

Chairman's Report

With the completion of another successful year for NZLSAR it is interesting to look back and review progress. Clearly this has been a year of consolidation for the organisation. Many of the initiatives set up at the inception of NZLSAR, eg Adviser Standards, have now been achieved and promulgated throughout the country. We are now in a position where we can account for our performance standards and justify our abilities as a provider of Search and Rescue Services. The framework of people and skills developed since 1995 has provided us with a sound foundation on which to build a top organisation.

We now move into a new millennium looking forward to a new phase of our development in which it is expected we can enhance our relationships with the Police and resolve representation issues that have become strained in some areas as a result of the Police restructuring. While the Police review has created a number of problems for our people in the Regions and Districts, it has also created positive opportunities for us to look closely at our structures and the way we work with the Police.

Problems being experienced by our volunteers vary from area to area and District to District. Some of these issues have been highlighted in the reports from Regional Representatives and need to be addressed by the National Committee. While it is not possible to sort out all these issues overnight, it is my belief that many of these concerns will be resolved by the proposed review of NZLSAR and our relationships with the Police.

The provision of SAR services by volunteers is a cost effective but complex system that must be managed with considerable care. The changing face of society and expectations of individuals, together with political decisions like the Employment Contracts Act are creating pressures on the volunteers that can't be ignored. Often the easy solution to all these problems appears to revolve around the need for increased funding but a detailed assessment of the issues shows that funding is only part of the problem and

the best solution often results from a range of initiatives.

Last year's external audit of the organisation supported the direction, systems and structures of NZLSAR and made some useful recommendations for our further development. The results of the audit have now been incorporated with the information assembled earlier in the year for a submission to the Police review. Both these documents have forced us to look very critically at ourselves and the way we provide a service to our customers. As a result the National Committee has a very clear understanding of the direction and needs of both NZLSAR and search and rescue in general.

A considerable resource has been set in place at National level to work carefully through the above issues and arrangements are being made to introduce a series of meetings with the Police as soon as they have filled their new SAR coordinator position in Police Headquarters. The Police review and restructuring have caused delays in this process which have been frustrating, but there is no point in pressing ahead if the appropriate people are not available to make the necessary decisions and follow through with agreements as they are made. We look forward to these meetings as they will be the key to consolidating the partnership with the Police and resolving some of the problems being experienced at District level.

It has been pleasing to see the Police take the first steps in upskilling their SAR personnel by including specialist SAR instructors on their annual training course for District SAR Coordinators and O/C SAR's at the Police College in Wellington. These officers will now be better equipped to understand the origin and significance of many of the new terms and techniques being used by Advisers and Field Controllers. I have had good feedback from a number of sources following the course and I believe the Police will very quickly find that this training it is a much more cost effective option than the approach used in the past. Hopefully the

integration of Police with volunteers on courses at District level will continue the trend.

The release of the joint report by the Police and the Department of Conservation on SAR services at Mount Cook has clarified a number of issues for NZLSAR. The report has a number of far reaching implications for SAR at Mount Cook and throughout the country and clearly sets out the responsibilities of all the affected organisations. From NZLSAR's point of view, it is quite clear that we need to have all our systems in place by the year 2001 if we wish to be the preferred provider of SAR services in alpine regions. There is no room for complacency. We have the option to provide the service and it is up to all of us to make it happen.

Our Specialist Subcommittee is well aware of the impact of the Mount Cook report and the Committee is well down the track with a review of the our ACR teams. This review is focusing on all aspects of rescues including the personnel, location, training and equipment required to provide a level of response that matches the best interests of the victim. In accordance with the recommendations of the report, NZLSAR will hold and maintain the Standards relating to Alpine and Cliff Rescue. They will be included as an integral part of the series of Standards that have been established over the last five years.

The impact of the Mount Cook report and the review of ACR teams by NZLSAR will be significant in terms of time and cost and it is expected that a much higher financial commitment will be necessary to undertake the work involved. The budget for the coming year, which was submitted for approval earlier this year, has been increased to reflect the needs of the Specialist Subcommittee.

On the operational front we continue to see a number of indicators that confirm the value of the training that has been undertaken. While it isn't possible to be 100% successful in terms of the outcomes for the victim on every operation, I am yet to receive any reports that any of our teams have failed to undertake the tasks that have been required of them. Indeed many

of the reports that are received indicate the opposite, suggesting our members go out of their way to (do the extra yards) ensure that all possible options are covered. It is also interesting to note the success of teams working in areas outside the traditional SAR sphere of operation, but very much related to the skills that have been acquired by our members.

The caving operation at the Bulmer Cave was widely reported in media and was an excellent example of how training and earlier exercises can come together to produce an almost copy book operation. It is an example of how a mix of good control procedures and skilled people can achieve a successful conclusion in difficult conditions. Despite the good result there are still some lessons to be learnt and these will be analysed and circulated to the appropriate people to try and prevent a recurrence on a future operation. Perhaps the most disappointing aspect from NZLSAR's point of view was the lack of media coverage for NZLSAR. I saw many reports that highlighted the work of the Police, helicopters etc. but not once did I see or hear a mention of NZLSAR volunteers who would have done the bulk of the rescue work. A point that all Advisers may have to be aware of in future operations.

An important part of our operational work that is falling behind and needs an urgent upgrade is our methods of reporting the full details and outcomes of each and every operation, no matter how large or small. We need to measure the success or not of our operations and while the P130's collect basic information it is insufficient for our purposes. In addition the P130's are not being completed for all incidents in all areas and they lack detailed information which can be used in the future for the establishment of research in areas like "case based reasoning".

The information is also required to enable NZLSAR to improve its performance reporting at all levels. It may also be of use in the future for allocating funding to ensure that the effort is directed at the areas that need it. In view of the importance of this information it may be necessary for

NZLSAR to introduce a system of reporting through the Adviser network.

In non-operational areas our Subcommittees have been very active behind the scenes ensuring the smooth running of the organisation. The Training Subcommittee has again achieved high levels of training in a range of aspects throughout the country and this year's expenditure on training is probably the highest to date. The activities of the Specialist Subcommittee have been reported above and while there has been some activity on the Aviation Subcommittee we are still having trouble getting adequate representation and support for the needs of Land SAR. However, change is in the wind that will require aircraft and operators to conform to standards which may rectify the problems.

The Communications Subcommittee continues to look at a range of options for improving communications on operations. The main achievement to date has been the introduction of VHF handhelds and repeaters to extend coverage. Over the last few months the CSC has prepared a further business case to purchase a second issue of both VHF sets and repeaters. This was presented to the Police and I am pleased to say that I have been recently informed that the case was successful and finances will be made available for a further purchase of VHF equipment. These should fill most of the gaps left in the distribution of the first sets. However, it is noted that some places like Wanaka may still be outside the one and two hour supply time and we may need to look at the relocation of some sets to achieve the best results.

