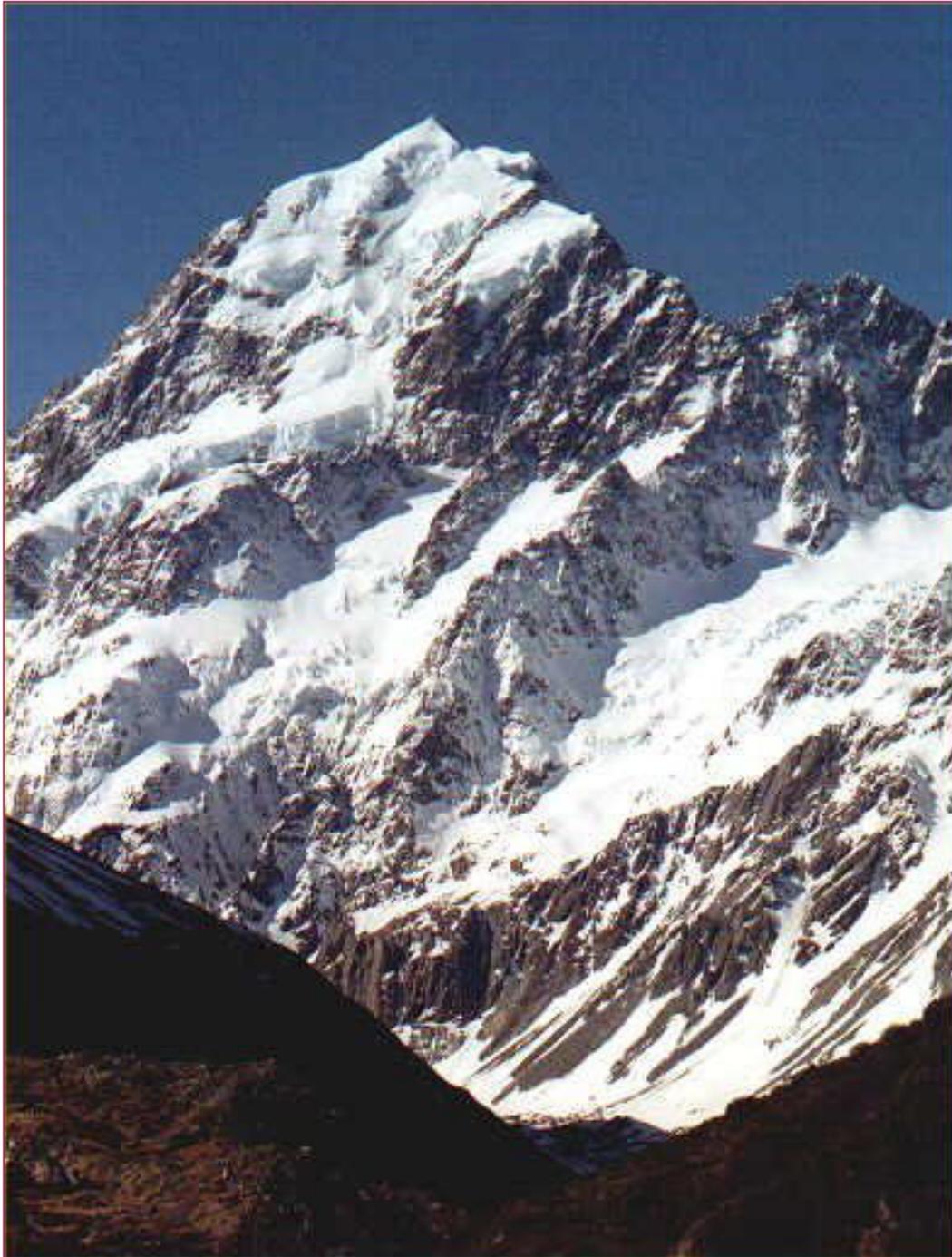


New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated



Annual Report
For the year ending 30 June 2002

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Cover photograph

The Low Peak on Mt Cook from the Hooker Valley by Ian Gardiner.

NZLSAR has recently introduced Backcountry Technical Rescue Standards for technical rescue in such places as this.

NZLSAR gratefully acknowledges the support provided by the New Zealand Police

Voting Members of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc

Seven Regional Representatives	N Z Federated Mountain Clubs
New Zealand Mountain Safety Council	Department of Conservation
New Zealand Police	New Zealand Speleological Society
Associate Member (Non voting)	
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications	

New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Committee Personnel Position and Residence

Officers of the organisation.

Graham Thorp.	Chairman	Taradale
Roscoe Tait	Deputy Chairman	Auckland
Phil Rundle.	Treasurer	Lower Hutt
Paul Dale.	Secretary	Christchurch

Regional Representatives.

John Walsh.	Region One	Auckland
Charlie Smart to November 2001. Ian Newman from May 2002.	Region Two	Te Kuiti
Graham Thorp.	Region Three	Taupo
Stewart Davies to November 2001. Tony Macklin from February 2002.	Region Four	Taradale
Steve Marshall to November 2001. Joe Hayes from February 2002	Region Five	Palmerston North
Terry Sweetman.	Region Six	Wellington
Roger Barrowclough.	Region Seven	Takaka
		Nelson
		Greymouth
		Dunedin

Subcommittee Chairmen.

Gerry Prins till February 2002. Stewart Cameron from May 2002	Aviation	Tawa
Steve Davis.	Communications	Nelson
Tric Moller.	Specialist	Christchurch
Roscoe Tait.	Training	Christchurch
Barry Were	Underground	Auckland
		Hamilton

Representatives of Organisations.

Laurie Gallagher.	FMC Representative	Raumati South
Paul Dale.	Dep. of Conservation	Christchurch
Gerard Prins.	New Zealand Police	Tawa
Barry Were.	NZ Speleological Society	Hamilton

The first object in the NZLSAR Constitution is:-

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

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.

Chairman's Report

In accordance with the requirements of the constitution this is my final term as Chairman and I will take the opportunity to reflect on the issues that have faced NZLSAR over the past seven years and try and put things into perspective for our future development. Looking back, I never cease to be amazed at the achievements that have been made. For a volunteer organisation, we have come a long way and undertaken a wide range of projects (probably too many) on an equally wide range of topics and issues. We have so many dedicated, hard working people at all levels that it can be difficult to keep a handle on what is going on and how it will impact on the level of service we can provide to the victim.

In the first few years of NZLSAR's development things were relatively easy to manage. We had a new organisation to get up and running, new systems and exciting times with a range of new training packages being provided nationwide to bring everyone up to similar standards throughout the country. This phase has now run its course and we are in a situation where there is a need to consolidate on what has passed and take on the challenges that confront us in the future. We now have a whole new set of issues that are impacting on the organisation. They don't relate directly to SAR or the victim but they do need to be managed and kept under control if the organisation is to hold its position in the SAR scene and move forward to greater things. It is a case of maintaining what is working well and managing change as it confronts us.

From a management and control point of view it can be quite a mission keeping the ship on course and maintaining an even keel. Looking at the problems that occur from time to time it is interesting to find that they nearly always develop from a dedicated volunteer becoming frustrated with an aspect of the system and seemingly being unable to break down the barriers that appear to be obstructing progress that they believe are important. This can become even more amplified when it comes to looking at the

performance of the National Committee as it can seem quite remote to a member who is not directly involved in the Regional Committee Structure.

It is something I have been trying to get my head around for some time. It has taken a failed operation, the introduction of CIMS, the change of a couple of relatively new Regional Representatives and some rather strong attacks on the performance of the National Committee for me to get a real understanding of the causes of people's frustrations. The need to find solutions to overcome some of these perceived problems is something I have devoted a significant amount of time to over the last year. It is an important issue and one that must be addressed at National level. It is important to promote an understanding of why we are here in the minds of the all volunteers at all levels in the Regions and Districts.

So what causes the frustrations? Communication is a major part of the problem as frustration of people at National level can flow rapidly back to the Regions giving the wrong impressions of National performance. Understanding the issues confronting us and the need to deal with them effectively, is a second problem. New people starting out at National level suddenly find themselves looking at issues like, Insurance, OSH, HSE, ACC, employment issues, funding, budgets, policy development, standards, Police volunteer relationships, and the list goes on. All of these things are essential to the well being of the organisation but have little to do directly with SAR or the victim.

For someone arriving on the National scene for the first time it can be a bit of a shock. They come in primed up as a leading figure in their own area doing all sorts of functions that work directly in the development of SAR and assistance to the victim. To then find that their national workload amounts to handling heaps of paper, major reports, crystal ball gazing and the need to be an effective communicator can be somewhat

daunting. It highlights the need for Regions to make sure they are sending the right people forward to work at National Level. It is also important for all members in the Regions and Districts to understand that this is the level the National Committee works. They are effectively policy makers and approvers. They are not the developers of detailed policy, this occurs in the Subcommittees which are made up from experts from throughout the country.

Volunteers have limited time available to undertake projects so it is important to make the most of their time. This can best be achieved by constructive assistance. Criticism that has not been researched and doesn't provide workable solutions becomes destructive and only serves to cause further frustration. From my experience most concerns people have are perceived rather than real. When concerns develop it is essential to spend some time working through the issues. Take the trouble to sound out experienced people from Regional or National Committees. They should be able to assist with guidance of how we have reached the current position and give advice on how to present a new proposal. Then find solutions that are workable and present it to the appropriate level (i.e. Region, National Sub Committee or National Committee). If you have done your homework you will be surprised at the support you will be given.

Achievements

What has been achieved over the last 6 years? I believe the organisation as a whole can be well proud of the achievements. They can often be glossed over but when you look through our past work programmes one can't help but be impressed by the efforts that have been put in all over the country. The following are but a sample of the progress that has been made:-

MoU.

The development and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding has probably been the most useful exercise that the Committee has undertaken. As commented above it isn't something that

stands out in SAR terms or as providing much directly for the victim, but it provides that all important framework which allows NZLSAR to work closely with the Police. The framework gives us a structure throughout the country that everyone can work to and the justification that the Police need to support NZLSAR. It clearly sets out the agreed responsibilities for both organisations and defines our aims and objectives for an ongoing working relationship. Hence, if the structure is working it must in turn enable us to work at much higher standards and therefore directly or indirectly improve the help we can give to a victim.

Police Support

The relationship between NZLSAR and the Police has been a key to the success SAR in New Zealand. In a country this size neither organisation can exist in the SAR role without support of the other. At National level both NZLSAR and the Police have always recognised this and we have continued to work closely together to provide the best possible SAR service to the public of NZ. I cannot over estimate the importance of this relationship. It is the key to maintaining a top level SAR organisation. Other options are possible but given the number of operations in New Zealand there is no way we could provide the same level of service with the same efficiency. Integration between the organisations at the national level is now almost transparent to the extent that each has provided input into all aspects of the SAR scene from employment issues through to advice on ways to improve systems and structures.

Our National Field Officer has been given every assistance by the team at National Headquarters and he now feels that he is an integral part of the team providing the SAR support to the Commissioner. Working alongside the National SAR Co-ordinator, Gerard Prins, is a real bonus for SAR as the office forms a central point where the issues affecting Police and volunteers come together and it enables cross boundary problems to be sorted out. Having technical support (i.e. computers and other facilities) not far

away is also useful as it keeps costs down and overcomes the problems of solving issues remotely.

