

Chairman's Report

Another positive year for NZLSAR with real progress being made on several fronts. These include our operating systems to programme and account for our performance, the development and acceptance of operating standards, training and up-skilling of field personnel, the development of new technology to improve our information systems and an interface with the new Police CARD system.

With our funding providers and owners operating in an environment where funding is a key driving force, it has been necessary for NZLSAR to demonstrate and justify the level of funding in terms of priority tasks and the essential needs of the organisation. A major effort has been made by the National committee to set realistic goals, allocate budgets and meet set targets.

The Five Year Business Plan has been updated and favourably received by the Police. While the Plan identifies the needs of the organisation to fully meet our aims, objectives and contractual agreements it assumes that the organisation will be fully funded. However, in the event that full funding is not provided then priorities will need to be set after discussion with our funding provider.

The delay between the end of the financial year, and notification of our approved level of funding for the new financial year, is still causing problems with the smooth transition from one financial year to the next. In order to keep the organisation viable it is necessary to retain sufficient funds to meet our regular payments and commitments until we receive the following years grant.

While it is possible to start planning for the coming year, it is not possible to approve expenditure prior to receipt of

the grant with the result that courses are delayed and limited in number by the time remaining. The committee is currently giving this urgent attention. If it can be resolved it should be possible to spread courses throughout the year rather than cram them into the 6-9 month window that currently exists. Having said this it is pleasing to note that we have achieved close to 100% completion of all tasks allowed for in this years budget allocation and funds currently in hand have been identified for specific projects.

This year a new agreement has been signed with the Ministry of Transport to provide a Land SAR capability for Class III operations. The agreement provides for a similar level of commitment to that already agreed with the Police. It allows us to work alongside the Police and other organisations participating in Class III operations and essentially means that the status quo will remain.

A number of new policy documents have been approved by the committee over the past 12 months. The background work for these documents has been prepared by the subcommittees and from the standard of the work produced it is clear that the subcommittees have undertaken an inordinate amount of work.

The training committee under the guidance of **Roscoe Tait** has almost completed the Training Seminars for the Adviser Standards and are looking to move on to training seminars on standards for Field Controllers. The acceptance of these Standards and the success of the training is a credit to the members of this committee. Their efforts have lifted the performance of our members throughout the country and I believe the benefits are beginning to show up in more efficient operations.

Earlier this year **Mike Sheridan** agreed to take up the position of Communications Sub-Committee Chairman and is moving ahead with a wide range of communications issues. With a communications pamphlet ready for printing, and policy documents out for the purchase and use of VHF communications equipment, the group is now looking at interfacing communications with other groups including the Police and DoC.

The Specialist Sub Committee has many important issues to be resolved over the coming months and **Murray Cullen** has had his hands full juggling the training needs of the Alpine Cliff Rescue (ACR) teams along with the need to look at the development of standards that are appropriate for the ACR working environment. The wide range of opinions on the approach to standards is complicating the issues. However, a resolution must be found in the short term to enable us to provide support that will meet the needs of teams throughout the country.

The results of the Central Southern Alps Working party from DoC and the Police may have some implications in terms of the operating procedures in that and perhaps other areas. Both DoC and the Police are aware of NZLSAR's interests in this area and they have been keeping the committee briefed on progress.

On the Aviation front **Ross Berry** has been active assessing the needs of the industry and NZLSAR. The diverse nature of the industry and the operators makes it difficult to assemble a committee that can be truly representative. However progress is being made and before long we should have a team available to look at the issues as they affect NZLSAR and provide policy recommendations to help streamline the use of aircraft on operations.

The Bendigo exercise held in Otago earlier in the year has been a great success for **Barry Were** and the Underground Sub-committee. The number of different teams with a wide background of experience and the interaction between professional operators and volunteers was a notable plus for this exercise. The efforts of the local advisers and organisers should also be acknowledged as the event could not have been possible without their input and support.

Information technology is taking a major leap forward with the National Committee approving a project on 'Case Based Reasoning' to be undertaken by Otago University in conjunction with NZLSAR. **Roger Barrowclough** has been the driving force and coordinator of this project and its successful completion should provide us with a tool that will give us quick responses to Lost Person Behaviour Analysis.

As you will see from the reports from the Regional Representatives all our Regions have been very active in both operational and non-operational areas. Of course the Regional and District Committees along with our team of Advisers are the heart of the organisation. Without the dedication and willingness of these people to give freely of their time it would not be possible to run an organisation like this. On behalf of the National Committee I would like to thank everyone involved for their efforts and hope that you are at least rewarded by the knowledge that lives have been saved and the quality of life for many lost and injured people has been improved by the services you have provided.

Our thanks also goes to the Police for their continued funding of the organisation, the individual officers of the department, including **John Meads** (and **Tony McLeod** in John's absence), for their assistance over the past year; to DoC, with **Paul Dale** as their

representative; to other Departmental organisations such as the CAA; and to related organisations like AREC and the MSC for their support and work on the standing sub-committees. The excellent working relationship between all the related organisations has been important to the continued development of NZLSAR.

Finally I must acknowledge the efforts of our National Field Officer and the members of the National Committee. **John Tristram** has been the key to the smooth running of the organisation, a position that is not easy when dealing with volunteers who live and work in such a diverse range of situations. On one hand John has travelled the length and breadth of the country to meet our members on exercises and field operations and returned to manage the office systems, prepare for courses and organise meetings on behalf of the Committee. Missing trains home, attending evening meetings on budgets, and many frustrating hours on the phone chasing people for reports

and information are regular problems faced by our NFO. I believe John has provided 110% plus effort for NZLSAR and our thanks go to him for his commitment to NZLSAR.

Similarly, it is important to record the outstanding work undertaken by all the members of the National Committee including **John Cassidy** our Region Two representative, **Terry Sweetman** our Region Five Canterbury/Westland representative and **Phil Rundle** our Financial Specialist. 500 to 1000 hours, spent in the service of SAR, each year by a committee member is not unusual and it is only through this effort and dedication to do a job well, that we have been able maintain such high performance standards. As Chairman I have found it an interesting and rewarding experience working with such a talented team of people.

Graham Thorp
Chairman. NZLSAR

National Field Officers Report

This is the third time I have been privileged to write, as National Field Officer, an annual report for what has been another full, busy and satisfying year. As well as providing the administration for the National Office, a great deal has happened since I last wrote and a summary of this is as follows.

NZLSAR News: Six editions, one every two months have been produced. It is a bit daunting looking at a blank sheet of paper and knowing in a few days it needs to be another rivetingly informative edition of the News. With items on SAR operations, SAREX's, techniques, equipment etc, it is very much the SAR practitioners paper and I thank all those who have contributed. An area of concern is the circulation of the News. As well as a copy to all

Committee members and about fifteen other individuals, a copy is sent to all District Police SAR Coordinators and twenty or so are sent to Regional Secretaries for circulation within their respective Regional Committees. By giving the Police and the District Representatives a copy it allows them the opportunity to circulate it at whatever level within their District they choose and gives a potential involvement at the "grass roots" which I may not be able to reach. However, because of comments received that it is not being adequately circulated, this policy needs to be considered by the Committee.

Mountain Safety Council: NZLSAR is a member of MSC as MSC is a member of NZLSAR. I have attended three Council meetings including the AGM and as a "networking exercise" I have

found my attendance most rewarding. A meeting was held with MSC regarding outdoor communications and the production of the NZLSAR pamphlet on this subject. Another meeting convened by MSC, which I attended with representatives from FMC, ACC, Deerstalkers and Police, looked at the statistical aspects of those getting lost or injured in the outdoors. As well, good liaison has been maintained on several issues including the revised river crossing techniques and the "Hug a tree" safety message.