The results of our Underground Subcommittee have also been mentioned above. This is another specialist area that requires regular training to maintain standards especially when the skilled people required to undertake major rescues need to be called in from several parts of the country. Next year will see another exercise programmed that will place an emphasis on new skills and lessons learned from the Bulmer and other operations.

As with most organisations there are continual pressures on funds available for various projects and while the annual grant from the Police doesn't cover all our needs we have been able to prioritise the programmes and achieve good value for money. The 20% increase in funding this year is reflected in an increase in the training that has been achieved throughout the country. As NZLSAR must compete for funding with all the other groups within the Police it is becoming more and more important to be able to clearly budget for, and justify our needs for funds. Regardless of the outcomes of our review discussions with the Police, it is likely that for future budget rounds we will be calling on each Region for a detailed breakdown of their needs, including costs, for the following financial year. This will then become part of the overall request to submitted to the Police.

In closing I would like to record my thanks to all the members of the National Committee for their support over the past year. It is really quite humbling working with such a skilled team of people who continue to work tirelessly towards a common goal with very little support. One often wonders if there is a need to have a position of Chairman when everything seems to work so smoothly.

However, it must not be overlooked that one of the main reasons for the smooth running of the organisation is due to the efforts of our National Field Officer, John Tristram. He continues to provide excellent service to our organisation and it is important to recognise that without someone of John's enthusiasm and calibre in Police HQ we could not achieve anywhere near the outcomes that have been achieved to date.

Our thanks must also go to our organisations "Owners" for their continued support and to all our members nation-wide who continue to give of their time freely in the service of SAR.

Graham Thorp
Chairman NZLSAR

National Field Officer's Report

In my report last year I began with how I had, while in Wales, spent time with international search and rescue expert Dr Anthony Jones. I also mentioned meetings in Hong Kong with Mr Edward AU of the Civil Aid Service (CAS), who is the Training Officer for their Mountain Rescue Unit.

The value of my meeting with Tony for NZLSAR was undoubtedly further enhanced when he came out to New Zealand for a months holiday. While here he carried out the Performance Audit Report, which is a Constitutional requirement for the Committee to submit as part of the Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting. Tony spent several days firstly reading our Constitution and getting an idea on the organisation's purpose and how it is structured. He read through minutes of the Committee's and Subcommittees meetings and checked out that things were done, or not done, from the action lists that are generated from each meeting.

At a more practical level he attended all or part of a Track and Clue Awareness and a Search Methods Course, run by Emergency Management Limited with sponsorship provided by NZLSAR. The first Course was at Sika Lodge behind Taupo on what must have been the wettest weekend last year - even the lake was close to overflowing. The SM Course was in Wellington and by attending a South Island Advisers Workshop in Christchurch and a Field Controllers Workshop in Hamilton, he saw some of the diversity of both the country and the national training effort. He went to Dunedin and Queenstown to meet the SAR practitioners there and even took advantage of a free bungy jump for over 60 year olds, for which he qualified by a couple of days. At all these events he was soaking up how he saw NZLSAR, so even his personal comments had depth and value.

Tony's final eleven page Report is an extremely valuable document written by a SAR knowledgeable person. It gave affirmation that a number of initiatives undertaken by the Committee would provide worthwhile results in striving for a

better organisation and the provision of the best service to all the NZLSAR customers. It also gave us a direction for the future with a number of suggestions and recommendations. Most of these have been adopted but in reading through the report again I think that we need to revisit those that have not been implemented and see if the decision not to do so was correct.

In his month in the country Tony met and spent time with all except one of the Committee members, as well as many other people involved in SAR. A major factor in the ease of organising his itinerary was the open generosity shown by people providing local transport and accommodation for him. This help from people and Tony's company while I was with him, made his visit a real joy for me. The value of his final report suggests that NZLSAR would do well in subsidising some of his costs when he next visits this country, which I hope is not too long away.

Edward AU (mentioned above) also visited New Zealand recently, albeit for too short a time. I was able to arrange for the Police at National Head Quarters to put on an afternoon tea and presentation for him as well as a visit to the Central Communications Centre at the Wellington Police Station. The two of us also did a six hour tramping trip in the Tararuas where in the informal setting of the Tauherinikau Valley we were able to discuss such diverse subjects - from the provision of communication equipment in Hong Kong, to how tidy the New Zealand bush is.

The CAS has again called for tenders to perform the audit of their Mountain Rescue Unit which, as mentioned in my 1997 Report, is done every two years. After speaking to Graham Thorp, Don Bogie and Roscoe Tait, I have written to them saying that NZLSAR still does not feel in a position to authoritatively do such an audit, but have requested that we be considered for the next one. Don and the Specialist Subcommittee are "bedding down" some of the improvements introduced by Murray Cullen, the previous Chairman of the Subcommittee. Further work needs to be done, the costs of which have been

identified and submitted as a business case to the Police for support in the 99/00 financial year. These changes need to be implemented and then we require experience in auditing them before we can consider with confidence the performance of such work overseas. Accordingly in view of the way "time flies" I think we all need to get behind Don's efforts for improvements to the ACR system. This will allow us not only to enhance our internal service provision but, as an added bonus, be in a position in two years time to confidently offer to perform the task of auditing overseas organisations.

In editing and producing the NZLSAR News I am occasionally reminded of a comment from Tony Jones about "the tyranny of the empty page". However, six, eight page editions have again been published and distributed this year to the timetable of being posted out in the first few days of every second month. In speaking to people around the country I get appreciative "feedback" on the News and am told that it is a welcome dispenser of information on events. The content is largely due to the continuing contributions from members and I am sure this success can be largely attributed to those who put pen to paper and share their thoughts with the rest of us, for which we all should be extremely grateful. The distribution problems are slowly being worked out and it was a good feeling to walk into Kirwan Hut, situated on the bushline in the Victoria Range last Easter and see a copy of the June 1998 News on the hut bench.

In my national visits, highlights would be attending and participating in the Tauranga, Nelson/Blenheim and Hamilton SAREX's. Its always good to be working with the people where the "real search and rescue" is happening and share with them the sometimes inclement weather and subsequent drippy noses and damp bottoms.

Two other items that deserve note would be the Canterbury Harris Trophy SAR Competition and the 2nd Bush/Wilderness Search Dog Training and Assessment Course held in Dunedin. I have written extensively on both these events but I think the principles are worth repeating again.