Over the past year there have been one or two cases where the Police NZLSAR relationship has broken down at the Region or District level and we have had to work quickly to try and resolve an impasse. The problems are generally caused by over zealous members on one side or the other not keeping people up to date or alerted when operations begin and when this occurs friction can quickly spread and affect the performance of the team in that locality. Communication is the key. Early notification to all concerned keeps people informed and feeling part of the team. Integrated training such as the one week MLSO courses should assist in this area as there will be a better understanding of each others needs at the workplace. I believe it is important to move over time to full integration.

Review Committee

This Committee was formed when the Government decided to undertake a review of the Police. At that time a major effort was made to assess our situation and direction should the Police Review result in changes to the way SAR was co-ordinated. Since that time, the Group has remained in existence and has been given a range of tasks by the National Committee. Since some of the issues are delicate and sensitive, I don't propose to report on these in detail. However, I should note that a number of concerns were raised at last November's Chairman and Secretary's meeting. The Review Committee has taken these on board and is working through these proposals. A report on these issues could be about 6 months away as the outcomes are dependant on other reports from external consultants and the audit reports that should be presented to the committee following the conference in November 2002.

Training.

The Training Subcommittee is NZLSAR's key Standing Subcommittee. It has the largest budget and the most impact on the organisation at all levels through its

training programmes, workshops, standards, training manuals and training workbooks. The outputs from this committee include:-

- Standards. Adviser and Field Controller. Others are close to completion.
- Training courses. MSO, MLSO, TCA1, TCA2, Search methods, Team Leader. New courses are being introduced for CIMS and Initial Attack approaches to search management.
- Publications. Several publications are now available to assist with training and research. The training workbook which is directly linked to the Field Guide is now operating in several areas and the second edition of the field guide is due for publication shortly.
- Review. A review of the Advisers position is being undertaken to determine if changes are necessary to align NZLSAR with the new CIMS structure.

Specialist.

This is another Standing Subcommittee with a huge workload. Specialist disciplines now include High Angle Rescue, Medical, Search Dogs, Swift Water and some other specialist areas. Each discipline has its own working group and they report to the chair of the Specialist Sub Committee for co-ordination through to the National Committee. A number of areas have linked into overseas courses to gain new ideas and bench mark our performance. New Standards have been produced for Patient Care and Backcountry Technical Rescue. Patient care is undergoing audit procedures and courses have been attended for Work Place Assessors, Advanced Instructor and Mountain Safety and Rescue. The Mountain Safety and Rescue Seminar was held in Savoy, France and was jointly funded by DoC and NZLSAR.

A major effort has been put into the promotion of search dog teams. NZLSAR's aim is to provide a platform for the search dog fraternity to build on so that they achieve the basic standards and set up an organisation of their own. Particular emphasis is being placed on

the need for both the dog and handler to be proficient as well as being able to look after themselves in the field.

The outcomes of the Mount Cook report which was jointly prepared by the Police and DoC is due for review and NZLSAR will need to work through the issues with DoC and the Police.

Communications.

The Communications Sub Committee continues to be very active investigating developments primarily in the electrical and electronics fields where they may be of use for SAR. Equipment programmes are covered separately under equipment but additional work is being done to analyse the effectiveness of computer mapping systems, remote control of portable repeaters and telephone interconnect through a "cell call" system on the HF field sets.

- **Equipment.** The work of the Communications Subcommittee has resulted in major upgrades in our communications equipment. The new VHF handheld radios and repeaters have made a significant impact on the way we run our field operations and provide a more effective interchange of information between the field headquarters and the field teams. New proposals for the purchase of equipment have been prepared and forwarded to the Police covering, new AM ground to air radios, battery boxes for extending the life of portable repeaters and HF base sets to complement the VHF base equipment purchased earlier.
- **High visibility vests.** In various forms these have proved valuable in a range of environments on day and night operations. They are particularly useful when working with helicopters.
- **Food packs.** These are now available to members at competitive rates.

Aviation.

This Subcommittee has had a difficult task interfacing with the aviation industry. However, our new Chairman has a background in the aviation industry and this is expected to improve our ability to

get past the red tape and sort out the issues that are important to SAR.

Underground.

This Subcommittee is almost self contained but works in closely with all the other Subcommittees. Recent operations have confirmed that the developments in other areas of SAR like Managing Land Search Operation courses have been of benefit to the caving fraternity and they have integrated into the SAR system as a service provider. A call to amalgamate this Subcommittee with the Specialist Subcommittee has not been acted on because the present system is working very well and the additional workload on the Specialist Subcommittee could destroy the output from both groups. The two Subcommittees already work closely together and maintaining two groups allows for the best use of our resources.

As commented above this is a summary of the achievements of NZLSAR. There are many other issues that have not been included but it shows the extent of the work that is being done under the umbrella of the National Committee. The list is impressive and I believe it is an achievement that all involved should be proud of.

What of the Future

In considering the future it is useful to ask some basic questions relating to SAR in New Zealand. It helps to focus on what is desirable and what is possible. The vision of SAR in New Zealand which is held by various groups and individuals can be quite wide and depends on many factors, especially local and individual situations and aspirations. The make up of people supporting SAR has changed significantly from the days when SAR came under the control of the FMC SAR Subcommittee. At that time the key people had an outdoor, mountain club, deerstalker type background. The base is now much wider with people from non-outdoor organisations having an influence. Philosophies have changed and this has caused concern and friction in some areas. Some key questions to consider when looking at our direction or preparing a proposal include:-

- Will it help the victim? Is the proposal a need, real or imaginary?
- Do we have sufficient operations to justify the level of effort?
- Is New Zealand big enough for the type of system or structure being proposed?
- Does the proposal need funding? Is the level of funding justifiable or realistic given all the other pressures on funding in a relatively small community?
- Is the need for change a local requirement or is it something that should apply nationally?
- Does the saying, "If it ain't broke don't fix it", apply?
- Are the outcomes worth the disruptions of change?

There are many external developments that continue to place pressures on the organisation. Change is inevitable and we must ensure that we respond appropriately to change as it occurs to keep us focused on the needs of SAR in New Zealand. In making these assessments it is important for us to remember where NZLSAR sits in the scheme of things and what we need to do to ensure we can continue to provide the best possible service.

In considering our direction for the future we must be mindful of all the players in the SAR scene. We must be clear on the nature of our core business, know what we do well and clearly understand where we want to position ourselves as things evolve.

So who are the key players for SAR in New Zealand? There is a big list and they all have a part to play. They include, the Government, the National SAR Committee controlled by the CAA, the Police, all sections of the Defence Forces, DoC, NZLSAR, FMC and their member groups, MSC, AREC, Coastguard, Ambulance Services and Fire Service. Other areas like HSE, ACC and the insurance industry have an indirect impact on the way we work. Each of these organisations have a significant input into SAR functions in New Zealand and it can be assumed that each spend

time analysing their position and their support of SAR. This is not seen as a bad thing as it means that the system is currently under review in some way. It keeps people alert and helps to prevent the system becoming entrenched and out of touch with reality. However, it does mean that the continued analysis creates changes that may or may not be good for the victim and this is where we need to be vigilant and respond to changes that can impact on our ability to perform.

So where does NZLSAR sit in the SAR scene? NZLSAR is a service provider. We pride ourselves in our ability to provide a nation wide team of people who can respond to any land based incident involving search and/or rescue services. We provide a range of people with skills covering all aspects of land based operations from management and control, to planning and intelligence and field work on the ground. Field skills are now at consistently high standards and range from simple shoreline searches to highly technical search and rescue operations in alpine conditions and everything in between using skills like TCA, search methods, navigation, first aid and patient care at high altitude and cold conditions.

We are a service provider that provides all the basic functions that are required at the coal face of an operation. We have positioned ourselves in an area that must be part of any operation. It doesn't matter what happens to the structure of SAR and how it is managed at the top levels, there will always be a need for someone like NZLSAR to provide the skills that are needed in the field. To maintain this position we must be the best providers of this service and this is where the National Committee has focused its efforts over the last seven years since the inception of NZLSAR.

In the big picture, one of the lead players is the National SAR Committee which is co-ordinated by the Civil Aviation Authority and is made up of most of the organisations listed above, including NZLSAR. Civil Aviation has the responsibility for the control of Class III operations and relies on the Police and

NZLSAR for land based field work through the co-ordination of the Police network and NZLSAR's Advisers working in NRCC during an operation.

A review of the National SAR Committee under CAA is currently being undertaken. Its effect on NZLSAR will probably depend on the Police position on the Committee and the places we hold in the NRCC. I don't expect too much impact at this stage but NZLSAR don't have direct input to the review so we will need to keep a watching brief on developments and provide the Police with any support they require.

The Police have the responsibility for the co-ordination of SAR for all Class I and II operations and NZLSAR through the MoU are very well placed to provide the field services for all land based operations.

Health, Safety & Employment issues are currently in front of the Government and these could have a huge impact on the way SAR functions in the future. The National Committee has many concerns about some of the clauses that have been included in the amendments to the Act, to the extent that Roscoe Tait and Roger Barrowclough prepared a submission to the Select Committee in Wellington and were on hand to speak to the submission towards the end of May 2002. The Act will impact on all volunteer organisations and it is hoped that the Government will take on board the concerns we have expressed and allow what is essentially the status quo to remain.

By the time you read this you will be aware that the SAR Institute is up and running albeit in the early stages of its development. The aims of this organisation were outlined to Regional Office holders at the Chairman and Secretaries meeting held at the Police College in November 2001. It is an interesting concept and one which can be complimentary to NZLSAR's areas of expertise. The need to compliment each other must be a key goal of both NZLSAR and the Institute, as New

Zealand is too small to have different organisations working at cross purposes.

It's too early to make any solid recommendations on the way we work together but the next twelve months should clarify many of the issues and allow us to work out the best options for achieving optimum results. The biggest challenge will be the availability of people who are willing and prepared to give of their time. I don't see funding as being the determining factor. It is more likely to be the availability of skilled people. As in other areas it is likely that we will see the same faces appearing in both organisations.

The above is just a sample of the issues being considered at national level. It may look rather daunting but to date we have managed to keep our fingers on the pulse and manage our way through to good working solutions. The pace is unlikely in this age of information technology to slow down, so it is important for those who take over the lead roles to have a balanced approach to the issues as they develop and ensure that they don't get buried by the sheer size of the task. For those at the Region and District level it would be helpful to ensure that proposals to the National Committee are well prepared and thought through. This will limit the time required to assess solutions and get quick results.

Thanks.

After six years at the helm it will no doubt be good for me to have a break and look at SAR from some different angles. I have tried to make sure that everyone has had a chance to air their views and provide a co-ordination role rather than direct the team from the top. I have enjoyed the chance to lead the team and to assist in advancing the organisation through a significant phase in our development. Of course the credit for this development doesn't fall on anyone person as it is the result of a major effort from a big team of people throughout the country.

There are many to thank and it is impossible to mention them all here but clearly there are a number of key groups

that are easily identified. The National Committee has seen a few changes over the last six years but there are still a number of the original participants that have worked with the team from the very beginning of NZLSAR. Some haven't missed a single meeting which goes to show the level of commitment they have to the work of the organisation. To each and every member I give my sincere thanks for a job well done.

To the five organisations that backed NZLSAR from the beginning, New Zealand Police, NZ Federated Mountain Clubs, NZ Mountain Safety Council, NZ Department of Conservation and NZ Speleological Society we thank you for your continued support and look forward to the same excellent working relationship in the future. The Police support has been mentioned above but it is important to make special mention to them for the help and support that has been provided in so many areas. I trust that the reverse has also applied as volunteers throughout the country have assisted in so many different ways.