Meetings: In the last year I have attended the AGM of NZLSAR and three Committee meetings. My attendance at Region Three meetings has been restricted to only one, due to other commitments. With Inspector Tony McLeod from Police National Headquarters and Derick Mathews as Region Three Chairman, I attended a meeting of Region Two. For their accommodation and company I give my thanks. I have attended three meetings of the Wellington SAR Organisation and with pleasure see they are formalising their activities by adopting a written constitution and considering "charitable status".

Subcommittee's: Part of my job is to service and encourage the activities of the five NZLSAR Subcommittees.

- **Aviation Subcommittee** - This is a low key area and seems to only need a person "keeping a finger on the pulse" and being on hand for any problems. My only involvement has been to accompany Ross Berry, the Chairman, to an Aviation Industry Association Air Rescue/Air Ambulance (AIAARAA) meeting. There we met representatives of the helicopter and fixed wing operators in this field and introduced ourselves and NZLSAR.
- **Communications Subcommittee** - My involvement with this group has

been more substantial. I have arranged the venue, travel, catering and attended two one day meetings as well as facilitated three "tele-conferences". Mailing out the meeting minutes and occasional phone calls has kept me in touch with this group for times other than at meetings.

- **Specialist Subcommittee** - A major feature of this Subcommittee this year was an Alpine Cliff Rescue Workshop to consider ACR Standards. Held at Temple Basin and attended by some twenty-five people it was, for me, an opportunity to meet these people, see them in action and listen to the discussion. One of my disappointments of the year is that we still seem to be some way off having a definitive document for ACR membership. It seems such a complex and time consuming matter that I now wonder if a sum of money needs to be put aside and a contract let to an expert consultant to do this job.
- **Training Subcommittee** - This is a very active (although in my opinion too small) group of extremely dedicated people. Speaking at three Advisers Standard Workshops, although considerably less than last year, has still been a major task for them. I have been able to contribute by doing much of the preliminary work such as contacting a person to arrange a venue, informing potential attendees, arranging the travel and making and transporting the course folders.
- **Underground Subcommittee** - The major task for this Subcommittee was the National combined Underground, ACR and Land SAREX at Bendigo. Largely organised by Otago District personnel it was again a good opportunity to work and mix socially with some of the various disciplines within the SAR organisation.

SAREX's: I was again privileged to attend SAREX's at Hawkes Bay, Thames, Wellington, Gisborne, Wanganui, and Northland. In attending these events, the exciting thing for me is seeing the Districts pick up and try new techniques. Many Districts have an annual programme with some training scheduled for each month. The SAREX is no longer a glorified "walk in the bush" but a time to learn and practice search and rescue skills. I look forward to seeing the ideas promulgated at the NZLSAR sponsored Emergency Management Limited courses being introduced at all training and operational levels in the future.

NZLSAR Awards: I have attended Award presentation ceremonies in Hamilton, Thames, Christchurch (twice) and Reefton. At each of these functions I have been moved and humbled by the dedication and contribution the recipients have given to those lost or injured in the outdoors.

Finances: I am fortunate that I live ten minutes away from Phil Rundle, our Treasurer. On average, I visit him once a week to get cheques signed and to seek guidance on the organisation's finances. Understanding financial matters is not my strong point and I thank Phil for the time he has taken to slowly and with patience work me through some matter that he may have seen as relatively simple.

The Business Plan update that we submitted as the justification for the 1997/1998 grant was a major effort. Drafts were circulated in late 1996 and again before the March 1997 meeting. The Committee crunched the numbers and after a final tweak-up by Phil, Roscoe Tait, Graham Thorp and myself it was presented to the Police in late March. This document showed what we wanted to do, how much it would cost and who would be responsible for doing the work, plus additional figures to show

anticipated expenditure over the next five years. The Committee's hard work was recognised when a senior Police officer described the document as "excellent".

There has been much more that I give NZLSAR time to. A meeting with LINZ when the new map purchase system was introduced; a meeting at the Otago University to consider research for our organisation; a visit to the Wellington Police Station to see the CARD system implementation and attending a briefing by the Department of Internal Affairs on progress on the Emergency Services Review, to name a few.

The outcome of the meeting at the Otago University was interesting. The University had been in discussion with Lottery General in regard to funding the research and they had indicated a preparedness to consider doing so. In less than eight frantic days, letters of support were requested and received from the Police, MSC and EML and the nine page application form was couriered around the country for various signatures, returned to me and completed. A lot of files were sifted through and compiled into a five page addendum to the application form and the package presented to LG. An announcement on our success or otherwise should be made in late August and we await this with interest.

I have also been fortunate to be able to attend two EML courses as a pupil. A highlight of the Hawkes Bay Track and Clue Awareness was the final tracking session. There was Tony McLeod a Police Inspector from Wellington, standing in head high *Pteridium aquilinum var esculentum* (pig fern). We were getting "as wet as" from the persistent drizzle and the saturated scrub and there was Tony with a drip on his nose and I, each holding together a piece of 10mm diameter stick we had picked up. The broken ends fitted

together, it was a new break and we knew a person had been that way.

The other course was Managing Search Operations. I was, like I imagine so many other people who end up as Field Controllers, subject to "deep end learning" With a minimum of techniques and training you took on the job of FC and either sank or swum. There are management systems available that will make the organisation so much more effective and efficient. In the light of what I learnt at Rotorua, it is with embarrassment that I look back on my times as a FC and with great regret that I was unaware of the techniques we were exposed to.

Another interesting event was the invitation by Civil Aid Services Hong Kong, to submit a tender to audit their Mountain Rescue and Mountain Search Units. After much ringing around, mailing to various people the tender documents and a teleconference, it was decided that NZLSAR was not in a position at this time to professionally draw up a tender and do the task. Performance assessments and system audits by an outside agency are an interesting field and to the best of my knowledge they have not been done by Land SAR anywhere in NZ. Even as

volunteers, if we want to provide a professional service, this is an area I believe we need to consider and develop.

Finally I wish, as in previous years, to give thanks to all who have helped me in so many ways. Firstly there are the people specifically mentioned above. As well I extend thanks to Superintendent Neville Matthews, Inspector John Meads and Chris Wilding of Operations Support. Your ready assistance and steadying influence is much appreciated. To those people around the country who arrange venues, catering, accommodation, etc, etc, you make a major part of my job possible. Having to organise an event at the other end of the country to where you live, I find all a bit daunting. And yet almost without fail I have rung a person up, explained what I wanted and the answer is "Yes John, we can switch that on for you". To all those people who said that or something similar, you have my deepest gratitude. Thank you and all the others who have contributed to my work, the work of NZLSAR or SAR in general.

John P Tristram

National Field Officer. NZLSAR

Police Report

As our strategic partner for Land Search and Rescue in New Zealand, your organisation and all the civilian volunteers associated with it continues to give the good service that the Police have come to rely on over the years. A business case has been made out for increased funding for this coming financial year (which at the time of writing is less than a week away), but whether this happens and the extent of the increase probably won't be known for some time yet.

If there is increased funding I am aware that one of the areas it will be used in, is

for additional training of the type which all Regions and most Districts have had experience of by now - ie. Track and Clue Awareness, Managing Search Operations, Search Methods, etc.

As most of you are probably aware the training function has been removed from National HQ areas such as mine, and gone to the Police College. A case was made out for this current financial year for this type of advanced training to be promulgated through the College, but was unsuccessful in receiving the necessary funding. It is hoped that the

bid will be successful for the 1997 - 98 financial year.

Examples of how this training is impacting on Police SAR operations is as recorded in a couple of 130's (Police SAR Operation Reports) that I have just received from Wellington. In one operation for an 81 year old Alzheimers sufferer who had gone missing: "The Matson Consensus was carried out by HQ staff which proved interesting when clues were sparse", and the Adviser has commented "It was an interesting exercise doing the consensus". In

another, for a missing youth (also in the Wellington City area): "One of those ROW jobs - taxis, trains, etc."