SAR competitions or tests are now held by Canterbury, Wellington, Taranaki and I understand Hamilton is considering doing something similar. As a training method I don't think we should overlook the potential for this activity to raise the participants performance standards in search and rescue. While taking considerable effort to organise, a competition encompassing a number of SAR skills and techniques highlights for the Advisers the highs and the lows of the participants abilities which provides a guide to future training requirements. If it finishes with a social function it can also be an annual gathering of the organisations members and supporters, which will have benefits, some not always apparent. Even if your organisation doesn't hold this type of event I suggest that you contact a District that does and ask if you can enter a team. It seems to me to be a legitimate training budget expense and with forward planning you may be able to cover the cost from your funds.

I also wrote in the News about my attendance at the search dog training course. I am pleased to hear that such diverse places as Methven, Hamilton, Murchison and Wellington are pursuing the training and assessment of civilian search dogs. I can only repeat the point gained from reading overseas publications that if you haven't got a trained search dog with an outdoors competent handler, then you are under equipped for searching. At the best, each SAR organisation should be actively encouraging the training of handlers and dogs to achieve the required standards. The use of search dogs should be a training element of the District SAREX. At the very least, each organisation should have in their SAR Plan the contact details for the nearest Police dog unit trained in land search.

One of the really enjoyable events that I get to from time to time are the presentation of the NZLSAR Awards. The coming together of recipients and fellow SAR workers in a social setting, a few drinks, some eats, words from those who wish to speak and the presentation of the Award is a strong affirmation of respect and appreciation by the organisation. A bouquet of flowers or such like, presented to the recipients

partner is a nice touch and acknowledges the part they have played in SAR, albeit often as unseen contributors. NZLSAR and SAR organisations can do so little to show appreciation to those who contribute to SAR. The Award at its most basic can be described as only a wooden frame with a thin piece of glass covering a bit of cardboard. However, in the totality of it being signed by both the Chairman of NZLSAR and the Minister of Police, as well as a worthy presentation ceremony attended by the recipients peers, suggests it has values worth fostering. I would encourage all SAR organisations to become aware of the award criteria and nominate their members who have contributed so much. We need to identify and applaud excellence!

One of consequences of working at weekends with volunteers is that I do not get to do so many trips with the Hutt Valley Tramping Club of which I am a member. However over the last few months I have managed to overnight with them on Kapiti Island which is a nature reserve. It is some three years since all furry pests have been destroyed and the hour long stridently noisy bird song at dawn was a reminder of the resilience of nature. It seems to have made good the ravages of earlier farming attempts and the predation by rats and possums. Other trips included three days

kayaking in the Marlborough Sounds, Easter behind Reefton in the Victoria Range, three days onto the tops of the Tararuas and a small number of day trips. Enough to keep my feet on the ground and to keep in balance the realisation that SAR may have its grim times, but our outdoors are still a great place for recreational activities and recharging the batteries.

Finally a few words of thanks. Firstly I would like to thank Graham Thorp as NZLSAR Chairman and my boss; Phil Rundle who as Treasurer was always there with his ready help on the figures; the rest of the Committee Members who so readily offered assistance when I asked and the staff at Police National Headquarters who help and guide me in my endeavours. Without their considerable assistance in a host of areas, NZLSAR would be much the poorer. Finally to the people around the country who I come in contact with, at the risk of seeming melodramatic, I genuinely feel very humble when I think of the transport, billets, meals, time, venues and company you provide for me and what you give to search and rescue in this country. Thank you all.

John P Tristram
National Field Officer

Police Report

Some items from Police annual SAR statistics have been supplied to John Tristram, for publication in NZ Land SAR's annual report. It must be borne in mind that these statistics are not fully complete, the cut-off date for all Pol 130's (Police SAR Operations Reports) to be submitted to Police National HQ (now known as the Office of the Commissioner) being Fri. 16 July.

I have been notified only within the last few days that finance has been approved by Police to meet the business plan submitted by NZ Land SAR in relation to the ongoing supply of SAR VHF radios to Districts, for this current financial year just commenced. This is very good news as at one stage it looked very likely that no budget at all would be provided for this particular item.

The inaugural SAR Coordinators' Course, two weeks in duration, was held at the Police College in May of this year. Upskilling key Police District SAR personnel in land and marine SAR management techniques, it provides initial seeding in those Districts which in due course should bring Police SAR Managers back up with the standards and training currently being provided by NZ Land SAR, and Coastguard, to their civilian volunteer ranks.

Inspector Paul Brennan, Coordinator: Emergency Planning who works with me in the Operations Support Group at PNHQ, has asked that a reminder be sent out to NZ Land SAR to liaise with local Police over response planning for the New

Millenium. I know that some Districts are already well down the track with their SAR planning, but there may be some areas that need to be a little more proactive.

On the eve of my retirement (my last day of duty being Fri. 16 July), may I again thank all you volunteers out there for your sterling efforts in SAR. Whenever given an opportunity, I have always been quick to praise the work done by such people, and I have been very mindful of the cooperation extended to me by so many over the 13

years that I have been in the SAR job at PNHQ.

My replacement as Coordinator: SAR/RCC will not be appointed for some time yet in all probability, but Paul Brennan will be there in a caretaker role in the meantime if needed.

John Meads

Coordinator SAR/NRCC
Police National HQ

Region One Report

The last year has been another very quiet year for Region One. Over the last few years there have been few operations within the Region that have required the use of volunteers.

Regional Committee

The Regional Committee has remained unchanged and the members are:

John Walsh Chairman

Roscoe Tait Secretary/Treasurer, Regional Representative

Grant Conaghan, Terry Conaghan, Mike Henehan Police Senior Sergeant, **Brett England** Police Inspector.

The Committee is currently considering expanding its membership to give a better representation from the groups within the region.

The Regional Committee notes with concern the following significant changes that have occurred during the year:-

The reducing numbers of SAR volunteers. Apart from Auckland, which has a large tramping club base, the other centers are all suffering from reduced numbers of volunteers who are participating in SAR. In particular:

- The Warkworth SAR group currently has very few members and Auckland Land SAR is providing what support it can to assist this group while it reorganises itself.
- Northland SAR, based in Whangarei, has been involved in very few operations and is having difficulty in retaining

members. Only the Cliff/Cave Rescue group is doing any regular training.

- Far North SAR is also down on numbers.
- With the recent formation of the Kawau Coastguard, the Warkworth SAR Group, which was a combined land and marine SAR organisation, decided at its last AGM to become a land only SAR group. They have had no marine callouts for some time and their boat was not getting any use. They are now in the process of selling their boat and the proceeds will be used to upgrade their land SAR equipment.
- The FIRST Group in Auckland is operating well and some members have been assisting with the training on the SAR Skills weekends.