From my own point of view I must give a special thanks to the Police team at headquarters from the Commissioner down and to the local team in Region Three (Napier, Wairoa and Gisborne). The doors have always been open, we have been consulted when key decisions have been made that impact on NZLSAR and we have been given access to all the information we have required. We have worked through many issues at all levels over the last six years and I believe all have been resolved to NZLSAR's satisfaction one way or another. The advice and assistance has been of the highest standards and totally professional. If this approach can be continued I don't think SAR in New Zealand has got much to worry about. To John Tristram our NFO I give thanks for a job well done. It can be a difficult

position working as the only NZLSAR employee in the country and having to do much of his work on his own or remotely through people all over the country. Having to meet deadlines which rely on the outputs of many volunteers with limited time to complete some difficult tasks can cause its frustrations. The support of Gerard Prins, the Police National SAR Co-ordinator, has made a real difference to the National Office and between John and Gerard we have managed to keep all programmes for the year on track.

Thanks again to Ross Gordon for another year of support to NZLSAR and SAR in general. Ross and I have been in regular communication over my time in the Chair and I thank him for the help and advice he has provided on a variety of subjects. I am not sure that we have followed exactly the same line of thinking at all times but I believe we now have an organisation that is well positioned to move forward with confidence.

On behalf of the National Committee I must thank all our NZLSAR members that have turned out on operations in all sorts of conditions, often at short notice, for their dedication to the cause. The successes that have been achieved are the result of a lot of behind the scenes training and preparation. It isn't just a matter of good luck that people are rescued. I believe the public genuinely appreciate the work you are doing even if it may be taken for granted in many quarters.

I wish the incoming Chairman well for the next phase of our development and look forward to working with him or her in the future.

Graham Thorp
Chairman NZLSAR

National Field Officer's Report

Another 12 months have flown and its time to review the past year. I am by nature similar to those people who tend to focus on the things we thought

should have happened or could have been done better. Others (and undoubtedly more sensible) take a positive view and see more clearly the

progress being made or the goals reached. Looking at these two aspects of human behaviour I will try and write this report to reflect both views for the past year, give illustrations and provide a guide for myself for the next. As with "peer review" I will note the areas I think I can do things differently and then make observations of the things that I believe have been done well. While there has been the odd frustration this year there has been much to be pleased with and plenty that is a pleasure to have been associated with.

In appreciating what has happened over the past year it is best to start at the beginning and that requires an outline of how NZLSAR "gets work done". The initial process is the preparation of the annual Business Case. This is the document prepared yearly for presentation to Police to show what work is proposed to be done and the finances required to do it. In preparing its Business Case the Committee asks its members for their input and the responses seem to fall into two groups.

The first group have schemes and ideas and express them as "perhaps we should do this" "or maybe we should do that". Exactly what is being proposed is often hard to grasp and can lead to feelings of frustration. Therefore my resolution for the coming year is to try to provide avenues for such ideas to be better understood and thus considered.

The second group within the Committee come with a plan on what they want done. They give a good indication of what work or outcome is required, who will do it, when it will be done, the funding required and who will "drive it through". Invariably the Committee has agreed with the proposal, it has become part of the Business Plan and Police have provided the funding. The sense of achievement from working in this way has provided some highlights and I would like to share a few examples.

The **Communications Subcommittee** under the guidance of **Steve Davis** have worked through a list of wants and needs and produced a separate Business Case for the purchase of further

communications equipment. With the well known success of the equipment purchased previously by the Police on the recommendation of the Subcommittee this was a continuation of the constructive work done by them. Despite understanding little of the discussions at their meetings, it's a pleasure to work with them and I was really pleased to be able to submit the Business Case. Steve also proposed that a budget allocation be made for items including a small computer software package. With the dollar at its best for a long time this was recently purchased and I look forward to hearing more about it.

Tric Moller has picked up the **Specialist Subcommittee** from Peter Cameron and building on the excellent work he had done, has brought to fruition a number of projects.

- Search dogs. Tric applied the formula of "this is what needs doing, this is who will do it and this is how much it will cost". So with Markus Milne as head instructor, she has overseen the two Bush/Wilderness dog and handler courses and the Avalanche search dog course would have run but for a lack of snow. NZLSAR in taking a leadership role and working with the search dogs handlers is making huge strides forward. With 14 dogs now qualified in either bush or avalanche the expenditure on completing the Standards and assisting in running these courses has been well worth it.
- Backcountry Technical Rescue Standards. This Standard previously had much preparatory work done by Peter, Murray Cullen and Don Bogie. Now work by Tric, Grant Prattley and a group including Murray and Don has produced a Standard for participants in this field of SAR. With finances allocated in the Business Plan and lots of help at the local level, three workshops have been held to introduce the Standard to "those in the field".
- Swift water rescue. This seemed to some people to be a potential problem. Tric managed it by explaining the situation to the Committee, proposing a "scoping

paper” be produced, nominating a person to do this and having identified unspent finances had them allocated for this purpose. While this is still “unfinished business”, a path to completion has been identified.

While the **Training Subcommittee** members have had a lower profile in providing national training themselves this year (if one discounts the \$70,000 plus of work they have had done by EML) they did find a solution to the need and provision of a CIMS course. **Roscoe Tait** advanced the proposal that John Bowman be employed to document a CIMS course suitable for land SAR participants and present this at a number of venues around the country. Surplus funding was identified within various budgets and five courses will have been run by the end of this financial year. CIMS as a management tool has been misunderstood for some time. If the course assessment sheets are any guide the courses being run are much appreciated.

It’s a pleasure to work with Committee members and people around the country to get these types of events “off the ground” or being involved in some other way.

Appreciation

Firstly I would give a heartfelt vote of thanks to **Graham Thorp**. As Chairman of NZLSAR he has been “my boss” for the past six years. Always there, always prepared to listen and always able to give advice. Unable to stand as Chairman again by the requirements of the Constitution, there are obvious changes ahead for us both. The word “thanks” can in no way convey my gratitude for his help. The Queens Service Medal for Public Service he recently received in the

Queens Birthday Honours List for his work in SAR was much deserved.

Phil Rundle, as in previous years is again the rock for financial guidance that I need. I believe in organisations such as ours one of the most diligent but unsung workers are the Treasurers. Phil is no exception. Every week we have a small meeting and exchange various documents. Every month he produces a financial statement. Each annual audit goes through “hassle free”. This is all achieved by meticulous attention to detail that would drive me mad. Thanks Phil for the support you give to me.

Then there is **Neville Matthews** and his team. Neville as a Police Superintendent is in charge of the Operations Group, which includes search and rescue. He has an “open door” policy” and I know I can wander down for a natter if I am troubled on some point. He also has an office of caring, nice people. Firstly **Gerard Prins** with whom I spend so much time. With the inevitable problems that crop up I find Gerard invariably able to provide “the wise counsel”. I have found his knowledge of Police personnel, the department’s systems and advice on how to deal with people, invaluable. NZLSAR, search and rescue and myself are much indebted to him. **Paul Brennan** as Officer in Charge of Emergency Management is great to work with and **Chris Wilding** as Office Manager is the one who jollies us along and keeps the smiles coming.

Finally to the Regional and District Committee members and all those involved in search and rescue, thanks for your assistance and thanks for giving so much of your time to help others in need.

John P Tristram
National Field Officer

Police Report

This is my third annual report as the Police Coordinator for Search and Rescue.

The annual statistics are being compiled for the 2001/2002 business year and I will

be presenting a copy of these at the Annual General Meeting.

It has been a busy year for the Police in search and rescue and the relationship with NZLSAR. Highlights include:

- The second joint NZLSAR/Police controller's course based on the Emergency Response International Managing Land Search Operations course was completed in March at the Royal New Zealand Police College. These courses visibly demonstrate the partnership that exists between Police and NZLSAR.
- The Police as part of the United Nations sponsored International Year of Volunteers issued to all volunteers who assisted the Police a commemorative medallion. Search and rescue volunteers from NZLSAR were amongst over 9700 persons issued with a medallion.
- There is a major review underway looking at the structure of search and rescue at a governance level. The National Search and Rescue Committee tasked the Government agencies with the responsibility for administering SAR, the Police, Ministry of Transport, Civil Aviation Authority, Maritime Safety Authority and New Zealand Defence Forces to look at the development of a governance structure. The process has been proceeding very smoothly with a positive result likely to be reported to the August Committee meeting.

The Police view the search and rescue relationship as being a strategic partnership with the community. This relationship has been strengthened

because of the Memorandum of Understanding developed by the National Committee. NZLSAR is recognised by the Police as being responsible for the development of Standards and training for land search and rescue volunteers.

There are several Standards that need to be developed, and the Police request the National Committee give prominence to the development of a Team Member/Team Leader Standard. With the possible changes to Occupational Safety Legislation, these Standards will have an even higher importance.

Graham Thorp retires this year as Chairman of the National Committee. Few people realise the amount of work Graham has put into ensuring the National Committee and the relationship with Police has functioned smoothly. I would like to publicly thank Graham for his efforts over the last six years.

Finally I would like to thank **John Tristram** for the work he has completed in assisting the running of the search and rescue office at the Office of Commissioner. His advice and expertise has been invaluable. By sharing an office we are able to quickly solve many problems and deal with issues promptly.

Gerard Prins

Police Coordinator, Search and Rescue

Region One Report

The last twelve months have seen an Adviser resigning, a spate of canyoning incidents, CIMS training

continuing, and a new Line Rescue Team operating.

Regional Committee.

The Region One Committee consists of:-

John Walsh, Auckland, Chairman, Regional Rep.

Roscoe Tait, Auckland, Secretary/Treasurer.

Grant Conaghan Whangarei.

Mark Hall, Auckland.

Glen Hawke, Whangarei.

R. Knight.

Roger Ladd, Kerikeri.

Dave Palmer, Whangarei.

Cliff Metcalfe, Whangarei.

NZLSAR Award

Tony Taylor, an Adviser for the Far North group, tendered his resignation earlier in the year due to work pressures. The Regional Committee endorsed the presentation of a NZLSAR Award to Tony, for his contribution to SAR. Tony had been involved for fifteen years, firstly in Auckland and latterly in the Far North.

Far North

The group has had a quiet period since the last NZLSAR meeting. Members turned out for a search for a missing fisherman in June. They spent two days searching, joining the Police SAR squad, divers, and two fixed wing planes. The man's body was located by the team on the second day. The group has been concentrating on CIMS training.

Northland

This group has also had a quiet spell. In June, the team located and rescued a dog which had fallen 23 metres into a tomo, and survived. The team was called in after the local Fire Brigade was unable to perform the rescue. The event made the local paper, as well as the New Zealand Herald, and has raised the profile of the group in the local community. This group depends on the community for a large part of its funding, so the rescue and subsequent publicity will no doubt prove very useful. As well, pub charities produced \$10,000 which the group used to purchase and outfit a Search HQ caravan. This will be stored at the Whangarei Police Station.

Auckland

This group has also had a spell of relative inactivity. Callouts consisted of a search in the Hunua Ranges for an overdue runner who was located on the second day, and a night search in the Waitakere Ranges for three overdue canyoneers, who were located at about 0200 hours. As well, a tramper who fell down a waterfall needed to be rescued at night, because of his injuries and the onset of hypothermia.

Auckland hosted the two day CIMS course which was attended by Auckland Police SAR squad members, Auckland District Committee members, and a Region One Committee member from the Far North.

A new Line Rescue Team has been established, consisting of Police SAR squad members, SERT (Specialist Emergency Response Team – from St John Ambulance) and FIRST team members. Training has concentrated on teaching all members how to work safely on steep ground, while searching and looking for clues, as well as assisting with recovery and stretcher handling.