For those of you not familiar with the terms mentioned, how about adding one or two strings to your bow. Remember the old adage: "In the best interests of the victim".

John Meads

Coordinator: SAR/RCC
Police National HQ.

Note - Some of the opinions expressed below are those held by the individuals concerned and are not necessarily those shared by the Committee

Region One Report

The past year has, for the most part, been a relatively quiet one for the Region One.

There has been a change in the membership of the Committee. The SAR Inspector, Graeme Murphy, who was Chairman of the Committee resigned early in the year to take up another position within the Police. His replacement, Inspector Brett England, has now joined the Committee. At the Regional Committee's only meeting during the year, which was held in May, John Walsh was elected Chairman and Roscoe Tait was re-appointed as Secretary/Treasurer. The Regional Representative's position, as required by the constitution of N Z Land SAR Inc was considered and Roscoe Tait, was reappointed for a further term of three years.

The members of the Committee are:

John Walsh Chairman
Roscoe Tait Secretary/Treasurer
& Regional Representative
Inspector Brett England
Grant Conaghan
Terry Conaghan

S/Sergeant Mike Henehan

With such a small Committee of only six members, essentially based in two main areas, the members keep in touch on a regular, but informal basis, by phone which tends to reduce the perceived need for a meeting. However the Committee has now resolved to hold more meetings to share ideas and to coordinate the training requirements of the region.

Training

The Regional Committee, after a slow start, took up the offer from the National Committee to subsidise new additional training that gives SAR members the opportunity to learn new skills. One Introductory Track and Clue Awareness (TCA) course has been run which was extremely well received. Two further TCA courses have confirmed dates and venues and a further one is in the advanced planning stage. A Managing Search Operations course will be run at the end of August. These courses will give all our core SAR volunteers the opportunity to develop new skills and techniques.

SAREX's

The SAREX is still the main training that is done in the Region. During the year four SAREX's were held as follows:

Far North	Whirinaki	November
Warkworth	Tawharanui	October
Auckland	Hunua	May
Northland	Waipoua	May

In all cases the exercises have a basic format of training modules followed by practical application in the field. While the numbers attending the SAREX's were down, especially in the two May exercises, it was very interesting to note the improved performance of the teams that included members who had attended a Track and Clue Awareness course.

Other Activities

Most members of the Auckland Land SAR Committee have been involved in several items of national interest:

- Early drafts of the Field Controller Standards were commented on and much valuable and thoughtful input was received. The first pilot workshop on the Field Controller Standards, which will assist in developing the workshop format, will be held in Auckland in July.
- The Field Guide: The original draft has been rewritten in a more user friendly and consistent form. Many hundreds of hours have been put in by the members of the committee in developing this booklet. The final changes are now being made before the document goes to the Training Subcommittee at its August meeting.

- Currently the Auckland Committee is developing a workbook, from the Field Guide. The workbook can be used by District Committees as the basis for developing a standardised training programme for their SAR personnel.

Operations

There have been a number of operations in the Auckland District, especially during the spring/summer period. Each of the operations has been quite different, which has challenged the skills of the Advisers and Field Controllers. On the other hand the Northern SAR groups have had few operations during the year. All the operations have been small ones involving relatively small numbers of volunteers and most have been concluded within a 24 hours period.

Conclusion

Search and Rescue in the Region is well serviced with small, well trained SAR groups, which operate extremely efficiently. The introduction of new skills and techniques, through the courses run by Emergency Management Ltd, has already shown its effectiveness and can only help to improve the service we offer.

I would like to express my thanks for the support the Region receives from the Police and the SAR volunteers. On a personal note I would like to thank those concerned for the support I have received during the year as Regional Representative, from the Police, the Regional Committee and especially the Auckland Land SAR Committee.

Roscoe Tait

Region One Representative. NZLSAR

Region Two has met twice in the past year. The first meeting on 10 August 1996, was attended by Region Three Chairman Derick Mathews, Inspector Tony McLeod from Police National Headquarters and John Tristram the National Field Officer. Don Major the Chairman, wanting to lessen his involvement with SAR, had tendered his resignation from the Committee and Senior Sergeant Gordon Glossop was nominated to the chair. Region Two owes much to both these people and offers a big vote of thanks. Firstly Don for accepting the Chairmanship when the Committee was first formed. It has not been easy finding the shape and role for this Committee and Don has done well to carry the load thus far. To Gordon we also owe a vote of thanks in accepting the Chairmanship when none of the volunteers would do so. NZLSAR is the "volunteers organisation" and the Region Two Committee is part of that, so it is hoped a volunteer will step forward at the earliest and fill the role. Brent Martin, as Secretary/Treasurer seems to be coping well in this position and his efforts in liaising with some of the Regions SAR personnel and Emergency Management Limited (EML) for the running of the NZLSAR financially supported courses, deserves mention.

The second meeting was held on 22 February 1997 and much discussion took place regarding the funding for the training courses. The next Region Two meeting is on 9 August 1997.

An Advisers Standards Workshop was held at Thames in July 1996 and was

attended by 17 volunteers and Police personnel.

Region Two took advantage of the \$6000 grant from NZLSAR and have held five EML courses. Track and Clue Awareness (TCA) courses have been held at Minginui, Thames, Waihi and Gisborne. A Managing Search Operations course was held at Rotorua and was, like the TCA course enthusiastically received to the extent that Taupo has arranged a series of courses at their own expense. While funding will determine the holding of further courses, interest has been expressed in attending a week long MSO course and the advanced TCA.

SAREX's have been held in all Districts.

Two NZLSAR Awards were presented to Region Two personnel by the National Field Officer John Tristram. The first was to Don Major at Hamilton on 7 October and the second was to Ken Hayhurst at Thames on 8 October. A further Award to Laurie Cobb was approved at the March NZLSAR Committee meeting and will be presented on 26 July.

As well two other Region Two personnel received recognition in the Queens Birthday Honours list. This was the Queens Service medal (QSM) for public service to SAR. The recipients are Senior Constable Barry Shepherd of Taupo Police and Ben Foster an Adviser of Waihi.

John Cassidy
Region Two Representative. NZLSAR

Region Three Report

The last 12 months has been another active and rewarding year for Region Three in both operational and non operational areas. Most of the organisational issues were dealt with last year and it has been a relatively

simple matter of rolling over the same format into the new year.

Three meetings of the Regional committee have been held, under the Guidance of **Derick Mathews**

(Chairman) and **Dave Barker (Secretary)** again timed to fit in with the National Committee meetings. The big job of organising the Training functions has been handled by the Training SubCommittee under the guidance of **Pat Bonis**.

On the operational front, Districts have been experiencing varying levels of work. Once again Taranaki would be the most active District by a good margin while other Districts could probably be described as quieter than usual. The Taranaki team is to be congratulated on the results of their operations, as they have had to contend with many of the difficult SAR problems including body recovery in arduous and dangerous conditions.

Improved communications appears to be working with more people using mountain radios and, of course, cell phones. The Communications pamphlet drafted by the Communications Sub-Committee highlights the important issues for people to consider before selecting equipment for outdoor communications. It is important that this pamphlet has a wide distribution and members of NZLSAR should arrange for its distribution to anyone who intends to venture into our backcountry.

Cell phones have many short comings but there is no doubt they will be here to stay. The availability and ease of use, combined with the fact that they will work in many locations, (generally high on ridge tops) means that people will continue to use them as their link with the outside world. Unfortunately some people have been using them as a tramping aid on the basis that it will get them out of trouble when things go wrong and some of our people have suffered abuse when they haven't been able to provide directions to safety when requested.

Education is the key and the sooner people become aware of the limits of

communications aids, the sooner we will be able to provide more positive assistance.

On the non-operational front Region Three has been actively promoting training of personnel in various skills and techniques. In addition to the annual SAREX held by all Districts the Region has organised two EML courses for 20 plus people on each course. The first course for Advisers and Field Controllers covered 'Managing Search Operations' while the second for Team Leaders covered 'Searching Methods'.