Training

Training has again been the main activity throughout the last year, especially the teaching new skills. The majority of this training has been done at the local level to meet the local needs.

The following training was undertaken during the year:

Auckland Land SAR

A SAR Skills weekend for new members was held in November for people interested in participating in SAR. A further course is planned for October. The annual SAREX was held at the beginning of May in the Hunua Ranges. This year it was decided to run the SAREX as a full SAR operation. One of the objectives of the weekend was to test the hand over systems when a new

FHQ team comes into the operation. Also, this year the participants on the SAREX were restricted to those people who had had some SAR experience, either through a SAR skills course and/or involvement in previous SAREX's. It was found the SAREX was much easier to organise and ran much more smoothly with people who had some basic training. The FIRST Group continue to hold regular meetings and training sessions, with emphasis being on improving TCA skills.

Warkworth SAR

Despite the reduced number of members, the group is still holding training evenings every two months. There is also a move to combine some of their training with that of adjacent SAR groups to assist with improving their skills. Warkworth SAR ran a very successful SAREX at Tawharanui in late October. This was a well attended exercise which combined training modules with a number of displays of SAR resources. Members of the Warkworth SAR group also attended the SAR Skills weekend held at Huia in November as well as the main Auckland SAREX in May.

Whangarei SAR

A local cave SAREX was held at Waipu in September. Training modules were run on Saturday and stretcher carry and cave familiarisation on Sunday. There continues to be regular exercises by the Cliff/Cave Rescue group. The Whangarei SAREX which was planned for September this year has been postponed because of the APEC meeting.

Far North

Only some local low-key training has been done in the last year. However, a local mini SAREX and an area SAREX are planned for this calendar year.

Operations

Auckland SAR

While there have been a hand full of operations in the Auckland area during the past year, all of them were essentially Class I operations involving the Police SAR Squad only, with some input from the SAR Advisers. The operations were:

A teacher and two students staying at a school camp at Whatapu failed to return to the camp from an afternoon walk. They had started out with a larger group, but elected to carry on when the rest of the group decided to turn back. They got lost in a swamp and were located early the next morning.

Three men who had been fishing near the mouth of the Waikato River were reported overdue. One member of the group eventually managed to reach their car, some time after the Police were informed that they were overdue. One of the missing party was rescued from the Waikato River by Waiuku Marine SAR. He was suffering from mild hypothermia. The third person was found early the next morning. They had got caught by both the incoming tide and darkness and were not equipped to spend a night out. This was a combined land and marine operation.

A marathon runner was reported overdue on a training run in the Woodhill Forest. He had arranged to meet up with friends in the forest for a run but did not show up. His car was found in the forest later the same day. Police searched all night with no success, even with Eagle. Auckland SAR was informed early the next morning, however he was found a short while later.

A 70 year-old man with a heart condition was reported overdue from a morning walk along a track near the old Nihotupu auxiliary reservoir. He was not reported missing until late in the afternoon. The Police SAR squad were unsuccessful in finding him that night. However, he walked out early the next morning, a little cold for his experience.

Two fifteen year old girls failed to return after an afternoon walk from a camp in the Hunuas. They had split from the main group and were last seen coming down the track just before dusk. The local ranger did some searching that night without success. The girls were found next morning some distance away at Hunua Falls. The area that they went missing in is one of the water catchment areas for Auckland. It has a number of forest roads and the whole area is enclosed by gates that are locked at night. They had missed the turnoff to the

camp and had walked the road all night until they came to a house just after dawn.

Warkworth SAR

It has been a very quiet year with only two operations during the year:

Three teenagers were reported missing from Tawharanui Regional Park. They were caught out by the tide and decided to sleep on the beach. They turned up early the next morning as just as the SAR group was about to start a search.

An Alzheimer patient went missing from a Rest Home at Whangateau late one afternoon. An Adviser from Auckland became involved later in the evening by phone. Using the lost person profile information and Lost Person Behaviour knowledge he was able to offer advice on where to concentrate the search area as well as suggesting search techniques that could be used. The missing person was found soon after, approximately half a kilometre from the Rest Home.

A group of three adults and seven children took a wrong turning on the City Walk track at the Cascades. They ended up spending the night in the bush and were found by the local rangers early the next morning.

Whangarei SAR

There have been relatively few operations this year, all of a minor nature:

A cliff rescue callout at Pataua. The Advisers were notified of a toddler missing from her grandmother's house however, she was found before any SAR personnel were called out.

A cliff rescue at Matapouri at night.

A search for a farmer at Donnelly's crossing. An Adviser was flown in from Whangarei to be the Field Controller. Unfortunately, the farmer was found drowned, on the second day of the search.

An elderly woman had not been seen for several days and SAR organised a search by mountain bikers of a local forest area. She was found hiding near the old Money Factory the next day

Far North SAR

Most of the operations were of a short duration:

A two year old child went missing at Kaikohe just after Christmas. Unfortunately she was discovered drowned in a nearby lake.

A female German tourist went missing in the Whirinaki Forest. On the advice of a local SAR person that she had probably missed the track junction, she was found a short time later.

A father (81 years) and son (41 years) went for a walk late in the day on a track of the Taita Road and were caught out by darkness.

A 41 year old female went missing after leaving a suicide note. She was found alive and well several hours later.

Six people from a bus went missing in Puketi Forest. All apart from the bus driver managed to walk out. Cell phone contact was made with him and a search team went in and retrieved him that night

SAR was notified that a possum hunter was overdue on Mt Misery. A team was put on standby. A search was being organised the next morning when they were notified he had walked out to his camp.

SAR was notified that a lightly clad man was missing at Bland Bay, Ngaiotonga. His body was found the next day.

A hunter overdue at Ngaiotonga walked out the next morning.

Acknowledgments

While it is recognised that it is difficult to maintain interest with there being so little use of the trained volunteer groups by the Police, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those volunteers who have given their time so freely, especially to participate in training to learn new skills. At the moment any decline in numbers can be more than offset with the use of more skilled people and fast response times

Roscoe Tait

Region One Representative

Region Two Report

During the past year, two Region Two Committee meetings were held at Rotorua in July and February. Members came from Taupo, Gisborne, Opotiki, Hamilton, Waihi, Rotorua, Tauranga, Whakatane and Thames and the effort from those who travelled so far to attend is much appreciated.

Committee members.

