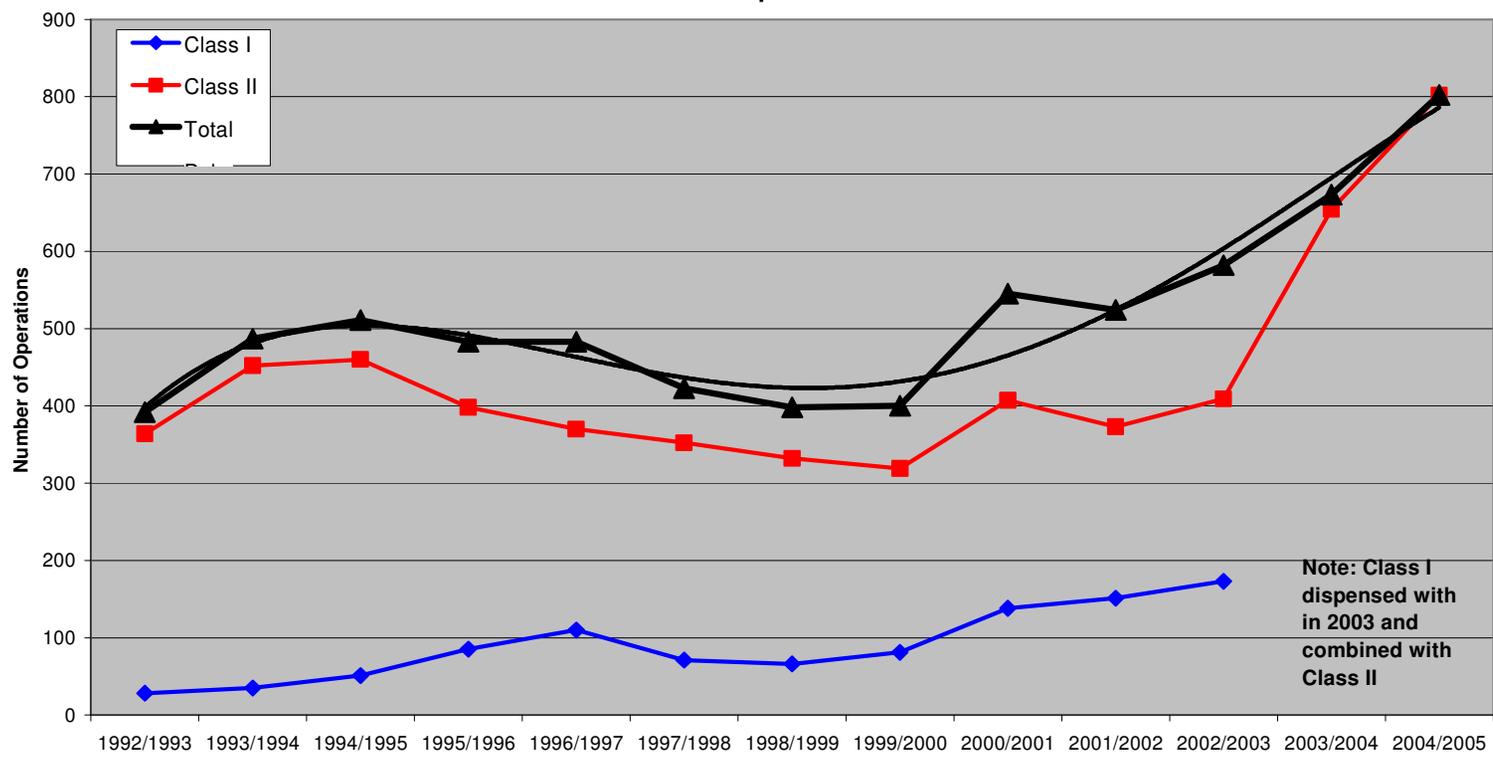
**Geoff Logan**  
**Graham Thorp**  
**John Tristram**  
**Barry Were**