Both courses were very well received and with the availability of further funding a third course on Track & Clue awareness will be held close to the end of the financial year.

At District level several District funded 'Track and Clue Awareness' courses have been undertaken. Again these courses have been well supported and feedback from those attending confirms that the training is appropriate for our needs at this time.

Several of the above courses included a mix of Police SAR Squad members and volunteers. This has proved to be an excellent move as it enhances team building and improves the understanding of the respective roles of both groups.

The National Training Committee ran an Advisers Standards Workshop in the Region midway through the year, which was attended by most of the Advisers that still hadn't been through the Training course. The numbers may have put the organisers under a little stress but I understand that everything went smoothly, despite the efforts of the Taranaki weather. The completion of this course now puts Region Three in a good position, with each district now having a full set of Advisers who are up to date with the new Standards and direction of NZLSAR.

Some discussion has taken place regarding the Police restructuring and its effect on the organisation for the region. However, with the Region running smoothly, it is not considered to be an urgent issue and no changes are proposed until the final organisational structures have been completed. It

should then be clear what changes, if any, should occur.

Graham Thorp

Region Three Representative.
NZLSAR

Region Four Report

Due to work pressures and a desire to put more time into local SAR, Russell Tucker the Region Four Representative, resigned early last year. I was nominated to the position in the middle of the year and due to being in the hills for the August meeting, attended my first NZLSAR Committee meeting in November last year.

The Region Four Committee as such has not worked well, due to the barrier imposed by Cook Strait between the Wellington, Kapiti-Mana and Hutt Districts with the Nelson District. The division is less a lack of common operating objectives and more the costs in meeting, either financially in airfares, or time if the still costly Inter Island ferry system is used to bring people together. In my opinion NZLSAR needs to look at the Regional Representatives boundary's especially in the light of the changes the Police are making to their command and operational structures. In this instance with the Nelson District now extending right down the West Coast to south of Haast, it seems appropriate for Nelson to become part of Region Five Canterbury/West Coast. An agenda item for the Regional Chairmen/Secretaries meeting on 9 November?

A part of my learning process in this position, has been to come to grips with the existing Police boundaries and my interpretation has been to split my Region into three areas. These areas and my comments are:

Wellington Area (Wellington, Kapiti-Mana and that part of the Hutt District south of the Rimutaka Hill):

The last twelve months have been a period of consolidation where we have been bedding in our new team structure.

Management

- The same seven Advisers as last year remain in office.
- Meetings held bi-monthly with Police, addressing training, planning and management issues.
- Meetings held bi-annually with all SAR representatives addressing funding, training and callout issues

Teams

- A Fast Response Unit of seventy people has now been in existence for twelve months.
- Training has been provided to these seventy individuals on a monthly basis.
- There has been an excellent attendance with over 200 man days of training provided.
- Operational callouts have been steady with four operations involving eighty-eight volunteers in the field (obviously some members have been out on more than one operation).
- A database is maintained of all training and operational attendance. Those not attending a sufficient number of training events will be asked to reassess their commitment.

Training

- There were twelve training opportunities provided to team members last year covering the following topics
- First aid (3), Navigation (2), Tracking (3), Field Control (1), Rope and Rescue Skills (2), SAREX (1)
- Training coverage and content has been heavily influenced by the Emergency Management Limited (EML) courses

1998

- We are now looking at moving to the next level of call-out where personnel are called individually, perhaps using pagers.

Wairarapa (Hutt District north of the Rimutaka Hill):

Management

- Meetings held quarterly with Police and SAR representatives.

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Training

- NZLSAR has recently funded a very successful Track and Clue Awareness Course run by EML.

Mike Sheridan

Region Four Representative. NZLSAR

Region Five Christchurch/West Coast Report

Region Five Christchurch/West Coast have held a number of courses over the last twelve months with further courses planned at Regional and District level for 1997/1998.

Activity has not been great, with few SAR operations taking place in most Districts, apart from the DoC problems at Mount Cook, first to do with strop rescues and the alpine search and rescue in general, when they said they were pulling out of SAR completely. Through Departmental intervention between DoC and the Police they were told to carry on until after the climbing session. Much discussion and many newspaper reports have covered this issue.

We all here know, that under the new SAR structure, all SAR personnel must be trained to an effective and semi-professional standard. With the annual grant set aside by the Police department for NZLSAR each year, some local areas are possibly worse off now than before, as in the past we had our Local of District instructors training SAR personnel. This Committee seems set in its way to rely totally on the Police grant. Before the change most District

Committees received a small grant from the national body, this is not the case now. It is stated in the rules that all SAR personnel must be trained in SAR procedure and with the limited funding this may take as long as the old system owing to the cost of courses.

NZLSAR is not taking the full opportunity to raise funds at a national level for all SAR training and in some cases sponsorship for equipment from corporate bodies throughout New Zealand, who would be only to willing to help such an organisation.

I read in the NZLSAR News that some District and Local Committees seem to raise funds for training easier than others. Presently we ask SAR members to give up their time to help raise funds for equipment. They already give time freely to go on SAR operations and supply all their own equipment for each operation and now we are asking them to give up time to raising funds for training. You must be joking. Have any of you purchased boots, parka, overpants, sleeping bag, tent and clothing recently or are we all past it and suffering from memory overload.

All other emergency services like the St Johns, Air Ambulance, Fire Brigade have clothing and equipment supplied.

On the West Coast when a SAR call-out takes place most outlying Police Stations do not follow SAR procedures, like calling a SAR Adviser, until they get into trouble or the operation requires expertise. As an example the Chairperson and Secretary of the WCLSAR attended a debriefing of an operation in the Reefton area and were surprised that the Police involved had not been informed of the new SAR procedure which is there to help SAR operations, like contacting a SAR Adviser. I must say it was not the Reefton Police's fault regarding procedure as they called Greymouth and were given incorrect SAR instructions.

Another example of this happened on the 14th July when a hunter was swept away crossing a side creek that runs into the Landsborough River. The Police from Hokitika hired the St Johns helicopter at \$1500 an hour to travel to Haast, once there, they used another private mountain experienced helicopter operator to go to the scene of the incident.

Now to analyse this callout, no Adviser was called and secondly you can drive to Haast. Why hire a helicopter and why was the Policeman from Whataroa not sent to the incident?

All this adds up to inexperience in SAR operational procedure and I again ask are we wasting our voluntary time. In cases such as the above we should charge out as SAR consultants to the Police Department. The helicopter hire from Greymouth could cost in total \$3500 which was not required, as they could have driven to Haast the evening before when the Department was first

informed, making a saving of around \$3200

Since joining this Committee little has been done apart from the courses supplied by EML, which are quite expensive. NZLSAR should look at sending a couple of SAR personnel from each Region overseas to train on the same and in return these people train our volunteers.

As I stated at the first meeting I attended of this Committee, I was given a mandate by the Regional Committee to see what funding is available from the NZLSAR Committee for holding courses at Regional and District level. To date this Committee seems to be scared to look at what funding is available from corporations within New Zealand.

The Chairman asked me to look into this area at the last meeting. I have made enquires, but the time required to raise funds for the whole of NZLSAR would become a full time position. Funds and sponsorship are out there to be obtained, but this would be best achieved through a national effort.

A letter recently received states that another \$4,000 is available for courses straight away. I sincerely hope this is on top of the \$6,000 allocated to our Region for courses in the last financial year. Our Region has not spent all of last years allocation, but have one more course planned to cover the amount allocated.

Until we have proper funding in place to cover all training and the marketing of this organisations it will flounder at the pace as its predecessor.

Terry Sweetman

Region Five (Canterbury/West Coast) Representative. NZLSAR

The Regional Committee has continued to encourage the combination of several local areas in each training element so as to achieve better liaison within the Region. Following changes to the composition of the Otago Police District and possible further changes involving links with the Invercargill Police District, this aspect of the Region's functions has assumed greater importance. The Regional Committee is now becoming the principal link for volunteers.