Brian Burgess, Kevin Cannell, John Cassidy, John Fairly, Ben Foster, Tiena Jordan, Lyn Manning, Brent Martin, Bruce Mossman, John Rivers, Bruce Sandford, Chris Sharp, Barry Shepherd, Barry Were, Mike Wright, Tony Yeoman, Kerry Hicky.

The Districts in Region Two have been fairly active with searches and a considerable amount of training has been carried out in most areas. All Districts have held SAREX's and I have attended those in Wairoa, Tauranga and Waikato. Six Emergency Management Limited courses have been held and although sometimes fairly expensive for the participants, have been well attended and quite popular. Eight further EML courses are planned for the coming year.

In July 1998 a Regional Seminar was held for the Advisers and other senior SAR participants and was attended by some 65 people. Opened by the Rotorua Town Crier, the day's discussions included papers and demonstrations on such diverse topics as computer mapping technology, VHF radios and the national replacement program, search dogs and even privatisation of SAR. This latter topic with the Police Review under way was a

timely reminder of where the NZLSAR Committee saw SAR going. A full day and both informative from the topics on the agenda and the informal discussion held over a cup of tea with persons not often seen. It is intended to repeat the event in 2000.

A number of search operations of various duration have occurred in Region Two with one of note being Gisborne having a another search for a suicide victim with TCA being instrumental in attaining a successful result.

As I have indicated to the NZLSAR Chairman, I am not standing for reselection for another three year term as Regional Representative. I have done two terms in that position and feel it is time to stand down. However I still expect to be involved at Regional and District level for a while yet. I wish to compliment the Regional Committee on its achievement to date especially as it had to virtually start from "ground zero" under a new concept of SAR management. Fortunately there was the practical background in place from the FMC days.

Although there will always be problems arising, I believe that with the sound basis established, NZLSAR could well be firmly in place longer than the next millennium. I have had a great learning experience while here and I extend my best wishes to all the persons I have worked with either as Committee members or in a private capacity.

John Cassidy

Region Two Representative

Region Three Report

Three meetings were held during the 1998/99 year and were timed to fall between the National Committee meetings. The meeting venues alternated between Wanganui and Palmerston North, and the commitment of the Hastings and Taranaki representatives to travel to meetings is commendable. Meeting agendas are

always full, usually occupying four hours of discussions on training, funding, SAR structure, and District operations.

Committee Officers

Chairperson **Stu Davies**

Secretary **Guy Te Kahika**

Treasurer **David Barker**

Training SC. Chair **Dave Brockway**

Region Three Representatives **Graham Thorp/Dave Barker**

Committee Members

Graham Thorp, Edward Holmes, Bruce Mitchell, John Lovatt, Phil Pollero, Noel Watson, Craig Rookes, Jeff McGrath, Len Pentalow, Murray West.

A rule change of the National Committee resulted in Graham Thorp being able to relinquish his position as Regional Representative while he holds the position of National Chairman. He was replaced by David Barker.

After relatively little training in 1998 we have been in catch up mode for Regional Courses. During 1999 we have conducted

courses in Track and Clue Awareness, Search Methods, and Managing Search Operations. The follow-up course for Managing Search Operations will be conducted later in 1999. The financial contribution from the National Committee has been complimented by applications for additional funds (Trust Bank)

It is with regret we observe the restructured Police boundaries. We have had a profitable three years with our Hawkes Bay neighbours, and will miss the dedication they brought to the west coast North Island.

David Barker

Region Three Representative for Chairman Graham Thorp

Region Four Report

We have heard and will hear an increasing crescendo of comment on the impact of the year 2000 bug on society. Luckily, this will abate soon after 1/1//2000. Similarly I have been hearing a building wave of comments of the bugs infecting Land SAR in New Zealand. Alas these bugs will not disappear when the clock ticks past midnight on the 31st of December.

These "bugs" are not new and most of us are aware of them.:

- A lack of funding
- An increasing need to become more professional
- An increasing array of technology available but little funding or direction to use it
- A perceived downgrading of the importance of SAR within the Police
- A smaller number of traditional searches
- Lack of strategic direction from the owners of SAR
- Increased pressure on the volunteers' time
- A perception by the public that the Police do a pretty good job with SAR, but little realisation of the input from NZ Land SAR and the volunteers

Of the District and Regional meetings I attend the key issue that is often discussed is funding, or the lack of it. A common

perception of the volunteer, is that the Police are expecting us to turn up to searches, trained, equipped and enthusiastic with scant regard for getting us into this state. I would say that 95% of the effort of getting us to this state is attributable to NZ Land SAR and what the individual volunteers bring to the organisation.

As an outsider to the Police I have some sympathy with them. Battling with Treasury for funding, continual restructuring, and an increasing number of criminals to catch. However Search and Rescue is a Police responsibility which requires inputs in the form of effort, direction and funding. An abdication of this responsibility will rapidly erode the goodwill of the volunteers.

Nelson Marlborough

The Nelson Marlborough Sub District has had a number of District meetings this year and would appear to be laying some excellent groundwork for its eventual Regional status. Inter - area communication and liaison has improved enormously. The innovative 20/20 plan is still in operation cementing cooperation between the various search areas. All volunteer organisations live through cycles, where we sometimes are at the top with lots of keen well trained people, who eventually wane or resign and leave us at a

low ebb, only to be replaced by new keener ones who pull us up again

Wairarapa

There has been very little operational activity in the Wairarapa this year. There has been an ongoing training programme however to maintain interest and enthusiasm. The local SAR organisation which meets regularly has been innovative and very successful in the past in its fund raising schemes. At the moment they may have topped the cycle with a number of experienced keen people moving on.

Wellington

In many Districts communication with the coal face is lacking. Wellington no longer uses a club system to pass on information but maintains a database of the first response group and communicates directly to them. This newsletter, of past operations, up coming training, national issues and other newsy items is now an essential part of our team network. A very effective training programme is operational and provides the backbone of our network. It is interesting to note that the vast number of our operations are now night searches and most of them finished within six hours.

NRCC

Another area that the Wellington advisers are involved in is assistance being provided at the National Rescue Coordination Centre in Lower Hutt for Class III operations. We will usually get called in to assist for

instance when a plane goes down in the mountains. Our role usually involves terrain interpretation, guidance, another logical thinker and liaison with local Land SAR should they be required. Sounds straight forward? My observations:

- We are often, the only people in the room trained in modern search theory and decision making like Matson's consensus and probability theory.
- Class III operations seem to have a very large budget. One operation I was recently involved in had six choppers in the air at once, and four of these for most of over two days. I'm not saying they shouldn't have been used but there appears to be a marked difference between funding available for operations conducted by Civil Aviation and Class II operations conducted by the Police.
- We are the only people in the room not paid to be there. Should the input of NZLSAR in Class III operations be funded by Civil Aviation?