Two incidents involving commercial canyoning groups saw a client fracture a limb while descending a stream and an instructor fall over a waterfall. These incidents have highlighted the need for the steep ground training.

John Walsh

Region One Representative

Region Two Report

General

This year is notable for the decrease in search operations and the continuing trend of interaction between different groups for training courses and SAREX's. This networking is having the positive effect of improving communication and the exchange of

ideas between groups has assisted outside groups to fit into another's search operation.

Regional Committee

The Region Two Committee met twice during the past year.

Regional Committee members are:-

Tiena Jordan, Whakatane, Chairman
Brent Martin, Tauranga, Secretary/Treasurer
Ian Newman, Taupo, Regional Rep.
Phil Alley, Rotorua

Janet Hope, Rotorua
Gary Hose, Waihi
Hoana Katting, Rotorua
Lyn Manning, Greerton

Roger Bates, Turangi
Kevin Cannell, Opotiki
John Cassidy, Thames
Dave Comber, Taupo
Rob Duncan, Thames
Ben Foster, Waihi
Karen Henrikson, Hamilton

Search Operations

The number of Class I and II search operations across the Region has fallen. One of the reasons put forward is the increasing use of GPS by people going into the outdoors.

Training

Most groups continue to conduct regular training in the core competencies. Region Two continues to take full advantage of the funding for specialist courses. With a large core of trained personnel throughout the Region, we are now able to conduct fewer courses with less required from our own funding. Most

Max Mclean, Waihi
Bruce Mossman, Rotorua
Bruce Sandford, Tauranga
Barry Shepherd, Taupo
Charlie Smart, Te Kuiti
Barry Were, Hamilton
John Wilson, Murupara

courses are now attended by representatives from two or more groups.

Annual SAREX's continue to be held by various groups during the year with the ongoing trend of inviting participants from other groups.

Fundraising

Several groups have used a variety of innovative means to source funding. Some groups have been very successful with considerable amounts of money being raised.

Ian Newman

Region Two Representative

Region Three Report

It is with some real sadness that the Region Three Committee had to record the passing of **Bruce Heighway**, one of the mainstay advisers in the Wairoa Area. Bruce had a long association with SAR in the Region and was well respected for his field and people skills. His reputation extended well beyond the Region boundaries and his passing is a loss to us all but we give thanks for the times and experiences we have had together.

Region Three is an interesting group to work with. Each Area is very experienced in SAR but has its own character that sets it aside from what some would consider the normal SAR configuration. Many people have worked through the old FMC system and this has given them a firm basis on which to assess the progress of NZLSAR. There are a range of opinions within the group and in many ways there is a general consensus that NZLSAR are missing the boat in some areas of the development process. With such a long association over the years with SAR and a reasonable isolation from the new NZLSAR process the members have

been able to look at the developments of the organisation, assess the pros and cons of decisions and offer constructive criticism on our direction.

In general, I believe the main criticism comes from the loss of traditional values which a move to modern corporate models often circumvent. When it comes to the crunch there is no replacement for the equivalent of the skilled "bushman" or person who lives in the outdoors and works on the land. These people are becoming few and far between especially the ones with the additional background in SAR techniques. The Region has a special character which can be refreshing to experience, especially their approach to operations and ways of dealing with SAR management and awareness of SAR.

The Regional Committee is a good example of the different ways of operating compared with others around the country. A tight committee structure isn't necessarily followed and the numbers attending reflects the level of interest. Hence the numbers involved may seem high for a small Region.

Regional Committee

The following have been part of the team for the last year

:-

Dave Withers, Chairman, Wairoa
Brian Burgess Secretary, Gisborne
Ross Berry Treasurer, Napier
Graham Thorp Regional Rep, Napier
Tony Bartlett, Gisborne
Moera Brown, Gisborne
Tom Dalton, Wairoa
Chris Flood, Wairoa
Dennis Foster, Gisborne
Bruce Heighway, Wairoa

Eddie Holmes, Napier
Alan Hughes, Gisborne
Frank Martin, Wairoa
Glen Mitchell, Wairoa
John Montgomery, Napier
Maurice Morton, Wairoa
Vaughan Neill, Gisborne
Peter Renshaw, Gisborne
Mike Wright, Napier

Operations in each of the Areas have been less than usual and this has highlighted the need for training to maintain skill levels. Three EML courses have been run during the year and all groups have now reached the stage where most members have been exposed to the full range of EML courses. The emphasis has now turned to the need to be proficient in these skills and for that reason budgets for the coming year have been redirected to practical training sessions in the field where skills can be honed in the environment where we need to operate.

Each Area has its own approach to maintaining a skilled SAR team. Gisborne run a trust that has been very successful and they have set themselves up with the latest equipment to supplement the gear supplied by SAR. Napier relies on the support of the tramping and deerstalkers groups from Napier, Hastings and Waipukurau areas

and see little point in running a separate SAR group with the same people. Wairoa has a local SAR organisation running their own training courses in addition to the annual SAREX. Their ability to raise funds for the cause is impressive and gives them plenty of options for a varied training programme.

At the time of writing we were running into a few cross border problems where communications had broken down with groups in Region Two. This has caused some unnecessary friction but hopefully the issue will be quickly resolved. It is an area that all Regions should be aware of because the team receiving the call tends to get too engrossed with the task in hand and the fact that they have colleagues nearby who are keen to assist can be overlooked.

Graham Thorp
Region Three Representative

Region Four Report

This report for Region Four is for part of the year only as the Regional Representatives position was held open from our Annual General Meeting in October 2002.

The Regional Committee though only having met on a few occasions, is working well and meetings have been very productive.

The members of the Region Four Committee are:-

Stewart Davies, Chairman, Palmerston North.
Andrew Warnes, Secretary, Wellington
Tony Macklin, Regional Rep, Wellington
Michelle Payne, Treasurer, Palmerston North
Laurie Gallagher, Training Co-ordinator, Wellington
Dave Brockway, Wanganui
Terry Crippen, Palmerston North
Kevin Dwyer, Hawera
Murray Johnston, Masterton

Peter Mann, Levin.
Bruce Mitchell, Levin
Bill Nicholson, Palmerston North
Robbie O'Keefe, Waitara
Warrick, Price, Levin
Phil Pollero, Wanganui
John Thomason, New Plymouth
Murray West, Taumaranui
Hugh Wilde, Palmerston North

A Region Four SAR Advisors seminar will be held on Saturday the 24 August 2002 at Massey University. This will bring all Advisors, Senior Field Controllers, Police SAR Sergeants, AREC and SAR squad members from all areas of Region Four together for a one day meeting. As well an invite has been extended to persons nearest in Regions Two and Three. Due to a number of very good reasons this event has been deferred from two previous dates.

All areas are now represented at the Region Four meetings and an outline of each areas involvement is as follows.

Taranaki

Have had a high number of short term searches. 78 total with two major operations included in this.

Palmerston North

Have had 60 operations with two thirds in the Levin area. (15 marine operations are included in this.) Two operations had excellent outcomes through excellent search observation.

Masterton

Again a lot of short term operations with two Tararua operations.

Wellington

Have had one operation a week but none going over the six hour time period. Marine searches also have a high incidence rating.

Region 4 Training

From July 2001 to June 2002, five nationally-funded courses were scheduled for Region Four. Of these, the first did not run through lack of time to organise after the change in Region Four

Training Coordinator. The CIMS course was carried over to the next financial year, as a number of last minute withdrawals from an already low number of registrations (clash of dates with Levin-Waiopahu Tramping Club 75th jubilee) made it uneconomic to run.

Courses scheduled

- 15-16 September 2001: Cancelled
- 27-28 October 2001: Search Methods Attendees: 21
- 27-28 April 2002: Managing Land Search Operations 1 Attendees: 13
- 11-12 May 2002: CIMS Level 4 Deferred until 27-28 July 2002
- 22-23 June 2002: Track & Clue Awareness Stage 1 Attendees: 12

Three members from Region Four attended the 40-hour MLSO course at the Police College in March 2002.

On 22-23 June, Tric Moller and Carey Dobbs, on behalf of the NZLSAR Medical Working Group, attended the Wellington SAR First Aid course as moderators, with the idea of adapting and adopting the course for use nationally. With some fine tuning and the addition of an appropriate assessment procedure, the course will meet the requirements of the NZLSAR medical standards.

Tony Macklin

Region Four Representative

Region Five Report

The Regional Committee for the Tasman District comprising representatives of each Area from Kaikoura to Murchison met three times throughout the year with one face to face meeting and two telephone conferences. It has since been changed that every two meetings must be face to face so issues can be addressed better. These are to be conducted alternately between Nelson and Blenheim.

The members of the Region Five Committee are:-

Malcolm Brennan, Renwick, Chairman
Joe Hayes, Regional Representative
Eric Macdonald, Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer
Paul Rennie, Blenheim, Communications Coordinator
Russell Tucker, Nelson, Training Coordinator
Peter Adams, Kaikoura
Sarah Brewer, Motueka, Cave
Wouter de Maat, Takaka

Bill Dowle, Kaikoura
Mike Fitzimmons, Nelson
Hugh Flowers, Nelson
Mike Irvine, Blenheim
John Jellyman, Motueka
Ken Large, Blenheim
Greg Pickford, Nelson, Cave
John Scobie, Blenheim

If anything we have learnt over the last few years is that gone are the days when Police would ring up local hunters or trappers to go and look for missing or overdue people. Search and Rescue is now a business and to succeed you need skilled and trained personnel. While the Police and NZLSAR have recognised this by offering excellent management and tracking courses, the Tasman District Police Commander has gone one step further and appointed a civilian to the position of assistant Search and Rescue Coordinator. His task is to address the paper trail and training schedules that the local SAR Sergeant had to try and work into his already heavy policing schedule. I personally believe this is one of the best things to happen in SAR around the country and we are well on the road to creating an excellent liaison between Police and civilian and getting standard operating procedures between areas. Maybe other Districts need to take notice and start polling their District Commanders.

The Tasman Police District encompasses a large area including the West Coast from Haast north and all the top of the South Island in a line from Kaikoura through to Murchison. Region Five

With the resignation of Steve Marshall half way through last year, I was elected by the Region as their Representative on the National Committee. With some trepidation I accepted this role and while I have only attended two national meetings I appreciate the tremendous workload some members take on and their dedication to the betterment of SAR throughout New Zealand.

however only covers Kaikoura to Murchison to Karamea and the country north. This is something NZLSAR may need to look at and consider if it is felt desirable that the Coast return under the Region Five umbrella to allow our training and operating procedures to expand.

Training throughout the Region has been well supported by volunteers throughout the year, especially the TCA courses. It is great to see the enthusiasm these courses create and the dedication with which searchers apply these skills in the field. The local Tasman District SAREX was held this year in Kaikoura with approximately 140 people attending, a fantastic response showing the dedication throughout the District. The SAREX was split into three separate scenarios over the two days, in not the nicest weather but with great company. Both Nelson and Blenheim hold monthly training sessions and this is certainly helping in the efficiency of a search.

Operations throughout the Region have seen some significant searches with each Area very willing to assist each other with resources, search personnel and management teams. These operations include The Armchair in Blenheim,

Lochmara Bay, the Sounds and Lake Daniels Search. To the people who freely give up their time and family life to support these and the many other operations a very big thank you. Special thanks should also go to the many employers who give their staff the time and support to attend these searches. Equipment purchased by one Area is certainly offered as a District resource. Purchases of GPS, radios, laminator, spotlights, search bibs, etc, identified at debriefs as necessary resources were

purchased instead of the normal procrastination .