**Advisers Review**

**Roscoe Tait, Chairman**  
**Brian Holland**  
**Geoff Logan**

**Peter Summerfield**  
**Russell Tucker**  
**Barry Were**

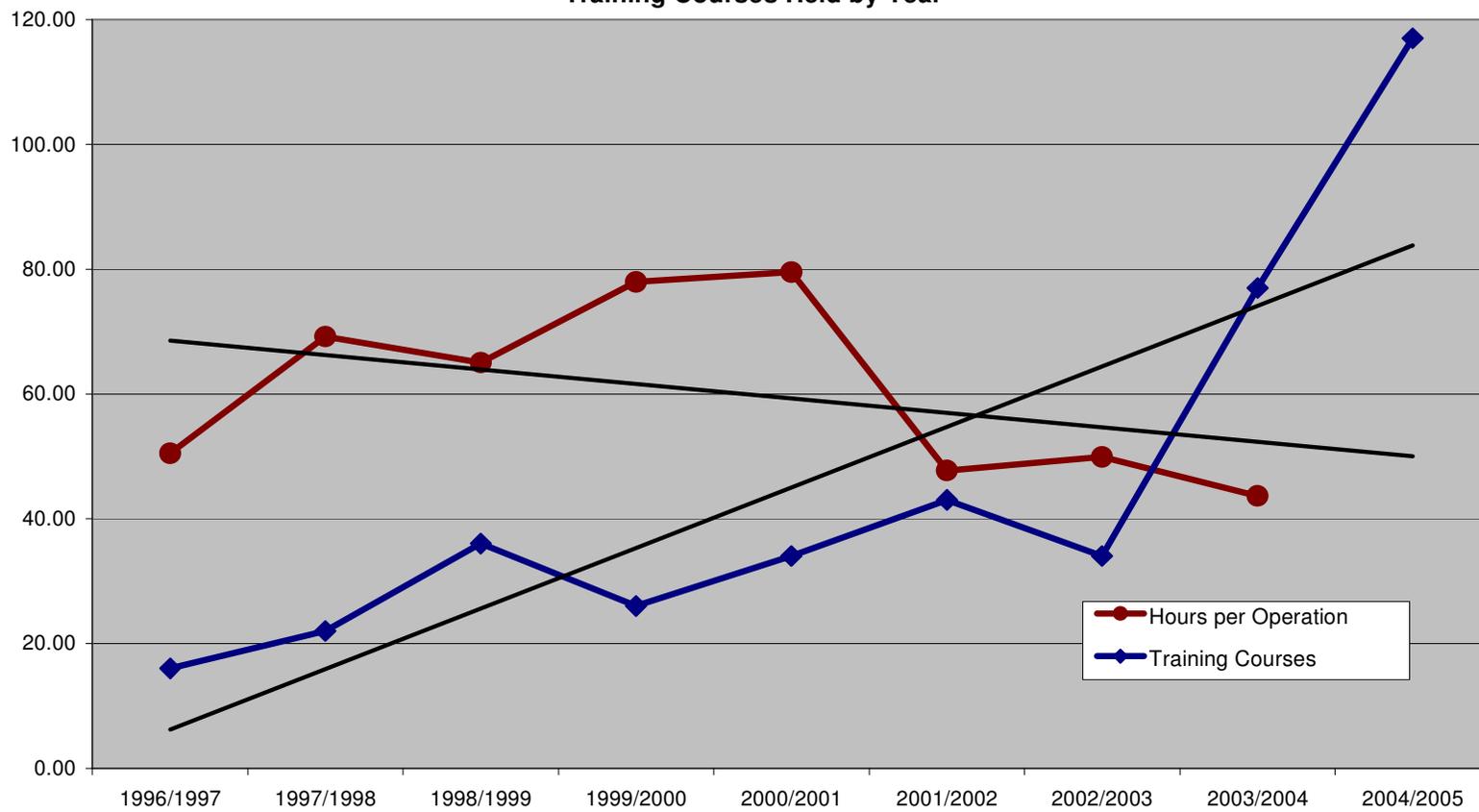
### LAND SAR OPERATIONS Number of Operations



**Note: Class I  
dispensed with  
in 2003 and  
combined with  
Class II**

**NOTE: 2004/2005 figures are interim figures only and have yet to be confirmed**

**SAR STATISTICS**  
**Average Hours per Operation by Year and**  
**Training Courses Held by Year**



## Part 2 - 2004 / 2005 Budget

The budget set for the year was for a total expenditure of \$310,500. A Business Case was presented to the Police and NZLSAR received a grant of \$239,000 from them. Expenditure for the year was \$265,681 plus \$23,309 transferred to reserves which represents 95.4% of the budget and 120.9% of the Police grant. A detail of the individual budget items is given in the following table.