Finally a word of encouragement. There are some fantastic people out there in SAR. Both Volunteers and Police. Thanks for your enthusiasm and turning out when required. Lets work positively towards a better partnership.

Mike Sheridan

Region Four Representative

Region Five Christchurch/West Coast Report

The last twelve months have seen a major step forward in the way NZLSAR operates and the Region Five Committee is pleased with this progress, as we always look at the positive progressive advancement of NZLSAR. Throughout the year our Committee has asked many questions and had the way NZLSAR think about SAR changed very slightly.

Our Committee has met regularly four times in the last year. The meetings are held at Arthurs Pass and I would like to thank the Department of Conservation for the use of their facilities.

Committee members are:-

Gordon Hasell Chairman

Peter Cameron Secretary

Rod Laurence Treasurer

Terry Sweetman Regional Representative

Gary Brehaut, Ken Lindbom, Geoff

McCrostie, Tony McEnaney, Ted

Robinson, Dave Saunders, Peter

Summerfield, John Torrance, Brian

Williams.

Alan Hepburn resigned as both Chairman and a member during the year and we extend to him a vote of thanks for his past services to the Committee.

Training

A number of Regional Courses were held through the year in Canterbury, South Canterbury and the West Coast. They covered Track and Clue Awareness, Urban Search and Managing Search Operations. One and two day SAREX's/training were held in all Districts during the year.

It is felt the funding for Regional courses is still very limited and with the "First Response Teams" being trained in all Districts throughout the Region a larger allocation of funding is required to bring them up to a high standard in a shorter time.

Communications

All Districts are pleased with the new VHF radios and in conjunction with the portable repeater, have been used with great success on exercises and actual operations.

Finance

Our Committee members attending local meetings and courses throughout the Districts find that funding is a real problem that should be addressed by NZLSAR. Our Committee feels that some form of "grant" should come from NZLSAR to cover such expenses and NZLSAR should budget for this expense.

Funds for Regional training should be increased to \$10,000 so courses can be booked 12 to 18 months in advance with EML. The "Way Ahead" paper certainly will put NZLSAR well ahead if it is projected forward and funded accordingly.

Finally on behalf of the Region Five Committee I thank the members who have supported us throughout the year and look forward to working towards another progressive year ahead.

Terry Sweetman

Region Five Christchurch/West Coast Representative

Region Five Otago/Southland Report

Police reorganisation in the Region has now settled. Following the abolition of the Regional Headquarters the three Districts are now one, covering the whole of the Otago Southland Area, including Stewart Island and the National Parks of Fiordland and Mount Aspiring. For the volunteers it is impractical to operate one District Committee for an area as large as this. In effect the former District Committees are acting as Local Committees although with larger population bases. The Regional Committee has taken up the coordination role. It has made necessary rule changes so that its membership now incorporates the Local Committee representatives based in Police subdistrict areas with flexibility to incorporate groups where special features exist to justify this. This process is nearly complete and the benefits of the improving inter-area liaisons are proving worthwhile.

The Regional Committee is very appreciative of the support of Police. We have been able to ensure that at least one volunteer and one Policeman have attended from each area which improves the understanding and cooperation

between all and now provides an effective inter - area network. The presence of a representative of St John Ambulance has also helped to understand and resolve operational liaisons.

There have been numerous SAR events from the minor to the serious. Dominating concern and highlighting the type of operations in the Region were the major Foveaux Straight plane crash, the Tuatapere plane crash and the Mt. Suter scenic flight float plane crash in the Fiordland Mountains. All have lessons for SAR in both operational and training environments. All were traumatic for those involved, being protracted searches in difficult terrain. At the other end of the spectrum in Dunedin a young 10 year old with a penchant for driving heavy machinery finally stuck a chord with the community after making his half-century of missing person events with a digger on the Southern Motorway. His parents are being supplied with simple tracking gear.

What is clear is the threat of a major disaster for which the system must be

ready. The avalanche risk on the Homer road and the increasing risks from Heli-skiing and tourist flights point to a need for a commitment from the Police to the specialist training needed.

The Committee has spent considerable time trying to validate needs assessments for each area. The results show an increasing gap between funds provided and funds required for basic training. For example after no funds for the last six months of the previous financial year only \$500 was offered in the budget for the current year; an equivalent of about \$4 per person (less than the cost of two mugs of coffee) to train replacements, to train specialists, to maintain standards, to practice and to test the system. Costs of restructuring, new computer systems staff cutbacks and all sorts of reasons do little to alter the stark facts. Without community subsidies of \$10 to each Police \$1 the volunteer capable system would cease to exist.

This community subsidy has enabled training in all aspects of SAR, from track and clue awareness through managing search operations to team leader training, specialist training, avalanche training and SAREX training. It still falls well below the minimum training needed for longer-term sustainability of the resource at an acceptable competence level. This is additional to the training of each participating group within their own organisation and the costs born by each individual to equip themselves to meet the SAR tasks.

The standards achieved and being developed save lives and lessen injury costs. They save substantial sums in shortened search times. There must be a recognition by the Department that the volunteers' time and their out of pocket expenses also represent millions of dollars in savings to the public purse. It takes years to build an effective SAR system, but only a few short months to destroy it. The community requires a quality service. It will not accept a rundown second-rate service. The direction should be to serve the best interests of the victim because that is what SAR is really about. That objective should gain the full support of the Department.

The apparent attitude which requires volunteers to raise money and to pay to be volunteers can only destroy the system in the longer term. Volunteers have always provided funds to assist in introducing new aids but is quite novel to expect them to provide training funds for SAR specific training as well. It should not be necessary to point to the legal consequences to the Department of a failure to maintain quality training.

That aside, in all other aspects the Police have played their part as in the past in this Region with much valued support for which the Committee is grateful. Thanks are particularly due to the cooperation of local and front-line staff with whom the Regional Committee is associated.

The Committee has had two significant changes. Its secretary, Chas Tanner, resigned, being over-committed building huts in the mountains. A Field Controller from Dunedin, Glenn Mitchell replaces him. One of the founder members of the Committee and a former member of the FMC SAR SubCommittee, Ivan McLachlan, has had to resign for health reasons. An Adviser in Dunedin and before that in Alexandra, Ivan was a former National ACR coordinator. Ivan has seen the shift from long manual carries in the Southern Alps and fixed wing aircraft to present use of helicopters. His cheerful disposition and practical commonsense will be missed by all. Trevor Burton of Queenstown has been redeployed.