The Police operations are financed on a local area basis without retaining a core of funds to provide links between the local police areas. This creates a danger of a major operation being inefficient through lack of prior co-operation. To overcome the potential threat the Regional Committee has expanded its representation so that each local area is represented on it.

The Committee has retained a very experienced membership with some new blood. **Tony Chittock** and **Steve Wilkes** (who took over from **John Galbreath** in March) joined the committee to reflect the need for more local representation following changes to the Police District structure. Other membership remains as before. John Galbreath's contribution from the South Otago Coastal area has been most appreciated. We wish to record our thanks to him for his efforts and valued contribution.

This year has seen a major drop in District Police funding allocated to SAR support in the non-operational role. While some areas have been able to maintain their training functions through substantial private and public donations, the position is serious. Once a need for SAR personnel is established there is a minimum requirement in standards of performance, and consequential training is required to achieve those standards. There is a cost in maintaining these standards which must be recognised

and provided by all departments involved. To expect the community to provide voluntary funding as well as volunteer unpaid personnel, creates a stress on the system which may not be sustainable in the longer term. If there was any need for proof of the matter it is demonstrated in the serious litigation arising in Queenstown and the Coroner's finding in a recent inquest in Timaru. Preventative efforts through adequate training require an adequate training budget.

All Districts have been active throughout the year with numbers of operational callouts. The Dunedin pager system is proving of real benefit in overcoming limitations of the Telecom systems. Of concern is the high number of callouts in the Dunedin and Southland areas involving suicides and Alzheimer cases. The use of teams whose members have taken the course in track and clue awareness has provided major benefits to the success of operations. There is a definite cost benefit in providing this training in relation to the benefit to the victim of a speedy rescue and the cost savings in time on operations. Similar benefits are apparent from training in search management.

Detailed analysis of training needs is required in the longer term. Funds made available to the Regional Committee by Police and the National Committee and funds raised locally have resulted in Track and Clue Awareness courses and Search Management courses. A High Altitude Search Management course was held in Wanaka linking local areas and specialised groups from as far as Dunedin. Further similar training may be needed in this area in the future.

The region is continuing its links with the University aimed at supporting research into improvements operational resources.

A national exercise was held at Bendigo combining national and provincial groups capable of working underground. Local arrangements were made by the Regional committee and a mini SAREX was held to analyse the requirements of a search when there is a possibility that those missing may be underground. A report on these aspects and resources

available is undergoing peer review and will soon be available for distribution.

Roger Barrowclough

Region Five (Otago Southland)
Representative. NZLSAR

Aviation Subcommittee Report

This past year has once again been one of maintaining a watching brief on SAR and its aviation issues. A major review of Emergency Air Rescue Services has been undertaken over the past couple of years. The recommendations of this report are yet to be implemented, and ultimately could have a significant impact on the availability, and geographical location of our rescue helicopter operators.

It has been suggested that the RNZAF wish to cease the provision of helicopter support for SAR operations. This has not been substantiated, but if proved correct would provide some SAR Field Controllers and Advisers with severe logistical problems. The Iroquois is one of the most versatile tools available to us, and in many regions of the country, local helicopter operators are unable to provide resources such as HF communications, winches and lots of noise.

NZLSAR attended one of the meetings of the Aviation Industry Association, Air Accident Air Rescue Division in

Wellington during the year. The purpose of our attendance was to promote ourselves, and our objectives to the organisation that represents most of the fully professional rescue helicopter and aircraft operators. This organisation suggested that they could act as our Aviation Sub Committee. The subsequent meeting of NZLSAR agreed that the AIAAARD do not fully represent all rescue operators that are involved in SAR.

At the AIA meeting, a demonstration of computer software and GPS hardware was given. The purpose of this software is to provide aircraft operators with an instantaneous graphical representation of exact location and height on a digitised topographical map. The capability of this equipment, including the logging and playback function was astounding. Equipment such as this may well benefit SAR in the future.

Ross Berry

Chairman Aviation Subcommittee.
NZLSAR

Communications Subcommittee Report

At the March 1997 Committee meeting Graham Thorp the Communications Subcommittee Chairman (CSC) stood down from this position to concentrate on his role as NZLSAR Chairman. At that meeting I was nominated to take his place and chair this group, the members being:

<p>Mike Sheridan Lower Hutt Rex Aubrey Police Porirua Ian Gardiner Christchurch Matthew Lloyd DoC Wellington</p>
--

Jeff Sayer AREC Lower Hutt
Ross Thompson FMC Auckland
John Tristram Lower Hutt
Terry Waghorn Wellington

The CSC has had two "face to face" meetings in the last financial year, the first in July 1996 and other in February 1997. The next such event is due for August and is to include a get together on the Friday evening before the meeting on Saturday. This is to allow some social interaction between members who are for much of the year only a voice on the phone to each other. It is also anticipated that much technical discussion can be held in a more "free-wheeling" atmosphere than a formal meeting setting permits.

As well, three tele-conferences were held interspersed between the "face to face" meetings.

Two presentations were made at one meeting. The first was by Barry Young of NZ Coast Guard Air patrol who explained the direction finding equipment they are intending to fit to dedicated aircraft around the country. He also spoke about the Coastguard Air Patrol Observers they are training in conjunction with the "DF" equipment. The second speaker was Neil Lambert of Spectratec Systems Limited, who demonstrated to us a "Sel Call" (selective calling) device. This allows HF radios to be used as a telephone and a SAR team, with this device fitted to their HF radio, could call or be called by any other telephone subscriber.

A **VHF SPECIFICATION** setting out the desired SAR features of this type of radio and the preferred brands has been finalised, as has a paper titled **VHF STRATEGIES** which incorporates the rationale for leaving the CD band and adopting the ES band. Money has been allocated for part of the production costs of the pamphlet setting out the various options for outdoor communications (cellphone, ELB's, Mountain radios). A copy on a disc is with Mountain Safety Council being assessed for publication.

Other areas that are currently under discussion include:

- The Police CARD system
- Computers in search HQ
- optimum field HQ arrangements
- Communications for Alpine Cliff Rescue Teams (ACR)
- Recommendations on the use of the ES band frequencies
- The use of the Internet
- Communication Plans for the VHF and HF networks

I see my role as facilitating these discussions and progressing the issues. The discussions are certainly going very well, however progress is somewhat slow. It is very difficult to progress the issues at phone conference time.

Mike Sheridan
Chairman Communications
Subcommittee. NZLSAR

Specialist Subcommittee Report

Alpine Cliff Rescue Standards

A small group from the sub-committee has been involved with the Central Southern Alps SAR Review and has been attempting to resolve the Standards issue. There are two models that are being considered. The first (and original) model is that followed by the RARO standards. The second

model uses sections from existing qualifications in the appropriate fields. This last model is presently seen as the most 'useful' for the volunteers, going by the present feedback received.

There is still some debate amongst the teams as to the necessity of these

standards and this will need to be addressed.

A positive aspect of the Review is that it has been decided to publish the 'Minimum Entry level Standards' despite the lack of feedback from the various groups on this issue.

ACR Statistics

This year it has been decided to produce a brief summary of the use of the respective ACR teams over the period July 1996 to June 1997.

** is an indication that despite repeated attempts to obtain these figures from the team they have not been forthcoming.

Team	Call-outs	Total Operational hours	Number of Team members involved
Taranaki	7	457	68
RARO	8	137	30
Christchurch	8	289	55
Greymouth	**		
Mt Cook	33	536	139
Dunedin	3	12	5
Queenstown	**		
Wanaka	9	49	13
Invercargill	0		

Training

Training for the coming financial year is being directed at the individual teams in an attempt to continue the work begun at the Temple Basin workshop held during November 1996. The participants saw this as important. It will also give the Sub Committee a further opportunity to "push" the adoption of the Standards and in particular a National Standard.