### Notes:-

1. The Business case is developed in February of the previous year and submitted to the Police as a funding request.
2. The "budgeted amount" is the sum requested in the Business Case. When the funding allocation from the Police becomes known, the final Budget is approved at the November Committee meeting.
3. A review of expenditure is held at each Committee meeting and, as costs become more apparent, reallocation of finances is made to items in the Business Case and/or additional items. These are then noted in the minutes.
4. \$50,000 was allocated as a "Contestable Fund" to be used by the Regions for the payment of associated course costs for the nominated range of SAR training courses at a maximum of \$30 per person per day. These amounts include GST. The Regions select those courses they felt would be of most benefit to the Region's training needs.

No.	Item	Budgeted amount	Actual expenditure exclusive of GST	Comments
1a	NZLSAR Committee meetings	\$20,000	\$19,617	Four meetings were held during the year, two of which were a two-day meeting. The Air New Zealand fare structure and the early purchase of tickets resulted in lower actual costs. The down side is that occasionally a fare is lost when a person is unable to travel or a meeting is changed at the last minute due to circumstances beyond NZLSAR's control. The Police no longer provide a minute secretary for the Committee meetings and a person is now employed to take minutes of meetings.
1b	Conference	\$10,000	\$ 7271	\$3,000 was advanced to the Region 2 subcommittee organising the conference in October 2004 to cover initial costs until registration fees were received. After all accounts had been received the surplus was

				returned to NZLSAR resulting in an overall cost of \$727 for a very successful conference.
1c & 1e	Review Meetings	\$10,000	\$42,932	While there have been no formal meetings of the Review Committee, an outcome of the annual Regional Chairmen and Secretaries Seminar held in August was that a small subcommittee was charged with investigating funding options. A proposal was prepared in conjunction with the NZ SAR Council for presentation to the Government via the SAR Council. As part of the annual Business Case preparation and presentation to the Police, it was noted that for NZLSAR to continue to develop and move forward that (i) a Strategic plan needs to be developed and (ii) the other funding sources need to be investigated. To this end an external company has been engaged to assist with the process of developing a strategic plan for NZLSAR.
1d	Chairman's travel and discretion	\$2,500	\$4,030	This covers any travel that the Chairman or Committee members may have to undertake for NZLSAR outside that for attending Committee meetings. The Chairman has attended a number of meetings around the country to present SAR Awards and to take the opportunity to talk about the need for NZLSAR to develop a Strategic Plan.
2a	Administration Costs	\$7,000	\$8,339	This covers necessary purchases such as stationary, the Post Box, etc as well as the Auditor's expenses. As the accounts have become more complex (Conference, Strategic Plan development, etc) the Auditor's fees have increased.
2b	NFO Salary + ACC	\$65,000	\$60,039	The covers the salary, travel and incidental costs of employing the NFO. The Police continue to very kindly cover the cost of an office and associated expenses for the NFO. In addition to the general administrative tasks that the NFO undertakes, he also maintains liaison with a number of associated organisations such as Mountain Safety Council and Federated Mountain Clubs; as well as attending meetings of the Committee and a number of Subcommittee, Regional meetings, Award presentations, District SAREX's, training courses and Regional seminars.
2c	Publicity/public relations	\$2,000	\$2,276	A number of plaques have been purchased for either presentation by the Committee (including NZLSAR Awards) or purchase by a SAR Organisation for them to make their own presentations