From my position as Region Five NZLSAR Representative I thank everybody involved with Search and Rescue over the last year, the support of the Tasman Police and SAR Squads. To all the SAR volunteers, you are all highly motivated and have conducted yourself in a professional manner.

Joe Hayes
Region Five Representative

Region Six Report

As far as possible taking into account distance our NZLSAR members have been offered the chance and encouraged to attend courses provided by other Districts within the Region. We see this as a way to share ideas and gain from the knowledge and experience of other NZLSAR members of our region.

The meetings held were
Early October including our AGM
Late January
Early April
Mid July

With the co-operation of the Police travelling costs have been minimised but we are still faced with mileage claims by outlying members of the Committee.

The members of the Region Six Committee are:-

Gordon Hasell, Timaru, Chairman.
Rodney Perrin-Smith, Greymouth Secretary
Rod Lawrence, Loburn, Treasurer
Terry Sweetman, Greymouth, Regional Rep.
Gary Brehaut, Timaru
Brian Holland, Waikari
Steve Language, Taramakau Settlement

It is regretted that our Secretary, Rodney Perrin-Smith, due to pressures including increasing demands for his time from the West Coast NZLSAR Area, has decided to resign. We thank him for stepping forward when our inaugural Secretary, Peter Cameron resigned. We know he will continue with his part in NZLSAR on the West Coast and trust he will continue to get satisfaction from his involvement

Meetings.

Travelling, both in time to Committee meetings and personal expense, is a problem in our far flung Region. In part this has been alleviated by holding two Teleconference meetings and only two meetings face to face at Arthurs Pass.

Arthurs Pass
Teleconference
Arthurs Pass
Teleconference.

Added to this is meals required for the Arthurs Pass meeting. It is enough that members give up their time without having to be out of pocket

there. A replacement is yet to be appointed.

Training.

The following Regional courses have been held or are being planned. Those that have been held were successful, well attended and appreciated by those attending.

2001		
November 17/18 th	TCA 2	Oxford
November 24/25 th	Search Methods	Greymouth
2002		
April 11/14 th	4 Day MLSO	Glen Tui near Oxford
May 25/26 th	TCA 1	Greymouth
June 15/16 th	CIMS	Greymouth
August 24/25 th	Urban Search and Search Methods	Canterbury
November 2/3	TCA 1	Greymouth

The Region values the extra funding made available this year for training and hopes that this trend can continue.

In addition each of the Areas have held an annual SAREX.

- Canterbury's SAREX was a major operation held on Banks Peninsula in March and included NZLSAR people from the Police Timaru Area.
- Also in March the South Canterbury NZLSAR group ran a SAREX based on general training in the Macauley Valley operating from the new well appointed Macauley Hut. This hut is attracting both skilled and unskilled outdoor enthusiasts.
- The West Coast also held its SAREX in early March basing it on the skills specific to the needs in their area.

Operations.

These have been considerable with some major and others of a more minor nature. From the debriefs lessons have been learnt but in general despite the outcome in some cases we believe we are performing to expectations. Nevertheless we are aiming higher and endeavouring to build up better communication and co-operation with bordering Regions.

White Water Rafting.

The increasing development of this recreational pursuit is still of concern. The Seminar held at the end of last year has gone some way to develop NZLSAR response methods and to develop co-operation with the operators. There may be need for further training and another seminar with NZLSAR West Coast and the commercial operators. If so we hope

NZLSAR can help provide the required financial support.

NZLSAR Structure.

Our Regional Representative, Terry Sweetman, due to business commitments overseas has had to apologise to two National Committee Meetings. We have discovered that the National Committee, according to the NZLSAR Constitution can, allow a stand in and if it wishes grant speaking rights but not voting rights. Region Six believes that Regional Representatives carry their vote on behalf of the Region not themselves and hence are pressing for a constitutional change to allow qualified and experienced NZLSAR people, formally notified in writing, to carry the full privileges of the absent National committee member.

At the November Chairman/Secretaries meeting we voiced ideas as to possible structural changes to NZLSAR which in our opinion, enable it to provide a better service to our clientele. This we understand is in the hands of the "Review Committee". We are looking forward to their response and recommendations.

Washington State SAR Conference and Training Course.

Brian Holland together with Brent Martin from Tauranga attended this conference and training course. I believe Brian has forwarded a five page report to the National Field Officer so all I need say is that Region Six looks forward to a verbal report from Brian at our next face to face meeting at Arthurs Pass on the 6th October.

Communication.

This we see as important and regret any misunderstandings that from time to time arise through the use in particular of the written word. A possible way to ensure this does not occur is for the Regional Officers to receive all National minutes in their unconfirmed state directly rather than just the Secretary. If not all then certainly the Chairman. This should also apply to Annual Reports and the valuable and interesting "NZLSAR News".

Finally our Region thanks the National Committee and John Tristram, National Field Officer, for their support and assistance during the past 12 months.

Gordon Hasell, Chairman.

On behalf of Terry Sweetman, Regional Representative.

Region Seven Report

Budgets, and their Implications.

The continued support of Police to the Region as a whole is very much appreciated. However when that support is added to the funds provided through NZLSAR and compared with the funds which the Region believes are required to service their needs for training, the gap is alarming. It will therefore be interesting to see what Government does with its last minute proposal to bring volunteers under the Occupational and Safety regime. The reality of cost to the Government for that is very large indeed. The proposal also has serious repercussions for all volunteers. It is hoped the Government will take on board the submission to the Select Committee by NZLSAR and withdraw from the proposed change.

With the help of finance from NZLSAR the Region has continued to access the services of Emergency Management Ltd for some of its training needs, four courses being held during the year. The courses continue to be in demand and result in better performance on operations. The Region again thanks Ross Gordon for his motivating instruction and assistance.

Management Systems

A course was run by John Bowman on the CIMS (Command Incident Management System). That system builds on such command systems as those of the Defence Forces, Police (including SAR), and Fire Service, and is closely related to the ICS (Incident Command System) taught by Emergency Management. It makes no significant changes of direction but does formalise

nomenclature and job categories across contributing agencies. It is important for the Region (and NZLSAR) therefore to ensure that roles are clearly understood. It does not replace non-operational roles, nor the pre-operational advice duties. It is concerned with operational aspects once an operation has commenced. Although knowledge of the management system is important it does not replace the SAR related skills, knowledge and experience required to run an efficient operation. While the ultimate command of SAR operations has always been with the Police the degree to which that operational command becomes more overt with less delegation requires the same degree of care in the selection of officers with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience, as NZLSAR must exercise in the selection of people to whom delegations can occur. It is in this area that further work and effort is required by both parties to ensure that glitches are overcome and the best result for the victim is achieved.

Given the signing off on the CIMS process by so many Government Departments it was somewhat disconcerting to find that the system was not accepted by the NRCC. The result caused some serious concerns over the interface between class II and class III searches. As a result of these concerns a case was taken to the NRCC by Terry Richardson, which has received favourable comment from SAR members who attended the meeting. While there is still work required on the issue, progress has been productive. Recent incidents indicate an increased willingness for earlier advice to, and involvement of,

local areas. Hopefully too the NRCC will make more use of the advice and assistance available to it, and the advantages of the system will become more apparent.

Meetings

Committee Members

The Committee members and deputies are:

Dave Robertson, Dunedin, Chairperson
Allan Gillespie, Wanaka, Deputy Chairman
Glenn Mitchell, Dunedin, Secretary.
Roger Barrowclough, Dunedin, Regional Rep.
Trina McDonald, Minutes Secretary.
Paul Brady, Ranfurly.
Russell Carr, Queenstown.
Tony Chittock, South Otago.
Peter Corbett, Queenstown
Adrian Dance, Roxburgh.
Mark Davies, Balclutha
John Delury, Invercargill
Frank Dowle, Queenstown
Steve Ereckson
Blair Fieldes, Invercargill.
John Fookes.
Peter Garden, Eastern Southland.

The Regional Committee met on three occasions over the last year at the Alexandra Police Station:

22 July 2001 - Annual General Meeting & Committee meeting
 28 October 2001 - Committee meeting
 10 March 2002 - Committee meeting

Stew Hewitt, Oamaru
Phil Jones, Queenstown
Brian Lemm
Lloyd Matheson, Te Anau
Richard McPhail, Invercargill
Cyril McFadzien, Gore.
T. McDonald
Markus Milne, Dunedin
Tric Moller, Dunedin
Bill Olsen, Dunedin
David Rowan
Terry Richardson, Dunedin
C. Stevenson
Lane Todd
Steven Wilkes
Allan Weston, Wanaka
Frank Wielemaker, Queenstown

Operations and Support

The elderly, the suicidal and the very young continue to require the greatest

assistance in the coastal areas. There remain significant callouts in the inland mountainous areas.

Operations Summary of events reported since the last annual report

Searches	56
• An ELB was involved in	2
• Mountain bikes were involved in	2
• Helicopters were involved in	7
• Alpine/cliff conditions were involved in	7
• Bush conditions were involved in	30
• Urban conditions were involved in	3
• Swift Water, lakes and rivers were involved in	20
• Events outside ski areas	4

In another two events SAR was not alerted although the nature of the rescues required SAR services to be alerted. The failure to alert was largely due to defects in the definition of SAR as

agreed between Police, ACC and Ambulance, which has been the subject of previous criticism by NZLSAR, but in which there has been no change.

• Rescues	25
• An ELB was involved in	2
• Helicopters were involved in	15
• Alpine/cliff conditions were involved in	7
• Bush conditions were involved in	10

- Urban conditions were involved in 4
- Swift Water, Lakes and rivers were involved in 5
- Events outside ski areas 1

Comments of note

Difficulties have been experienced in urban events involving suicidal patients where, in some cases, rescuers have been put at risk by the patient. This situation requires special skills during the rescue, which emphasises the need for appropriate managers under the CIMS protocols. Care is needed to ensure that the “first officer on the scene” is supported by a proper appointment very speedily.

So too, problems continue to arise with the definition of SAR for the purposes of ACC, Police and Ambulance. NZLSAR has already recommended change but the position needs more urgent action as communication centres continue to be centralised with less and less knowledge at the first point of contact. The most recent examples have been the potentially difficult recovery of a parapenter and an injured person where the initial location given was a hut site. The delays, which can occur when the first response is not geared to the event, could easily develop into a fatal situation for the victim.

Similar problems have occurred with the contractual arrangements requiring the use of particular helicopters. There needs to be a degree of flexibility of choice to a greater extent than seems to be the case at present. The assistance of Police representatives in the Region in trying to reach a solution with adequate flexibility is acknowledged. It is also recognised the Police as a whole are tied to some extent to the Government financial and contracting system which has constrained them nationally in the limits of their support. It is essential therefore that NZLSAR formulates its own policies based on its own criteria:

- The best interests of the victim
- The best interests of its own volunteers

That divergence will occur from time to time from the “official” line is inevitable given the particular skills and knowledge of its volunteers. NZLSAR will then be in a position to advocate a course appropriate to needs rather than just accepting the political solution to which the Police must adhere.

Roger Barrowclough
Region Seven Representative

Aviation Subcommittee Report

I have only recently taken over as Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee and am still settling into the position. There were no significant issues handed over from the departing Chairman. No external meetings or conferences were attended. No expenditure was incurred. Issues currently being worked on include:

- NZLSAR Field Guide – two independent SAR helicopter providers have read the current version of the Field Guide and have concluded that the current wording and content are sufficient and no amendments need to be made.