The present members of the Committee include:

Brian Ahern	(Chairman)
Glenn Mitchell	(Secretary)
Russell Carr	Queenstown
David Barnes	Dunedin
Roger Barrowclough	Regional Rep
Tony Chittock	South Otago
Steve Wilkes	South Otago
Alan Gillespie	Wanaka
Cyril McFadzien	Gore
Bob Stanning	Tuatapere
Blair Fieldes	Invercargill
Peter Wright	Southland
Lloyd Mathieson	Te Anau
Brian Benn	Dunedin
Dave Rowan	St John Ambulance
Stu Hewitt	North Otago

Peter Garden Gore
Phil Jones Police Rep
Alan Weston Wanaka
Frank Wielemaker Queenstown
Brian Seymour (Alexandra)

Roger Barrowclough
Region Five Otago/Southland
Representative

Aviation Subcommittee Report

As we increase our training and competency standards, the performance expectation rises similarly. It is now more common for people from inside and outside our organisation to question the abilities and preparedness of our personnel. NZ Land SAR team members are also expecting similar upskilling of other associated organisations. It was this expectation of service level that led to enquiries being made about two aviation operations during the year, both in the South Island. In one, an injured climber was rescued of Mt Rolleston. The rescue procedures were subsequently questioned by one of the climbers. This resulted in a lot of letter writing amongst those involved. The end result was that a number of procedural matters were to be tidied up.

The other operation was on the Routeburn Track area. A medical team was delivered to a hut expecting to find an injured tramper. There was no sign of him when they arrived, so the medics started a search and eventually found him further along the track. The weather was very inclement, so a recovery was not possible until the next day. The medics were not prepared for the situation that they found themselves in, and no Land SAR personnel were present on site. This operation did not produce any "aviation" concerns, but it

highlighted the common practice of ill equipped medical personnel heading into remote areas, without the support, or knowledge of Land SAR advisers.

A NZ Land SAR representative should be aboard every flight into remote areas, even if the job is only a simple medivac.

The title of "Air Adviser" is to be replaced with that of "Air Contact". It was felt that an "Adviser" is someone that has reached a certain standard of competence within the Land SAR organisation. Air Contacts do not necessarily meet that criteria.

Considerable discussion has taken place on the best colour of High Visibility vests. Some RNZAF pilots said orange was their choice, while John Funnel prefers white. There seems to be no real answer to the issue. Just make sure all vests are clean and bright.

Issues currently being worked on are an update of the operating specifications of the various machines that we use, plus obtaining some general information on aircraft beacons.

Ross Berry
Chairman Aviation Subcommittee

Communications Subcommittee Report

In many ways this has been a better year for the CSC. Most of the urgent projects have either been resolved or well underway and moving towards a conclusion. Having a team that has been unchanged for a relatively long period takes a lot of the pressure off and enables people to focus on the real work of technology and its impact on SAR.

The current Subcommittee members and their affiliations are as follows:-

Graham Thorp	Acting Chairman
Ross Thompson	FMC
Rex Aubrey	Police
Matthew Lloyd	DoC
Jeff Sayer	AREC
Ian Gardiner	NZLSAR
Terry Waghorn	NZLSAR
John Tristram	NFO

While a study of the projects in hand looks similar to that reported last year, it is

important to understand that many of the issues confronting the Subcommittee are complex. Much of the new technology is still under development and not available in production quantities that can be distributed as a cost effective standard nation-wide. In many instances, it is a case of running a watching brief and investigating the options so that best use can be made of systems when cost effective reliable units are available.

In other cases "off the shelf" equipment is not available for the special needs of our people and research, development and testing is required to provide a workable solution. All of these aspects take time and it is not surprising that many of the items are still under review. However, good progress continues to be made on many issues as can be seen from the following breakdown of current projects:-

Allocation of VHF handheld radios

- This has undoubtedly been the most successful project undertaken by the Subcommittee to date. Packs of six sets have been purchased and strategically placed throughout the country to provide performance based availability on a nominal one to two hours travel by road. A special mention should be made of the contribution by Ross Thompson and the work he has done preparing the funding proposals. Much of the success of these proposals has been due to his efforts.
- The sets have been in use for almost a year and have changed the way many operations are conducted. The sets are light, easy to use, have no hassles setting up aerials and give good clear copy, so it isn't surprising that we have been getting many positive reports on their use on field operations. Many requests have been received for a further distribution of sets to some of the more remote areas around the country. Line of sight operation does limit coverage in rough country but this doesn't seem to be as much of a problem as expected in the early stages of development. When used with a well positioned local repeater they can provide excellent coverage. (see notes on repeaters below)

- The original purchase proposal to the police covered a three stage programme based on the replacement of existing out of date sets. Funding provided for the initial purchase and the resulting tender process has essentially achieved the equivalent of the first two stages of the initial programme. The Subcommittee has now applied for a further ten packs of six handheld radios and ten repeaters to fulfil stage three of the purchase programme. As mentioned in my Chairmans Report the business case submitted by NZLSAR to the Police has been approved and finances are to be made available to complete this project. It is intended that this equipment be distributed in time to assist with any millennium problems
- The distribution of the stage three sets will be in accordance with the programme prepared as part of the latest proposal. The locations chosen will be on the basis of the requirement to provide a one hour response to a call. It is acknowledged that this may still not be achieved in all cases but it is not necessary to have the locations set in concrete and if relocation will improve our ability to respond then it is likely that changes will be made.
- The Y2K problems and the possibility of a range of SAR calls during the millennium on the East Coast, especially in the Gisborne area, confirms the Subcommittee's decision to provide a common bank of frequencies in the new VHF radios. It is likely that we may need to loan a large number of these radios to East Coast areas for operations that may develop over that period. Without the same frequencies available in all sets it could become very confusing to field personnel trying to get good communications and interaction with the various repeaters that may be used.

VHF repeaters

- Most of our members will now be aware of the availability of VHF portable repeaters that have been purchased to provide extended coverage for the VHF handhelds discussed above. Ten of these units were purchased as part of

the initial purchase programme for VHF radios. The first unit was in use within an hour of its arrival and most of the sets appear to be working very well.

- The Subcommittee has had some reports of the repeaters running very hot and while this may be quite normal it is possible that the next purchase round of repeaters will be fitted with improved heat sinks.
- We have had some disturbing reports that one of the repeaters was dismantled for testing purposes. As a result the repeater is now out of action undergoing repairs. If we are to maintain a good response to call-outs it is essential that all our equipment is available in good working order. The Subcommittee will take a serious view of any unauthorised removal of covers and tampering with any of the new sets, especially when it can have an impact on the performance and safety of our teams in the field.

Standards for radio communications personnel.