2d	Library	\$500	Nil	As suitable items for the NZLSAR library are identified they are brought to the NFO's attention and acquired for the library. These items are available for members to borrow. A list of the publications available appears in this report. However, no items have been purchased this year and the library receives little use.
3	Aviation Subcommittee	Nil	Nil	On the recommendation of the previous Chairman this Subcommittee was in abeyance. At the August 2004 AGM, it became a Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee present.
3	SAR Search Dogs Subcommittee	\$19,800	\$25,375	SAR search Dogs, which was a Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee, became a Subcommittee in its own right. The budget established under the subcommittee was transferred to the new subcommittee. The budget allocation was increased during the year to accommodate additional assessment courses and costs.
4	Communication Subcommittee	\$9,500	\$2,496	This Subcommittee has held two meetings during the year. Research into mapping and GIS software, evaluation of a GPS tracking of teams by radio, GPS training package and HF SelCall trial is continuing and there is still more to be done before final reports are published. The Chairman continues to provide the Committee with regular updates.
5a	Specialist Subcommittee	\$1,500	\$1,044	The Specialist Subcommittee consists of a number of working groups with the Chair of the Specialist Subcommittee maintaining an overview and an encouraging hand to the work of these groups. This budget item is to allow the Chair to travel to meetings, courses, etc.
5b to 5g	Working Group – Technical Rescue	\$3,000	Nil	The Back Country Technical Rescue Standards (BTRS) are in place and draft Helicopter Rescue Standards have been reviewed and circulated for comment. The ACR Team Review has been put on hold until these standards have been promulgated as have the ACR exercise, which was held every three years. ACR equipment is funded separately by the Police directly to the ACR Teams.
5h	Working Groups - Medical	\$8,500	\$387	While the Working Group has not formally met during the years, work has proceeded on the Nominated SAR Medic (First Aider) and a meeting is planned in the next few months to finalise them.
5m to 5n	Working Group – Swift Water	\$8,500	\$5,909	This is a relatively new working group that is assessing the resources available and requirements for swift water rescue in NZ with the view to developing a national model.
6a to 6f	Training Subcommittee	\$15,000	\$13,569	The Training Subcommittee met on two occasions, one being a two

& 6j to 6l				<p>day meeting with a half day spent with Tai Poutini Polytechnic and SARINZ discussing courses and the process for the development of new courses. The focus of this Subcommittee is moving towards course requirements and the development and approval of standards for courses.</p> <p>Two people were given funding assistance to attend the Washington State SAR Conference in June 2005.</p> <p>No funds were allocated to subsidise the travel of the winning team at the Waikato competition to the Canterbury competition.</p>
6g	MLSO Course	\$4,500	\$3,900	Two five-day MLSO courses were held at the Police College in August 2004. These are attended jointly by volunteers and Police with nine volunteers on each course. The instructor costs are now met by Tai Poutini Polytechnic.
6h	Initial Response Course	\$1,000	Nil	As there is a considerable amount of duplication with the five-day MLSO course it has been decided not to proceed with these courses. Funds have been allocated to purchase some resource material so it can be run as a one-day introduction to MLSO.
6i	CIMS Courses	\$6,000	Nil	This is now included as one of the approved courses offered by Tai Poutini Polytechnic.
7a	Underground Subcommittee	\$1,000	\$3,147	This Subcommittee met once during the year. Minutes have been kept. Additional funding was approved during the year for both Training and Research and Development on the common belay systems used in cave rescue.
7b	National Cave SAREX	Nil	Nil	A national cave SAREX is held every three years and the next major cave SAREX is due to be held in early 2007.
8	SAR Research	\$Nil	\$10,000	A further \$10,000 was transferred to this fund at the end of the year, and the fund now stands at \$45,000. The purpose is to build up a fund as seed money for research projects. To date no projects have been identified.
9a	Regional Seminars	\$7,000	\$1,979	Two Regional Seminars were held during the year.
9b	Administrative Support for Regional Committees	\$12,000	\$7,338	Regions are offered two sums; \$500 to assist with administration of their Regional Committee and \$500 to assist with travel for the Regional Representative and/or Deputy Regional Representative and/or Chair of their Regional Committee. Regions are required to

				submit an annual financial statement to NZLSAR to qualify for these grants.
9c	Seminar for Regional Administrators	\$7,000	\$6,728	A seminar was held in August 2004 where It was decided that these should be held annually as they are a valuable communication exercise.
10a	Regional Training Grants	\$50,000	\$50,683	The costs of the instructors for approved training courses are met by Tai Poutini Polytechnic resulting in much lower costs to NZLSAR. NZLSAR is now able to cover the associated course costs for the regional training.
	IMAN Program	Nil	\$300	Funds were allocated in 2003/2004 to encourage SAR groups to use computer based systems by providing them with a copy of the IMan and GMan programmes for both use and training. Funds were also provided to assist with the development of forms for the Toolman programme.
	Publication Fund	Nil	\$10,000	NZLSAR maintains this fund so that there is always money available to pay the cost of printing any publications that NZLSAR produces from time to time. This fund is topped up from time to time and with the revised Field Guide, the rewrite of the Alpine Rescue Techniques Manual in the next year the Committee decided that a further top up was necessary.



## NZLSAR Award

The NZLSAR Award is designed to show appreciation for an individual's contribution to land search and rescue. It is pleasing to note the increase in the number of Organisations who have sent nominations to NZLSAR this year. The NZLSAR Committee was pleased to approve NZLSAR Awards to the following people.