- Possible attendance at the National Rescue Coordination Centre Workshop is being looked into.
- Looking into issues regarding dissatisfaction amongst some regional SAR Districts between helicopter resources and ACC requirements and whether this will become an issue for the National Committee, to make recommendations or establish protocols if relevant.

Stewart Cameron
Chairman, NZLSAR Aviation Subcommittee

Communications Subcommittee Report

Where has the last year gone? We have held two face-to-face meetings in the past 12 months, with another coming up at time of printing of this

report. We continue to look at ways to enhance Land SAR communications capabilities and to future use of communications and other technologies.:

The current Communications Subcommittee members are

Steve Davis, Christchurch,
Chairman.

Rex Aubrey, Wellington, Police.

Ian Gardiner, Christchurch,
NZLSAR/Mountain Radio Service.

Matthew Lloyd, Lower Hutt, DoC.

Jeff Sayer, Upper Hutt, AREC.

Ross Thompson, Auckland, FMC.

Graham Thorp, Taradale, NZLSAR.

John Tristram, Lower Hutt, NFO.

Terry Waghorn, NZLSAR.

Here are some highlights of recent activities, and some indication of where things are headed.

Radio Equipment

We believe that we have now covered all active SAR organisations with a set of handheld radios within one to two hours and a repeater within two to three hours normal driving distance. We require that all handhelds be programmed with the same channels in Bank One so that all sets have this as a common set of channels. Many groups are supplementing this equipment pool by purchasing their own equipment, which is encouraged as long as it is compatible with the Police/NZLSAR specification. Note that the original Icom IC-F3(S) is no longer available, and the replacement, IC-F3GS, has a few differences. For details on how to purchase your own equipment and advice on what to buy and any issues, or if you believe that you have a strong case for radios or a repeater in your area from Police funding then please contact me at my email or postal address below.

A set of new Linking repeaters has been developed and a few teething problems are being worked on.

Work is planned to investigate and look at possible trials for the development of newer technology including use of SelCall on HF and VHF, automatic, and manual, tracking using GPS, and remote access HF. These await the outcome of our bids for funding through NZLSAR.

We are also waiting for the results of a equipment plan put forward to the Police for an upgrade of Ground to Air equipment and also some HF equipment to be available to areas that do not have ready access to base equipment. We have also recommended a number of external battery systems for the portable repeaters be purchased.

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

We have had some trials of a portable Direction Finding unit, with a view to its potential use in aircraft not already equipped with such equipment, or for possible ground party use. More testing is needed of other similar products for comparison, but the concept has some possibilities.

New Datum and Map Grid

We have been monitoring the proposed changes to the mapping projection for New Zealand maps using the new datum. LINZ has selected a Transverse Mercator projection to be known as NZTM. There is some information on the LINZ Web Site, for links see <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/mapping.html>

Electronic Maps

We are keeping an eye out for applications of Electronic Mapping systems for SAR. A new comparison report is in progress as an update to the article that was previously published in

NZLSAR News, and is available on the NZLSAR web site at <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/comms/mapping.html>. The new report is hoped to be available soon.

Conference

The first NZLSAR National Conference is coming up from 8-10th November, and will have a strong technology focus, so it will be good to see a lot of you there, see the NZLSAR Web site for more *details* <http://www.nzlsar.org.nz/conference>.

World Wide Web and Email

We are keen to get more details of NZLSAR activities at the National Committee, and Subcommittee level documented on the web. I would also be keen to have more information from Regional, District and Area Committees or Groups published on the site as well. Please keep me posted with any material that may be suitable for publication to our

wider membership and to the public at large to raise the profile of NZLSAR and its activities.

In the near future we will be moving to an alternative service provider for our Web site, which will allow for enhancements to web services, and will allow for additional email based services.

We also encourage the use of the sar@yahoogroups.com email list as a forum for discussion of SAR topics and dissemination of news and items of interest. It has been lively from time to time, but is quite dormant at other times. It would be good to see this active at all times.

My thanks go to the team on the Subcommittee for their on-going efforts.

Steve Davis

Chairman, Communications
Subcommittee

Specialist Subcommittee Report

The Specialist disciplines have made considerable progress this year thanks to the advisory working group members who have given enormous time and effort completing Standards and developing programmes for implementation. All groups have met formally at least once plus regular electronic communication. Acknowledging the developments in the swift water environment a new discipline has been added to the specialist portfolio.

Swift Water

It has been recognised that river activities, especially swift water, are on the increase throughout New Zealand. NZLSAR needs to have some overview of the involvement of SAR in this area. Specifically, there is an immediate need to better understand the situation, priorities, existing capabilities and future needs to safely perform search and rescue in river corridors. As a result, terms of reference for a scoping paper on SAR and the swift water environment have been developed and a person approached to undertake this.

One of the main catalysts for this scoping paper has been the development of the use of helicopters in kayaking on the West Coast of the South Island. With helicopter access, increasing numbers of kayakers are entering remote and difficult river valleys. While some of these activities involve highly competent people, others are adventure seeking tourists with little or no capacity to cope with an emergency. While the potential for SAR in this local area has been clearly identified the extent nationally has yet to be assessed.

Medical

Following the November meeting of the National Medical Advisors Group a recommendation that the position of Medical Advisor be formally established was approved by the National Committee. A job description for the Medical Advisor role is yet to be established but it is anticipated that individuals would be available to SAR as a source of medical expertise both in an operational and non-operational capacity. Operationally individuals would be available to advise and liaise in support of field first aiders and SAR management. Non-operationally

individuals would be available for assistance with advice and training of field first aiders.

Chair of the National Medical Advisors Group has, in the interim, been offered to Dr Dick Price (Timaru). SAR districts are encouraged to identify individuals who currently, or could potentially perform this role and refer them to Dr Dick Price. In association with this development a national "wilderness" medical interest group is being established in conjunction with the Mountain Safety Council.

Members of the National Medical Advisory Working Group

Terry Patterson, Chairman, Wellington

Dr Mike Brewer, Motueka

Michael Bruce-Smith, MSC, Wellington

Carey Dobbs, Auckland

Dr Hamish Dunn, Christchurch

Work is progressing steadily on guidelines for the nominated first aider as per the Patient Care Standards. Once completed this will be available to Districts as a package including course outline and assessment. In association with this development and to promote a consistency of instruction and operational delivery a Patient Care Standards Audit document and programme for implementation is being developed.

Glenn Mitchell, Dunedin

Tric Moller, Dunedin

Dr Dick Price, Timaru

Dr Charmaine Tate, Auckland

Dr Jenny Visser, Wellington

Vertical Rescue

The primary components of the Backcountry Technical Rescue Standards have been completed and approved. As part of the dissemination process a series of three workshops have been held (one in the North Island, two in the South Island). Over the course of the three workshops there has been attendance by 80 participants from groups that currently have an involvement with NZLSAR for the delivery of vertical rescue.

Procedures for accreditation of teams and other key components (ie Helicopter Strop Rescue) of the Backcountry Technical Rescue Standards are currently being developed. With approval of these Standards a programme of nationally coordinated training has been identified as a priority. It is expected this will commence this financial year.

Thanks to the generosity of the Otago Polytechnic a complimentary place on the week long Stage 1 Avalanche Course was made available to NZLSAR. Nick

Ford from Taranaki was the successful applicant. A further complimentary position has been offered for this year and applications will be sought from interested parties.

Acknowledging the benefit of exposure to international practice two personnel have received assistance from NZLSAR to attend courses/seminars abroad. In April Grant Prattley attended the Intermediate and Advanced Instructors Seminar Courses for rope rescue in Australia. As well as confirming the direction of the NZLSAR Backcountry Technical Rescue Standard, attendance at this course has ensured the standard reflects internationally recognised practice.

An invitation from the French Chamber of Commerce saw Don Bogie attending a Mountain Safety and Rescue Seminar in France in April. While this seminar had primarily a ski industry focus, rescue initiatives with implications for technical rescue and medical intervention have been referred to the appropriate working groups for deliberation.

Members of the Vertical Rescue Working Group

Grant Prattley, Chairman, Mt Cook

Don Bogie, Christchurch

Murray Cullen, Christchurch

Lindsay Mains, Christchurch

Van Watson, Waitomo

Search Dogs

With the completion and approval of the Search and Rescue Dog Team Standards seven National Assessors have been appointed (four Bush/Wilderness, three Avalanche).

Bush/Wilderness Dog Courses have been successfully conducted in both the North and South Island. The North Island Course in April saw the first North Island dog team being assessed operational as per the recently approved standard.

The avalanche course co-ordinated by NZ Alpine Search Dogs to be held in early June was cancelled due to lack of snow and will be rescheduled for July/August.

National Search Dog Assessors

Marcus Milne, Dunedin, Wilderness

Linda Pike, Christchurch Wilderness

Andrew Pealing, Dunedin, Wilderness

Larry Charles, Murchison, Tracking

Brian Heward, Christchurch, Avalanche

Simon Trotter, Christchurch Avalanche

Brent McDonald, Arrowtown, Avalanche

Currently the National total of approved Bush/Wilderness Search Dogs stands at nine and approved Avalanche Dogs at eight. A list of operational dog teams outlining their fields of operation has been compiled and is available on the NZLSAR web site.

The amount of time and commitment involved in getting a dog team to and maintaining operational status is considerable. As part of the Dog Team Standard, handlers are expected to be able to be deployed in the field with or without their dogs, bringing an added dimension to an already valuable resource to NZLSAR.

Acknowledgements

While special thanks must be afforded to all advisory working group members within the specialist disciplines, thanks must also go to all SAR personnel who have taken time and effort to submit on Standards and provide feedback on courses attended. I firmly believe the adoption of Standards will engender improvement in the capabilities, capacities and consistency of performance of specialist groups but adequate support from SAR

management will be required to ensure desired results are achieved.

A very special thanks goes to John Tristram for his support and efficiency in organisation behind the scenes. This has ensured multiple meetings and courses have occurred with participants free from administration stresses able to get on with the tasks in hand.

Tric Moller

Chairman, Specialist Subcommittee

Training Subcommittee Report

The past year can best be described as one of consolidation for the Training Subcommittee. During the past year the Training Subcommittee held two meetings, both at Christchurch. The Subcommittee is still committed to its policy of holding its meetings (as far as is practicable) at different locations around the country to give members of Regional and District SAR Committees the opportunity to attend NZLSAR Training Subcommittee meetings and thus have some input into NZLSAR national training. However, there are some

practical difficulties in finding suitable locations with sufficient convenient airline flights to enable the Subcommittee members to attend the meeting in a single day. Some members of the Region Six Regional Committee have attended Training Subcommittee meetings that have been held in Christchurch.

The membership of the Committee has not changed during the year. The current membership of the Committee is:

Laurie Gallagher	FMC Rep. on NZLSAR National Committee	Wellington
Brian Holland	Adviser	Waikari
Tric Moller	Chair, Specialist Subcommittee	Dunedin
Dave Saunders	FMC Representative	Christchurch
Gerry Prins	Police Representative on NZLSAR National Committee.	Wellington
Roscoe Tait	Chairman	Auckland
Stu Thorne	NZMSC Representative	Wanaka
John Tristram	NZLSAR Field Officer	Wellington
Barry Were	Chair, Underground Subcommittee	Hamilton

Since its inception, the NZLSAR Training Subcommittee has had three major objectives that have determined its direction. These are Standards, New Training and Resources and they continue to be driving force of the activities of the Subcommittee.

Standards.