Once finance has been allocated for training and this Sub Committee is given its budget this project will go ahead. However, given the cost of such a project it is likely that we will be spreading this training over a two year period.

Murray Cullen

Chairman Specialist Sub-Committee.
NZLSAR

Training Subcommittee Report

The Training Subcommittee did not meet during the last year but contact has been frequent with some members and for others, an occasional phone call. However, a meeting will be held in August this year.

The membership of the Subcommittee has not changed during the year and the members are:

Murray Cullen Dave Saunders Roscoe Tait Stu Thorne Barry Were

Advisers Standards

Although a large number of Adviser Standards Workshops were held last year, there were still some Districts

where Advisers had not been given the opportunity to attend a Workshop. These Districts were picked up this year and workshops were held at Thames, New Plymouth and Geraldine. The Adviser Standards Workshops are still extremely well received and all District Committees have accepted the concept of Standards.

Thames	Attendees	17
New Plymouth	Attendees	23
Geraldine	Attendees	21
Total for 1996/97		<u>62</u>
Total since first workshop in 1995		<u>239</u>
No. Advisers not attended		70

Of the two hundred and fourteen NZLSAR Advisers (one hundred and ninety-four land and twenty underground), seventy have yet to take the advantage of attending a Workshop. An analysis has commenced of those Advisers in each Island who have not attended a workshop to determine where, and how many further Workshops need be run to ensure that all Advisers have an opportunity to attend.

Field Controllers Standards

A draft of the Field Controllers Standard was tabled at the March Committee meeting for comment and approval. Many useful comments were received and these have been incorporated in a final draft which will be presented at a pilot Workshop to be held in Auckland in July. The invited attendees, which include Advisers, people who are experienced Field Controllers and Police, will work through the Standard to confirm its content as well as assisting in the development of the workshop content and format. From this pilot the content for a series of one day workshops to be held around the country to introduce the Field Controller

Standards will be developed. The Standard, and its accompanying Job Description, are similar in layout to the Advisers Standard and are in five parts; Non-Operational, Pre-Operational, Operational, Post Operational and Background Knowledge.

The Field Controller Standards and Workshop content will be presented to the Training Subcommittee at its August meeting for approval to go to the next committee meeting of N Z Land SAR for ratification.

Risk Management

A second pilot Risk Management course for SAR was held at Rotoiti Lodge, Nelson Lakes during the weekend 5/6 October. It was attended by sixteen Nelson SAR personnel as well as Paul Dale from the Department of Conservation and myself. The course was run by Cathye Haddock and Jim Hepburn of the New Zealand Mountain Council. As with any course that is being developed, the content differed from that in the first pilot course. There was more emphasis on the use of tools and techniques. The response from the participants was very encouraging and there is certainly a growing feeling around the country that this type of course is of use, not only in SAR, but for general outdoor activities.

Field Guide

This document has had an extremely long gestation period and a huge number of hours have been put in by the Auckland Land SAR Committee on this project. The earlier draft has been rewritten in a more user friendly and consistent format. The final tidying up of the document is currently being done and the Field Guide will be presented to the Training Sub Committee at its August meeting. It is expected that the N Z Land SAR Committee will approve the Field Guide at its August meeting and that it will be published and distributed to all Districts before Christmas.

Emergency Management Limited

The Training Subcommittee is very keen to promote courses that offer training in new SAR skills and techniques. Negotiations were held with Emergency Management Limited (EML) on the price, and the numbers of attendees, for each of their courses. A policy was then put in place where each Region was offered a training grant of \$4000 for new training using approved courses. This grant was limited to a maximum \$2000 for any individual course. Asking the District Representatives at the Regional meetings to prioritise their needs for this extra and specialised training the policy has proved to be very effective. Also several Regions and Districts have managed to find funding from their own

sources to run additional courses. The National Committee was able to offer extra funding to those Regions towards the end of the year. Of concern however, is that on a number of occasions, courses have not been fully attended. From NZLSAR's point of view, any numbers less than the maximum means we are not getting the full value for our (limited) dollars. Any places unfilled means that a highly useful and effective training opportunity has been lost. Some organisers have managed the process by having a couple of reserves in place for each course. In view of the value of the skills being presented, I would encourage others to adopt the same approach.

NZLSAR financially supported courses by EML

Introductory TCA	Napier	16
Search Methods	Dunedin	28
Introductory TCA	Region 2	16
Introductory TCA	Napier	16
Introductory TCA	Thames	16
Introductory TCA	Waihi	16
Introductory MSO	Region 3	20
Search Methods	Region 3	28
Introductory TCA	Dunedin	16
Introductory TCA	Invercargill	12
Introductory TCA	Region 5	16
Introductory TCA	Auckland	16
Alpine Search Methods	Wanaka	14
Introductory TCA	Oamaru	16
Introductory TCA	Gisborne	16
Introductory MSO	Region 2	20
Introductory TCA	Region 5	19
Introductory TCA	Wanganui	16
Introductory TCA	Masterton	16
Total persons trained by EML		333

A number of Districts, seeing the value of the above courses, have from their own funds engaged EML to run similar events. Those Districts and Local SAR

Committees who have done this include Dunedin, Hawkes Bay and Taupo

Training Modules

As Chairman of the Training Sub Committee I was invited to attend a one day Workshop in Christchurch organised by the Canterbury SAR group to look at SAR skills. The day was divided into four sessions covering, minimum standards for Team Members coming into SAR, skills specific to SAR, development of training modules for SAR specific skills and the training of SAR instructors. Having identified a set of minimum standards and the SAR specific skills, this information is now being brought together and developed by the Canterbury group as a series of modules and training aids for use by all SAR groups. Dave Saunders is coordinating the development of these training modules.

The Auckland Land SAR Committee has started developing a Workbook from the Field Guide. District Committees will be able to use the Workbook as the basis for developing a standardised training programme that meets the requirements for the SAR personnel in their District.

Future

The committee has developed an extremely ambitious five year training programme that will allow the latest international methods and techniques in SAR to be implemented throughout the country. The plan requires considerably more funding than we currently receive from the Police. A Business Plan has been submitted to the Police along with justification for the increased funding. The Training Subcommittee is

developing strategies that will allow us to provide new training in a cost effective and equitable manner.

Acknowledgments

I wish to acknowledge the support of the following: District and Regional committees in assisting with the organisation of the Adviser Standards Workshops and in the way they have embraced the training programmes that have been offered by Emergency Management Ltd. To Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd. for his enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the year. The Committee of N Z Land SAR Inc. for their unfailing support of the aims and objectives of the Training Subcommittee. The members of the Training Subcommittee for their assistance and help. Special thanks go to John Tristram; without his behind the scenes input and encouragement much of what we have achieved this year would just not have happened. Barry Were, my co-presenter, for his help and encouragement. Last, and certainly not least, my thanks to all the volunteers who have given freely of their time to train and attend courses to improve their skills so that the organisation can provide a better service to the public of New Zealand.

Roscoe Tait

Chairman, Training Subcommittee.
NZLSAR

Underground Subcommittee Report

The review of the Adviser numbers and distribution, which commenced last year, has been completed. The number of Cave Advisers now stands at twenty and of these only three have yet to attend an Adviser Workshop.

Our continuing dialogue with the Mines Rescue personnel has been worthwhile

with the miners being key participants in the Bendigo exercise in March.

The attendance at the Bendigo exercise was impressive in terms of the range of organisations represented and the calibre of the participants. The sharing of techniques was excellent and all participants left with a greater understanding of the skills available in

Otago for vertical and confined space rescue.

Planning is proceeding for a major deep cave SAREX in the South Island in March 1998. This will focus on a particularly deep cave and will be designed to stretch the resources of our organisation, stimulate an upgrading of skills, and provide the organisation with an accurate indication of our preparedness for such an event.