Dave Dittmer	29 August 2004
Noel Bigwood	29 August 2004
Alan Marks	29 August 2004
Peter Adams	29 August 2004
Bill Dowle	29 August 2004
Dave Comber	13 November 2004
Geoff Olorenshaw	13 November 2004
Brian Holland	13 November 2004
Don Geddes	13 November 2004
Des Wood	13 November 2004
Gary Brehaut	13 November 2004
Tric Moller	02 February 2005
Stuart Warrington	02 February 2005
Ron Ealam	27 February 2005
Arch Fidler	27 February 2005
Rod Lawrence	27 February 2005
Brian Judson	27 February 2005
Jeffrey Kerr	27 February 2005
Gary Davis	14 May 2005
David Maclean	14 May 2005
John Walsh	14 May 2005
Roger Curl	14 May 2005
Terry Patterson	08 June 2005
Mike Sheridan	08 June 2005
Marty Green	08 June 2005

**Roscoe Tait**  
Chairman NZLSAR

## Publications

NZLSAR has and continues to provide the following publications.

- Memorandum of Understanding between NZLSAR and NZ Police Department
- Travel Policy
- NZLSAR News
- Standards
- Advisers Standards Non Operational and Operational Roles. Published 1995
- Field Controllers Non Operational and Operational Roles. Published 1997
- Patient Care. Published 1999
- Rescue Controller. Published 1999
- Search and Rescue Dog Teams. Published 2001
- Backcountry Technical Rescue. Published 2002
- Communications Unit Leaders Non Operational and Operational Roles. Published 2003
- Guidelines for the Nominated Field First Aider as per the Patient Care Standard (Including individual skills assessment sheet). Published 2003
- Casualty Assessment Form for operational field use. Published 2003
- Medical Adviser Standard. Published 2003

- Patient Care Standard Audit Document. Published 2003
- Guidelines
- Field Guide. Second printing 1999
- Workbook
- Communications in the Outdoors pamphlet (joint with MSC)
- Regional Secretaries Compendium
- Regional Representatives Compendium
- Policy Statements
- Health and Safety Policy
- Rehabilitation Policy
- Mission Statement Published 2002

It also provides free upon request Advisers ID cards, organisation ID cards, certificates of attendance and appreciation, NZLSAR explanatory pamphlet and a set of display boards for use and return. This latter item is in the process of being upgraded. New stands and Velcro panels have been purchased and consideration is being given to producing new photo and information material.

### Library

No new books have been purchased for the library over the past year. Usage has been modest and the numbers who have taken advantage of this resource is, if anything, decreasing. As mentioned last year, there is much more potential for this resource to be used. The Committee has continued to budget an amount for the purchase of new material and any suggestions are welcomed. The library list is again included.

**John P Tristram**  
National Field Officer

### NZLSAR/Police Library Contents

101 Great Tramps in NZ	PICKERING & SMITH
ABC of Avalanche Safety	LaCHAPELLE Edward
Advanced Search and Rescue	NASAR
Alpine Rescue Techniques	BO
	GIE Don
Avalanche Accident in New Zealand (History)	IRWIN MCQUEEN OWENS
Avalanche Awareness (Video)	Mountain Safety Council
Avalanche handbook	McCLUNG David
Avalanche safety for skiers and climbers	DAFFERN Tony
Basic Ground SAR in Canada - Home study guide	MERRY Wayne
Becoming Track Aware (VIDEO)	UNIVERSAL TRACKING SERVICES
British Columbia SAR Review 2000	BC
Canadian SAR New Initiatives Fund	Canadian SAR Secretariat
Classic NZ Mountain Bike Rides	KENNETT Paul
Commission of Inquiry into Cave Creek	Department Internal Affairs
Cycling NZ	Lonely Planet
Dogs - Search and Rescue Dogs Training Methods	American Rescue Dog Association
First Aid Manual: Emergency procedures	Red Cross
Fundamentals of Mantracking	TAYLOR AB
Fundamentals of Mantracking	TAYLOR AB
Grid Search Techniques	SYROTUCK William
Grid Search Techniques	SYROTUCK William
Incident Command System Study Course	FEMA
Info Video on changes to Mapping	LINZ