Over the last year, work has continued with writing and implementing SAR related Standards with the number having been written or in the process of being developed continuing to grow. Some have been written by various NZ Land SAR working groups and some by associated organisations. NZLSAR has become the repository for these SAR standards and has the responsibility to ensure they are reviewed on a regular basis. The status of the Standards is as follows:

- **Adviser Standards**

The Adviser Standards were written over five years ago and, as mentioned in last year's report, and in line with NZLSAR's policy, they were scheduled for review during the past year. However, there were a number of factors that impacted on the review process. The main ones are the introduction and adoption of modern search management techniques, the adoption of CIMS by the Police and the fact that a significant number of Police personnel are being trained in MLSO principles. These have resulted in a significant change in how the SAR operational roles are now viewed. In addition there is no recognised formal process for the selection and appointment of Advisers. In order to address these factors, NZLSAR has established an Adviser Review Subcommittee whose

task is to look at the role of Advisers and the appropriateness of the title. The Subcommittee members are Gerry Prins, Brian Holland, Peter Summerfield, Roscoe Tait, Russell Tucker and Barry Were. The Subcommittee has held one meeting where the various operational requirements were identified, along with the requirements for each position. The Adviser Review Subcommittee is now in the process of putting together a survey that will be sent to all Advisers. While this process is being undertaken, the Adviser Standards Workshops for new Advisers and potential Advisers are on hold. Consequently, no Adviser Standards Workshops were held during the year.

- **Field Controller Standards**

Once the review of the Adviser Standards has been completed, the Field Controller Standards will also be reviewed to bring them into line with CIMS and to ensure consistency of the Standards. No Field Controller Standards Workshops were held during the year.

- **Rescue Controller Standards**

This standard was published in August 2000.

- **Patient Care Standards**

This standard was published in March 1998 and the Medical Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee has recently reviewed it.

- **Communication Manager Standards**

These two standards (Operational and Non-operational) are with the Communication Subcommittee for

final comment and technical verification. These Standards will be published in the coming year. While these Standards have been developed and written by AREC personnel, the Standards will be "owned" by NZLSAR Inc.

- **Strop Rescue Standards**
The Department of Conservation has released a document outlining the principles for strop rescue, which is now being reviewed by the Technical Rescue Working Group.
- **Back Country Rescue Standards**
The Technical Rescue Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee, under the Chairmanship of Grant Prattley, has put a considerable amount of work into this Standard, which is now published as a (final) draft on the NZLSAR web site.
- **SAR Search Dog Standards**
This Working Group of the Specialist Subcommittee has also done a considerable amount of work to develop this Standard, which was published in 2001.

A complete list of Standards that have been approved by the NZLSAR Committee is given in the Publications section of this Annual Report. The Standards are also, along with a number of draft Standards, posted on the NZLSAR web site.

Training

The Training Subcommittee has continued its policy of encouraging Regions and Districts to undertake new training to up-skill their SAR volunteers by developing and then sponsoring a number of approved courses.

Emergency Management Ltd. Courses

Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd. (EML) continues to offer a range of courses that teach new skills and techniques to our SAR volunteers. This year saw the introduction of an allocation system for the EML courses. In each year each Region is entitled to a minimum of four courses, with Regions

making a bid for the few remaining weekends. The Training Subcommittee then allocates specific weekends to each Region, with the Region deciding what courses they will run on their allocated weekends. In the past, each Region or group has made its own bookings with EML on a first come first serve basis, which has resulted in some Regions missing out. The allocation system has worked well and is being continued into the coming year

A total of 33 EML courses were run in the past year. While this is slightly fewer courses than previous year, the number of courses greater than two days has grown. During the year there were five 40-hour MLSO courses and two three day TCA2/Search Methods courses. Consequently, the number of training days is virtually the same as last year. Several scheduled courses did not run for a variety of reasons, some outside the control of the Regional Committee organising the course.

While there will always be a need for TCA1, TCA2 and Search Methods courses as new people join the SAR organisation and need to be taught these basic skills, there is a trend towards more "management" type courses.

Two 40-hour MLSO courses were held at the Police College in March 2001. As in past years these courses were run in conjunction with the Police on a 50/50 volunteer/Police participation. Regional Committees submit nominations for the courses and the final selection is based on a number of factors including geographical spread, strategic locations of nominees, etc. Essentially, North Island Police and NZLSAR personnel attended the first course and South Island personnel the second. The Training Subcommittee believe that this arrangement is very important in strengthening the (working) relationships between Police and Advisers at the District level. The next Police College MLSO courses will be held in August 2002.

In addition to the MLSO courses held at the Police College, three of these

courses were also run at a Regional level during the year at Tauranga (August), Taupo (November) and Christchurch (April).

SAR CIMS

This year saw the introduction of a two-day CIMS course for SAR personnel. This course arose out of the Adviser Review Committee deliberations. While a number of level two CIMS courses have been held around the country, some of which were attended by NZLSAR volunteers, there was a distinct lack of the four-day level four courses being run. For the few courses held, SAR volunteers were finding it extremely difficult to obtain places on these courses. As CIMS has been adopted by the New Zealand Emergency Services as the management structure for SAR operations, the Training Subcommittee felt that it was extremely important that SAR personnel involved in the management of SAR operations should have a reasonable knowledge and understanding of the system. John Bowman, a CIMS instructor from the Police College, was contracted to develop and present a two-day, SAR

specific CIMS course around the country. In the past year five courses were held with 91 Police and NZLSAR personnel attending the courses. Further courses are scheduled for the coming year.

Lost Person Behaviour/Person Profiling

A new (and more intensive) course on Lost Person Behaviour/Person Profiling is being developed between EML and the NZLSAR Training Subcommittee. The course is aimed at those people who have an interest and ability in this area. A pilot workshop was held in September 2001 at Hamilton. Following feedback from the course, it was decided that the Person Profiling section of the course needs to be considerably developed and extended. This work is underway and a second pilot course will need to be held (most likely in the South Island) to ascertain the suitability of this type of course for NZLSAR.

A summary of the training courses sponsored or facilitated by NZ Land SAR is given in the following table.

Course	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	99/00	00/01	01/02	Total
EML									
Introductory Track and Clue Awareness	2	5	14	13	7	12	14	7	74
Stage Two Track and Clue Awareness	0	0	0	3	3	6	9	10	31
Managing Search Operations – Stage One	5	0	2	4	4	3	1	1	20
Managing Search Operations – Stage Two						2	0	0	2
Five Day Managing Search Operations							3	5	8
Incident Command System	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Urban Search Methods	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	6
Search Methods	0	0	3	1	3	5	5	6	23
Search Team Leader	0	0	0	1	3	1	3	2	10
Update weekends						2	1	1	4
Lost Person Behaviour/Person Profile								1	1

Subtotals	7	5	19	25	20	33	38	33	180
NZLSAR									
Introductory Search Management	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	1
Adviser Standards Workshops	4	11	3	1	2	1	1	0	23
Field Controller Standards Workshops	-	-	-	10	4	1	0	0	15
SAR Search Dog Standards Workshops	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Vertical Rescue Workshop	-	-	-	1	0	1	1	3	6
Risk Management	-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SAR CIMS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Subtotals	4	12	4	12	7	3	5	10	56
Totals	11	17	23	37	27	36	43	43	237

All the above courses, which are generally run on a Regional basis, are in addition to the considerable amount of local and District training (including SAREX's) that is regularly undertaken by SAR volunteers.

The Training Subcommittee is still keen to develop another round of workshops as a follow on from the Adviser and Field Controller standards Workshops. It is proposed that an element of these courses will include some training modules that the participants can take back to their District and run for their local SAR volunteers.

Initial Response Course

Most of the searches that NZLSAR volunteers are involved in start off quite small with only a few people involved on the management side. Many of these operations are resolved relatively quickly. However, it is important proper systems are set in place that that can be easily expanded in the event that the operation expands into one that requires full MLSO. To assist those people who are involved in this initial set-up phase of an operation, the Training Subcommittee believes that

there is a requirement for a SAR management course, at a lower level than the MLSO course. The two-day Initial Response course is one such course. Two people, Brent Martin and Brian Holland were sent for training in the Initial Response course at the Washington State SAR conference in Washington, USA in May. They will be running Initial Response courses throughout the country in the coming year. The Training Subcommittee sees Initial Response and MLSO courses as complimentary and as a progression from one to the other.

Resource Material

- **Field Guide**

The Field Guide, which has proved to be such an extremely popular publication, is currently being revised by its author, Roger Curl. This is taking a little longer than expected. The Communications section has been rewritten, the SAR structure section has been rewritten to reflect the adoption of CIMS and the search section, where there have been major changes since the Guide was published, is being rewritten. The

revised edition will be published during the coming year.

- **SAR Workbook**

The workbook, which was designed as a training program for new entrants to the SAR organisation, has not been quite as popular as the Field Guide. However, a number of SAR groups are finding that it is a useful revision program for existing SAR members. Once the Field Guide has been revised and published, the Workbook will also be revised to bring it into line with the changes to the Field Guide.

- **SAR Resource Manual**

The Training Subcommittee has been working on developing a series of training modules as a tool to assist instructors of SAR groups with their training. Training modules, mainly on search techniques have been written and they are currently being formatted into a consistent style. The Resource Manual concept has been expanded to include a number of other items that it is felt would be of use to SAR organisations. This includes a selection of forms to be used in SAR, an outline of a SAR plan, etc. The forms will also be published in an electronic form that will be included with the manual to be published in the coming year. Further modules, etc can be added to this SAR Resource manual as they are developed.

Acknowledgements

The NZLSAR organisation relies very heavily on the strength of its volunteers. Volunteers who not only get called out for

SAR operations, but who also quietly go about improving their skills by giving up their time to attend courses as well as working at maintaining currency in the skills they have learnt and then passing them onto other members of their local SAR organisation. It is very difficult to adequately recognise and acknowledge their dedication and contribution to SAR. In the 2000/2001 year volunteers contributed over 30,700 hours to SAR operations, an increase of over 60% on the previous year. (At the time of writing the 2001/2002 statistics were not available.) Without their assistance and enthusiasm the organisation would not function as well as it does.

I would also like to thank those who have assisted the Training Subcommittee to do its work. In particular, the members of the District and Regional SAR Committees who tirelessly attend to the local administration and organisational work required for the training courses offered by NZLSAR. To Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd for his enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the year; to the Committee of NZLSAR Inc. for its unfailing support of the aims and objectives of the Training Subcommittee and finally, the members of the Training Subcommittee for their assistance, encouragement and help throughout the year. A very special thanks goes to John Tristram, as without his behind the scenes input, cajoling and encouragement much of what we have achieved this year would just not have happened.

Roscoe Tait

Chairman, Training Subcommittee

Underground Subcommittee Report

Operations.

During the last 12 months there have been two or three callouts none of which eventuated into anything of significance. Nevertheless the amount of high level caving happening, especially via expeditions to the Mount Arthur area of the South Island, is probably higher than it has ever been. On account of the relatively high risk nature of these

expeditions our SAR organisation needs to be at its highest state of readiness, particularly for a major operation.

Training - North Island.

The SAREX was held at the Waipu Caves (north of Auckland) for the first time in about 10 years. This caving area is extremely popular as they are the closest limestone caves to Auckland.

The representation from the Auckland Police SAR squad was good to see. The exercise was a rolling start event which commenced on the Friday night and concluded late on Saturday afternoon. It included two separate lost parties in different caves requiring extensive in-cave and above ground searches of the area. It was the first time cavers have seriously attempted to operate the CIMS system. This proved advantageous for this exercise but it did highlight the difficulty of creating a worthwhile workload for the planning/intelligence team during the setting up of the scenario.