Cavers have run the usual Regional SAREXs during the past year.

The Cave Rescue Handbook is still being written and should be ready to publish before the end of 1997.

I believe that the Cave SAR organisation is in good shape, but we must remain aware of the need to train our members and in particular the Advisers. An important aspect of this training relates to search and I believe that it is important for all Cave Advisers to attend a MSO course.

Barry Were

Chairman Underground Subcommittee.
NZLSAR

Treasurers Report

Thanks again to the Police for the operational grant and for the provision of accommodation and associated services for the National Field Officer. In addition, the work of volunteers, Committee members and others has notably furthered the operations of

NZLSAR and this work cannot be satisfactorily measured in dollars.

While the accounts show a surplus and funds at 30 June 1997 are \$90,319, there are these qualifications;

1. The Field Guide has not been published and the provision of \$30,000 for its estimated cost remains.
2. The Police grant is received some months into the financial year and sufficient funds, estimated to be at least \$30,000 at current spending levels, must be retained to cover this period.
3. Various committed activities, including two Regional training courses subsidised to a total of \$4,000, data collection research - \$1,000, two Field Controllers Workshops - \$3,000, publication of the "comms pamphlet" - \$1,500 and ID cards - \$1,000, were unable to be completed by June 30. This totals \$10,500 to be carried forward to the 1997/98 year.
4. A further \$24,000 support for approved Regional courses has recently been allocated.

\$103,059 was spent this financial year against a Police grant of \$103,000. Although this expenditure includes some \$6,300 set down for 1995/96 (the underground exercise, risk management course, less a saving on Regional administration grants), there was the \$10,500 as above, not spent on planned activities plus the other desirable items in the original 1996/97 Business Plan of

\$162,000 which could not be fully funded.

The 1997/98 Business Plan presented to the Police totals \$210,000 and there is some careful planning coming up to make the best use of the grant when it is known.

Phil Rundle

Treasurer. NZLSAR

Financial Report

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1997

	1997 \$	1996 \$
Accumulated Funds		
Balance at 1 July	50,530	58,456
Surplus for the year ended 30 June	9,789	22,074
Transfer to the Field Guide Provision		(30,000)
	60,319	50,530
Field Guide Provision	30,000	30,000
	90,319	80,530
Represented by:		
Bank accounts		
Trust Bank current a/c	2,766	1,316
" " call a/c	<u>16,983</u>	<u>14,219</u>
	19,749	15,535
Term Deposit - Trust Bank (Matures July 1997)	75,000	69,661
Debtors Note 4	<u>3,375</u>	<u>4,107</u>
Total Current Assets	98,124	89,303
Less Current Liabilities		
Creditors Note 5	<u>7,805</u>	<u>8,773</u>
Net Current Assets	<u>90,319</u>	<u>80,530</u>

The Notes 1 to 5 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

	1997		
	1997		1996
	\$		\$
INCOME			
Police Dept Contract	103,000		103,000
Interest	9,848		6,667
Total income	<u>112,848</u>		<u>109,667</u>
EXPENSES			
Audit Fees		450	300
Committee Meetings	5,646		6,395
National Field Officer			
Salary and ACC Levy	42,235	41,144	
Air Fares	3,036	4,069	
Other Expenses	<u>2,856</u>	<u>716</u>	
		48,127	45,929
National Office			
Administration Expenses	121	401	
Stationery	<u>433</u>	<u>887</u>	
		554	1,288
Aviation Sub Committee		149	
Communications Sub Committee		1,882	961
Specialist Sub Committee			
ACR Courses	6,234	6,740	
Committee Expenses	<u>466</u>	<u>1,580</u>	
		6,700	8,320
Training Sub Committee			
Adviser Standards Courses	4,825	14,155	
Risk Management Courses	2,597	1,039	
Other Courses			5,000
Sub Committee Expenses	<u>909</u>	<u>1,986</u>	
		8,331	22,180
Underground Sub Committee			
Bendigo Exercise	5,263		
Committee Expenses	<u>441</u>		
		5,704	
Regional Committee Administration Support		(209)	2,220
Regional Training Support		25,725	
Total Expenses		<u>103,059</u>	<u>87,593</u>
SURPLUS		9,789	22,074

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1997

1. Reporting Entity
The financial statements presented here are for the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc. There are Regional and District land search and rescue organisations which being independent, do not have their results included with these accounts of the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc.
2. Accounting Policies
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.
Donated Services - New Zealand Land Search and 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
These are accrued interest and GST paid on expenses and recoverable from the Inland Revenue Department.
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.

AUDITORS REPORT

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1997

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Cash Flows for Operating Activities		
Cash Received:		
Police contract	103,000	103,000
GST on Police contract	12,875	12,875
	<u>115,875</u>	<u>115,875</u>
Applications of cash		
Payment of Salaries and expenses	101,365	83,871
GST paid on expenses	7,004	4,984
GST paid to Inland Revenue Dept	7,069	8,180
	<u>115,438</u>	<u>97,035</u>
Net Inflow from operations	<u>437</u>	<u>18,840</u>
Cash flows from financial activities		
Receipts-		
Transfers from Term deposits	109,158	84,590
Interest	9,117	7,739
	<u>118,275</u>	<u>92,329</u>
Payments-		
Investment in Term Deposits	113,000	94,000
Deposit interest compounded	1,498	5,560
	<u>114,498</u>	<u>99,560</u>
Net inflow (outflow) from financial activities	<u>3,777</u>	<u>(7,231)</u>
Net increase in cash	4,214	11,609
Add opening balances	15,535	3,926
Closing current and call account balances	<u>19,749</u>	<u>15,535</u>

Performance Audit Report

1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997

Introduction

This performance report on the activities of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated is for the period 1 July 1996 to the end of the organisation's financial year 30 June 1997. It should be read subject to the comments under the heading "Measurement Standard for this Report" below. It is provided as a requirement of the Constitution to the Annual General Meeting of New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Incorporated. It serves as a check to see the organisation achieved what it set out to do in the financial year, that the work done was within the budget allocated and tries to give a measure of performance for its members and its fund provider, the New Zealand Police. This audit also flags areas of concern to its authors which others should consider and if needed, provide solutions.

Independent Audit Requirement

The performance assessment audits for the 94/95 and 95/96 financial years were carried out by the NZLSAR Chairman and the NFO. This was done in the first instance because a full year of operation had not been completed and for the second year, as a cost saving measure. Although an objective and fair attempt was made to realistically assess the organisation, because it was done by those close to the activities it could be construed as having a bias. The Committee considered this aspect of independent audit and possible bias at its meeting in August 1996. The decision was that provided the Police as fund providers were satisfied with the outcomes for their support, *the expenditure of a large sum of money for an independent audit should be done infrequently.* (Minutes August 1996 p,2).

Measurement Standard for this Report

The amount of the Police grant was announced at the August 1996 meeting. Broad parameters of expenditure were approved at that meeting and after final adjustment by an appointed group comprising the Chairman, Treasurer, Training Subcommittee Chairman and the NFO, the Business Plan Update was circulated. A copy of this plan can be obtained upon request to the NFO. This audit is done against the "Tasks" set out in the Business Plan Update and we have asked a number of questions. The first questions were;

- Was the task done and was it within budget? The Committee is finding its feet in a business sense and it is taking some time to judge the costs of some activities so this last inquiry is felt to be of considerable importance.
- We then asked a rather introspective set of questions; did NZLSAR get the best return for its expenditure, was the task performed well and can any improvement be made?