Intro to Land SAR Probabilities	SYROTUCK William
It was just a tramp in the bush	Mountain Safety Council (VIDEO)
Land Search Operations – Handbook	Emergency Management Australia
Land Search Operations – Handbook	Emergency Management Australia
Lost Person Behaviour	SYROTUCK William
Lost Person Behaviour	SYROTUCK William
Managing The Lost Person Incident	NASAR
Managing Land Search Operations – Handbook	STOFFELL Skip
National SAR Manual	Australia
New Zealand Land search and rescue guide	CURL Roger
NZ Guidelines for Avalanche Observations	Mountain Safety Council
NZ Guidelines for Avalanche Observations	Mountain Safety Council
On Rope - North American Vertical Rope techniques	PADGETT & SMITH
Orienteering, a way of learning navigation	Mountain Safety Council
Outdoor First Aid	Mountain Safety Council
Point Last Seen - Dog Tracking Story	NYALA Hannah
Probability of Detection (POD)	PERKINS Dave
Ready! The Training of the SAR Dog	BULANDA Susan
Risk Management in Outdoor Activities	Mountain Safety Council
River Rescue - Manual for whitewater safety	BECHEL Les
SAR Guide to Tracking	CARSS Bob
Scent and the scenting dog	SYROTUCK William
Search is An Emergency - a Text	STOFFELL Skip
Search is an Emergency – Handbook	STOFFELL Skip
Search is an Emergency – Handbook	STOFFELL Skip
Search Management for the Initial Response	Emergency Response Institute
IC	International
Search Management Training Kit (2 sets)	Spectra Communications
Sixty Short North Island Walks	PICKERING Mark
Snow Sense, evaluating avalanche hazard	FREDSTON Jill
Sound Sweep	COLWELL Martin
Standards for SAR Tech & Crew Leader	NASAR
Stress, managing after traumatic incidents	TUNNECLIFFE Micheal
Swiftwater Rescue Field Guide	RAY Slim
Tactical Training Options - Guide for police trackers	SCOTT-DONELAN David
Tracking, a blueprint for learning how	KEARNEY Jack
Trampers Guide to NZ National Parks	BURTON & ATKINSON
Tramping in the South Island Arthurs Pass to Mt Cook	BRABYN Sven
Tramping in the South Island Nelson to Arthurs Pass	BRABYN Sven
Travelling Well - Guide to safe and healthy travel	MILLS Dr Debroah
Water Rescue, Basic Skills for responders	SMITH David
Wilderness Search and Rescue	SETNICKA Tim
Search and Rescue Manual - Victorian Bush Walkers	Victorian Walking Clubs
Standard Operating Procedures	Kananaskis County
Map Reading and Navigation	Emergency Management Australia
SFRITO Registered Assessors Guide	SFRITO
The Search and Rescue System	Queensland Police Department

## 2004/2005 Affiliated SAR Organisations

Below are the affiliated SAR Organisations in each Region and the number of members they each have.

### *Region One*

Organisation	Total
Auckland	62
Far North	22
Northland	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>119</b>

### *Region Two*

Organisation	Total
Hamilton	38
Kuaoturu	32
Paeroa	12
Tairua/Pauanui	30
Taupo/Tokoroa	53
Tauranga	36
Thames	55
Turangi	78
Waihi	20
Waitomo	40
Whakatane	62
Whiritoa	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>

### *Region Three*

Organisation	Total
The Gisborne Land Search and Rescue Charitable Trust Board	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>

### *Region Four*

Organisation	Total
Horowhenua	38
King Country SAR	40
Palmerston Nth	80
Taranaki	116
Waimarino	24
Wairarapa	77
Wanganui	24
Wellington	80
<b>Total</b>	<b>479</b>

**Region Five**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Greymouth	31
Kaikoura	26
Hokitika	35
Marlborough	44
Motueka	58
Murchison	9
Nelson	119
Reefton	13
Takaka/Golden Bay	31
Westport	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>

**Region Six**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Christchurch ACR	72
Amuri	54
Christchurch AREC	28
Ellesmere/Rakaia	29
Methven	40
Oxford	40
Pegasus	55
Sth Canterbury	115
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>

**Region Seven**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balclutha	50
Dunedin	75
Gore	44
Invercargill	56
Milton	31
Oamaru	54
Owaka	52
Stewart Island	53
Te Anau	51
Tokanui/Waikawa	45
Wakatipu	75
Wanaka	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>616</b>