Training - South Island.

An exercise held in Nelson had one day of modules inside one of their few horizontal systems on the Takaka Hill. This event saw the newly made stemples used successfully for the first time. The construction of these stemples has been talked about for many years. It is great progress to see them now made and tested. The second day of the exercise focused on the use of explosives and microcharges to assist in evacuations from tight places.

Other Training.

Auckland Caving club, as the vertical rescue component of the Auckland Land FIRST Group, continue to exercise on a regular basis.

On the West Coast several exercises have been held by the Greymouth Group. They have also sent representatives to the Nelson SAREX and BTRS Workshop

The Subcommittee.

The members of the Underground Subcommittee are:-

Sarah Brewer, Motueka;
Dave Smith, Waitomo

One meeting was held this year and the next meeting will be held in October. On-going projects include the maintenance of the national database of Cave SAR personnel and the publication of the Cave SAR handbook. The handbook was close to being ready for publication at the end of last year when it was discovered that one section needed to be reworked. These further changes have not been

held in Christchurch and run by Grant Prattley.

Equipment.

A pair of Heyphones have been borrowed from the UK recently. These are based on the latest cave radio technology and are now standard equipment for all cave rescue groups in the UK. Tests conducted with these radios have provided successful communications to cavers more than 500 metres underground. These radios would complement rather than replace the Michie phone, single wire telephone system, we have been using. Since the units we have on loan work quite well the decision has been made to purchase a pair. An order is about to be placed and we are examining options for raising the \$1500 to pay for them.

Groups

There are active Caving Groups in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Greymouth. All of these groups have a nucleus of cavers who are highly trained and skilful with vertical rescue techniques. The majority of these people are available at the drop of a hat for any major operation in the country. The number of skilled cavers available who are suitable for a South Island rescue exceeds 100. Their skills are maintained via their regular recreational activities in the first instance and these skills are complemented by the annual and national SAREX's.

Van Watson, Waitomo
Barry Were, Hamilton.

completed but the handbook should be ready for printing by the end of this year.

Conclusion.

Despite the low number of callouts the organisation cannot afford to get complacent. The training must continue. The commitment and dedication of the Advisers throughout the country is superb. They are the drivers behind the

organisation that maintain the state of readiness between the operations. Without their contribution it would be difficult for us to respond as

professionally as we do in the event of a callout.

Barry Were

Chairman, Underground Subcommittee

Treasurer's Report

Thanks again to volunteer Committee and Sub Committee members and others whose efforts cannot be satisfactorily measured in dollars. In addition to the Grant, the Police continue to support us in other ways including accommodation and associated services for the National Field Officer.

The 2001/2002 Business Plan totalled \$250,000 and the application to the Police for a grant of \$237,952 was given in full. \$212,845 was spent plus a budgeted transfer of \$10,000 to the Research Fund and \$5,000 towards the November 2002 conference, making a total use of the Grant of \$227,845.

A highlight is the material increase in spending on Specialist, Training and Regional Training and this is discussed further in the appropriate reports.

Accumulated Funds are now \$101,941 and these would normally be available for the new year's business plan or other projects but at least \$10,000 monthly must be held back to cover funding gaps should there be delays in receiving the Police Grant, which in 2001 was received promptly. Further funds of \$64,195 are held, tagged for special purposes such as the Research and Publication Funds.

Phil Rundle

Treasurer, NZLSAR

Financial Report

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2002

	2002	2001
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds	101,941	71,025
Publications Fund	18,895	22,880
Redundancy Provision	10,300	9,960
SAR Research Fund	25,000	15,000
ACR Training Fund	10,000	10,000
	-----	-----
Total Equity	166,136	128,865
	-----	-----
Represented by:		
Bank accounts		
Westpac Trust current a/c	6,007	3,062
Westpac Trust call a/c	42,473	29,845
	-----	-----
	48,480	32,907
Term Deposits-Westpac Trust	130,000	115,000
Debtors and prepayments	15,174	3,235
	-----	-----
Total Current Assets	193,654	151,142
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors	27,518	22,277
	-----	-----
Net Current Assets	166,136	128,865
	-----	-----

The Notes 1 to 9 to the Accounts form part of these Accounts.

-----Treasurer

-----Chairman

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2002

	2002	2001
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Police Depart. Contract	237,952	185,000
Interest	14,938	13,993
Donations	1,211	
	-----	-----
Total income	254,101	198,993
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	1,315	1,186
Committee and Review Meetings	17,481	22,005
National Field Officer		
Salary and ACC Levy	45,462	42,074
Travel	4,977	4,788
Other Expenses	1,149	1,001
	-----	-----
	51,588	47,863
National Office		
Administration and Stationery	3,846	2,303
Travel, Publicity	1,618	1,727
Library	296	617
Communication Subcommittee	3,888	1,628
Specialist Subcommittee		
Courses	23,714	17,727
Subcommittee Expenses	1,667	1,020
	-----	-----
	25,381	18,747
Training Subcommittee		
Courses	30,151	20,461
Subcommittee Expenses	3,648	4,652
	-----	-----
	33,799	25,113
Underground Subcommittee		
Cave SAREX		7,714
Subcommittee Expenses	212	337
	-----	-----
	212	8,051
SAR Research		5,000
Regional Com. Admin. Support	9,370	4,428
Regional Training Support	64,051	43,283
	-----	-----
Total Expenses	212,845	181,951
Operating Surplus	41,256	17,042
Publication Fund Movements	(3,985)	(611)
	-----	-----
SURPLUS	37,271	16,431
	-----	-----

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 2002

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	2002	2001
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	71,025	59,237
Surplus for the year	37,271	16,431
	-----	-----
Total Recognised Income for the year	37,271	16,431
Less Transfers (to) from Reserves	<u>(6,355)</u>	<u>(4,643)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>101,941</u>	<u>71,025</u>
RESERVES		
Publications Fund		
Opening Balance	22,880	23,491
Less transfers (to) Accumulated Funds	<u>(3,985)</u>	<u>(611)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>18,895</u>	<u>22,880</u>
Redundancy Provision		
Opening Balance	9,960	9,706
Add transfer from Accumulated Funds	<u>340</u>	<u>254</u>
Closing Balance	<u>10,300</u>	<u>9,960</u>
SAR Research Fund		
Opening Balance	15,000	10,000
Add transfer from Accumulated Funds	<u>10,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Closing Balance	<u>25,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>
ACR Training Fund		
Opening Balance	10,000	10,000
Closing Balance	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL RESERVES	<u>64,195</u>	<u>57,840</u>
CLOSING EQUITY	<u>166,136</u>	<u>128,865</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 2002

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 accrued interest, GST paid on expenses and recoverable from the Inland Revenue Department and early payments in respect of the August Committee meeting and the November conference.

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. (2001 nil)

8. Capital Commitments:

There were no known capital commitments as at balance date. (2001 nil)

9. Related Party Transactions:

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

Auditors Report

Held in office. Copy available upon request

NZLSAR Search and Rescue Statistics for the 2001/2002 year

The 01/02 figures below are an interim assessment taken on 19 July 2002. The final and more comprehensive figures will be available in the Police SAR Annual Report to be issued shortly.

	01/02	00/01	99/00	98/99	97/98	96/97
Class II operations	372	397	313	332	352	370
Operational hours contributed	20,587	41,512	17,620	14,368	20,146	15,812
Number of personal involved	2,762	3,362	2,262	2,108	2,829	3,139

<p>Total of NZ Residents as “customers”, land and water – 1353 (1108) Total Tourists as “customers” – 134 (140) Percentage of Tourists – 9 % (9%)</p>
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Operation information. Last years interim figures in parenthesis

Problem Type		Activity Type		Injury Type.	
Avalanche	4 (3)	Aircraft Accident	10 (19)	Abrasion	4 (3)
Equipment	9 (13)	Camping	2 (9)	Arm	3 (6)
Homicide	0 (2)	Caving	1 (3)	Bruising	6 (15)
Inexperience	0 (5)	Climbing	34 (41)	Coronary	2 (2)
Medical	131 (140)	Cycling	13 (3)	Dislocate	6 (7)
Navigational	98 (120)	Fishing Shore	(8)	Fatal	38 (42)
Other	185 (196)	Gliding	2 (4)	Fracture	24 (23)
Overdue	0 (14)	Hunting	62 (62)	Gunshot wound	0 (1)
Rivers	31 (20)	Motor Accident	11 (12)	Head	4 (5)
Suicide	36 (20)	Orienteering	4 (12)	Hypothermia	24 (25)
Weather	25 (30)	Other Land	106 (99)	Internal	6 (2)
		Running	3 (8)	Laceration	7 (12)
		Skiing	8 (6)	Leg	13 (17)
		Tramping	152 (158)	Medical Condition	16 (17)
		Walking	99 (92)	Multiple	35 (28)
		Working	12 (17)	Spinal	4 (1)
				Sprain	24 (32)
				Torso	0 (1)

NZLSAR Awards

In the last year the NZLSAR Committee was pleased to approve the NZLSAR Award to the following people.

Phil Rundle	18 August 2001
Tony Taylor	18 May 2002
Bruce Hedley Heighway	27 May 2002
Peter Mann	04 July 2002

Graham Thorp
Chairman NZLSAR

Publications

NZLSAR has and continues to provide the following publications.

- Memorandum of Understanding between NZLSAR and NZ Police Department
- 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
- 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

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.

Library

The library now has some 55 books mainly associated with land search and rescue and the outdoors. During the past year several more were purchased one of the more notable being Death, Daring and Disaster. This is a series of accounts of operations in the USA which highlight the daring do and occasional foolishness of mankind. A number of books on tramping, climbing and cycle trips in New Zealand have been added to give inspiration

to get out there and do it. Overall there is much more potential for this resource to be used and as an aid the library list is included.

101 Great Tramps in NZ	PICKERING & SMITH
ABC of Avalanche Safety	LaCHAPELLE Edward
Advanced Search and Rescue	NASAR
Alpine Rescue Techniques	BOOGIE Don
Avalanche handbook	McCLUNG David
Avalanche safety for skiers and climbers	DAFFERN Tony
Basic Ground SAR in Canada – Home study guide	MERRY Wayne
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
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 Field 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
Probability of Detection (POD)	PERKINS Dave
Risk Management in Outdoor Activities	Mountain Safety Council
River Rescue – Manual for whitewater safety	BECHER Les
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 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
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	BRABYN Sven

Cook	
Tramping in the South Island Nelson to Arthurs Pass	BRABYN Sven
Water Rescue, Basic Skills for Responders	SMITH David
Wilderness Search and Rescue	SETNICKA Tim



Affiliated SAR Organisations

Region One

Auckland Land SAR	77
Northland SAR	36
Far North SAR	24
	137

Region Six

Canterbury Alpine Cliff Rescue	75
Canterbury AREC SAR	20
Banks Peninsular SAR	12
CTC SAR	14
Darfield SAR	7
Ellesmere SAR	18
Hanmer Springs SAR	25
Hurunui SAR	27
Methven SAR	40
NZDA SAR	12
Oxford SAR	12
Rakaia SAR	13
Rangiora SAR	11
RATS SAR Dogs	6
Red Cross SAR	12
	304

Region Seven

Balclutha SAR	60
Dunedin SAR	125
Gore (Eastern Southland) SAR	71
Invercargill SAR	101
Milton SAR	
Oamaru SAR	
Owaka SAR	
Queenstown SAR	35
Te Anau SAR	
Tuatapere SAR	
Wanaka SAR	
North Otago SAR	161
	553