Graham Thorp Chairman NZLSAR

John P Tristram NFO NZLSAR

Summary of estimated volunteers activities¹ from July 1 1996 to 30 June 1997 by the NZLSAR Committee, its Subcommittees and their members

Committee meetings held	3
Total person days of attendance	25

Communications Subcommittee meetings held	2
Total person days of attendance	19
Tele-conferences held	3
Total estimated hours of teleconferences	27

Specialist Subcommittee	
Workshops held to define Standards	2
Total number of attendees	30
Sponsored one two day Mountain First aid Course	
Attendees	20

Training Subcommittee	
Advisers Standards days training provided	6
Estimated hours of preparation	9
Adviser Workshop attendees	62
Total Adviser Workshop attendees	239
One Risk Management for SAR Course. Attendees	18
Emergency Management Ltd courses sponsored	
Track and Clue Awareness	14
Managing Search Operations	2
Search Methods	3
Total number of attendees	333
(Two TCA Courses arranged for early in new financial year)	

Underground Subcommittee	
National "combined disciplines" SAREX held	
Total number of attendees	40

¹ The list represents "formal" activities and, with the exception of standards workshops, does not include preparation, administration, travel times and other associated matters. It does not include the requirements on the regional representatives to attend regional and district meetings and activities, or attendances at proceedings of other bodies. In answer to an informal question none of the volunteer committee members were able to estimate their volunteer hours to SAR below 500 per annum and for some the number is very much higher.

Audit of Business Plan Update

Task and Constitution Objects	Within budget	Outcome	Comment
1 - Hold three meetings of the NZLSAR Committee. <i>Objects All</i>	\$354	Three meetings held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings kept. • Nearly all “Action” tasks noted were performed by the next meeting. • A Business Plan Update for 97/98 and with a five year projection produced, approved and presented to the Police • Financial updates are produced on a monthly basis and were discussed at each meeting. • SAR Advisers List produced, approved and distributed nationally to all “SAR Managers”. • Previous meeting venue adjudged too expensive and another one found. • The new Region 4 member is resident of Lower Hutt so a savings in air fares has been made.
2 - Administration costs including stationary and audit.	\$396		
3 - Continue employment of a National Field Officer. <i>Objects 3b (xiv)</i>	(\$2235)	NFO continued to be employed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has approved additional expenditure to allow for deferred leave. • The Committee has approved the continued employment and salary of the NFO. • The initial contract has expired and a new contract is currently being prepared. • A “performance appraisal” has yet to be undertaken.
4 - National Field Officer to carry out personnel liaison.	\$2108	Visits made.	The NFO has attended;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Advisers Workshops. • The Underground SAREX at Bendigo.

<i>Objects 3b (ii) (iv) (viii) (x) (xii) (xiii)</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACR Workshop at Temple Basin. • Six SAREX's. • Five NZLSAR Award presentations. • Several District committee meetings.. • Meetings of kindred body's such as Mountain Safety Council and Federated Mountain Clubs.
5 - Resolve Aviation programme.	\$351		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A watching brief has been maintained on SAR and its aviation issues. • A meeting with the air rescue industry has been held.
6, 7, 8 - Resolve Communications programme, Travel assistance for CSC visits for problem solving and CSC members miscellaneous costs for toll calls, mail and other approved expenses.	\$18	Meetings held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two one day meetings held. • Three tele-conferences held. • Minutes kept and an "Action Sheet" issued. • VHF Specification produced. • VHF Strategy produced. • "Communications in the Outdoors" pamphlet produced, negotiations for printing entered into. • Liaison created between communication providers, experts and users (Police, AREC and SAR practitioners).
9 - Resolve Specialist programme.	\$1034		
10 - Complete and publish the following papers;- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACR Team Leader Non Operational Job Description. • Cold body protocol. • Critical incident stress debriefing. 		None of the tasks completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend that the Committee consider putting out to contract the task of formulating Standards and Job Descriptions for Alpine Cliff Rescue personnel. • Recommend that the Committee consider the need for the other two papers and if required that they be finished and published without delay.
11 - Conduct an ACR technique Seminar.	\$(234)	Two ACR Technique Seminars held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No consensus on any Standards achieved. • Recommend that the Committee consider putting out to
<i>Object 3b (ii) (iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii)</i>			

			contract the task of formulating Standards and Job Descriptions for Alpine Cliff Rescue personnel.
12 - Resolve Training programme. <i>Objects 3a 3b(iii) (iv) (v) (vi)</i>	\$991		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that consideration be given to enlarging this Subcommittee.
13- Resolve Underground programme. <i>Objects 3a 3b(iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii)</i>	\$59		
14 - Conduct an Underground Exercise. <i>Objects 3a 3b(iii) (iv) (v) (vi) (vii)</i>	\$(263)	Exercise held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National exercise held. Groups with seven different SAR disciplines involved.
15 - Provide administrative support for the Regional Committees.	\$209	Support offered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter was sent to each of the six Regional Secretaries inviting them to apply for \$250 for administrative assistance.
16 - Develop data collection requirements to enable research and review of victim behaviour, system performance and search management on an ongoing basis. <i>Object b(vii)</i>	\$800		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No expenditure was incurred for this task in the last year A meeting was held with staff of the Otago University in regard a Phd research project using "Case Based Reasoning" to provide lost person analysis data and tools for Field Controllers. An application for funding was made to the Lotteries General Board for this research. Agreement with Emergency Management Limited that they will provide some finance for this project.
17 - Develop an identity system.		System developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval for including the Police crest on these "ID" cards has been given.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee has approved the issue of "ID" cards to all Advisers who have attended an Advisers Standard Workshop.
<p>18 - Provide a subsidy for a venue, speakers etc to the six Regions for a senior SAR personnel seminar.</p> <p><i>Objects 3(a) b (iii) (iv)</i></p>	\$4,275	<p>One Mountain First Aid Course held.</p> <p>Sixteen EML Courses held.</p>	<p>This and Tasks 22, 23, 24 and 25 became part of a "Contestable Fund" that Regions could bid for. Initially the fund stood at \$24000 but as the year progressed, the budget was reassessed and a further \$6000 was made available. In noting that 17 courses were run we make the following comments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing assessment should be made by the Training Subcommittee as whether the course content is as required to increase SAR efficiency. Assessment should be made by the NZLSAR Committee as to where any grant is best targeted Encouragement should be given to Regions that make a financial input to grants given by NZLSAR. Not all courses held had a full attendance. For this amount of expenditure and its perceived value to SAR, every effort must be made to have the maximum attendees. Assessment of other training providers should be constantly made for course content and to improve financial competitiveness.
<p>19 - Four Advisers Standards Workshops to be held</p> <p><i>Object 3a 3b (iii) (iv) (vi)</i></p>	\$1175	Three Courses held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A problem identified is that the seventy or so Advisers who have not attended a Workshop are scattered widely around the country. Consideration needs to be given as to whether a number of these people will attend a Workshop. If it is felt the majority will attend thought needs to be given as to where it can be held and the cost of the travel of bringing together such a widely dispersed group.
<p>20 - One further Risk Management (SAR) Course.</p>	\$(1097)	One Course held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reaction on the value for SAR of this course has been mixed. Consideration should be given as to the necessity of this type

<i>Object b (v)</i>			<p>of course for SAR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is required, consideration needs to be given as to what priority it has on available funds.
<p>21 - Two Field Controllers Standards Workshops.</p> <p>Object 3a 3b (iii) (iv) (vi)</p>	\$3000	Courses not held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Field Controllers Standards and Job Description as documents are in an advanced stage. • They have been circulated to the Committee for comment. • The amount of work required in writing them reinforces our comments on the size of the Training Subcommittee and the consequent time demands on some of its members.
22 - Conduct Track and Clue Awareness Courses.		Twelve Courses held.	See Task 18.
23 - Conduct one week Managing Search Operation for Advisers and Field Controllers.		Not held.	See Task 18.
24 - Conduct Managing Search Operations Courses for Team Leaders.		Two Courses held.	See Task 18.
25 - Conduct Search Method Courses.		Two Courses held.	See Task 18.