- The development of a set of standards for communications personnel has been on the programme for some time now but they are well down the track and it should be ready for use in a relatively short period of time. The draft standards prepared by AREC and tabled at the last CSC meeting were very close to the finished product, with just a few minor changes being required to line up with the correct phases of an operation.
- As part of the work being undertaken on standards AREC are preparing a modular training programme that will be aligned with the standards and will allow people to work through the training at their own speed to bring themselves up to the required levels of competence.

Equipment database

- The NFO is currently preparing a database of equipment like radios, VHF repeaters and HF repeaters around the country. It will probably be included as part of the Adviser lists so that it is

readily available for use if additional equipment is required on operations.

Active aerials - hands free operation

- Ian Gardiner and Matthew Lloyd are currently working with our ACR teams to try and improve the size and ease of operation of radio equipment on operations. The provision of a hands free system will improve the effectiveness and safety of the team. Active aerials may also be of use as these will enable the aerials to be reduced in size with minimal loss in performance.
- Some field trials are also being undertaken to determine the best type of harness available for VHF handhelds used by conventional search teams. Again this will allow the radio to remain on and ready for use while not restricting the movement of the team member.

Repeater linking

- The Subcommittee is aware of some work that has been undertaken mainly, by AREC groups in various parts of the country, but little work has been undertaken by the CSC to date. The Subcommittee understands the importance of repeater linking and will probably be investigating some of the options over the next 12 months.
- Care needs to be taken on the way these systems are developed and it is recommended that anyone looking at the development of linking systems, call the Subcommittee and discuss the issues that are important to NZLSAR. Some of the systems in current use don't provide the full facilities that are necessary for operational use.

Frequencies

- The committee is looking at formalising the use of frequencies owned by other organisations. Many areas make use of radio equipment and frequencies owned by other organisations during operations and there is no objection to this if security can be maintained and the SAR traffic can be accommodated without

disruption to traffic on the donor channel.

- The initial approach will be made to DoC as their networks are set up in many of the areas covered by SAR operations and in many cases the first contact is made via the DoC networks. The ability to link into the Mountain Radio Service and Civil Defence systems on an as required basis, is often an essential part of an SAR Plan.

GPS and tracking of teams

- Several Subcommittee members have been experimenting with tracking systems using GPS linked to radio transceivers but to date there doesn't appear to be any systems that are suitable for general use and issue to field teams.
- Care must be taken to ensure that we are in control of the technology and not the other way round. GPS tracking systems are fun to use and in areas like marine searching they become an essential part of the equipment needed to prove an area has been covered. Land SAR differs in that the teams know where they are and can radio in positions at regular intervals without the need to carry extra batteries and power packs to maintain communication.
- From a safety aspect I believe it is more important for the team to carry a personal GPS unit that they can use if things get difficult and communications fail.

Cellphones

- The use of cellphones is becoming more and more important to SAR in some areas and many of our members are already making wide use of the phones on SAR activities. Some options may be available to improve access to better calling plans but with the competition hotting up it is getting difficult to predict where the best benefits occur. If

progress is made details will be circulated via the usual information channels and the NZLSAR News letter.

Monitoring FHQ operations

- Consideration was given to the need for monitoring Field Search Headquarters Operations and communications channels and a range of interesting arguments were raised for and against the proposals. Following a report on the options to the National Committee it was decided to place the options in the low priority queue pending a definite requirement for specific monitoring.

Cellcall

- Cellcall on HF is still being developed and may be an option that can be provided on PolSAR Radios. Further information will be provided as development proceeds.

Communications pamphlet

- The National Committee approved additional funding to undertake another printing round of the communications brochure in a joint exercise with the Mountain Safety Council. This has been a useful exercise which should assist in the public being more aware of the type of communications required when travelling in the outdoors. It is probably timely to look at an assessment of the distribution of the pamphlet and its effectiveness as an education tool.

As can be seen from the above list, the Communications Sub Committee has been very active on many fronts. The results of their work can be seen in all parts of the country and our thanks goes to the members of the Subcommittee for their continued efforts.

Graham Thorp

Acting Chairman
Communications Sub Committee.

Specialist Subcommittee Report

The main focus of the specialist Subcommittee during the year was a review of alpine rescue in New Zealand which led to the National Committee approving a set of recommendations for

the future of alpine rescue. The recommendations were on the; Location of teams, Planning and Control, Training, Standards and Records, Equipment, Avalanche, Current ACR National Funds and Cliff Rescue.

The two key recommendations were:-

- That the NZLSAR Committee is to oversee the development and maintenance of alpine search and rescue standards, operating procedures and the identification of best practice. It should then be a requirement for any alpine or cliff rescue team, that these standards, operating procedures and best practice be used in alpine and cliff SAR operations.
- There is a need for change in the present structure of official alpine cliff rescue teams. This change is needed in order to match the changes in population, the nature and extent of current incidents and location of aircraft, which is now different than when alpine cliff rescue teams were formed.

The recommendations were heavily influenced by The Report of the Central Southern Alps SAR working group on SAR at Mt. Cook.

	Incidents	Operational person Hours
Arthurs Pass Alpine Rescue	5	25
Christchurch ACR	7	836
DoC Aoraki	26	417
Fiordland SAR Group	1	48
Queenstown Alpine Rescue Team	0	0
RARO	4	15
South Westland SAR Group	0	0
Taranaki ACR	9	270
Timaru NZLSAR	0	0
Wanaka SAR First Response Team	6	82
TOTALS	57	1693

Of the 57 incidents reported by these teams, 45 were in alpine environments, 3 were cliff rescues and 1 was assisting with the Mt Bulmer cave rescue. (This contributes to the high hours for the Christchurch team). 49 of the operations involved the use of helicopters. 13 stop operations were performed in total by 4 different teams. 2 operations involved the use of helicopter winches and 17 involved hard helicopter pickups of victims. 71 people were rescued and 12 bodies were recovered (mainly from aircraft crashes). There was only one reported technical rescue in alpine conditions. That was a crevasse rescue at Mt Cook. Collectively the teams that reported did 4,373 hours of training during the year.

No replies were received from Dunedin ACR, Greymouth ACR, Invercargill ACR and Nelson. During the year the Dunedin team went into abeyance.

Work was completed on a new patient care standard and it was adopted by the National Committee.

Don Bogie

Chairman specialist Subcommittee

Training Subcommittee Report

The membership of the Training Subcommittee changed during the year with the resignation of Murray Cullen. I would like to thank Murray for the

significant contribution he made to the Training Subcommittee, especially the work he did in developing the Alpine Rescue

Standards. Murray's position on the Subcommittee has been fill by Don Bogie.

The members of the Subcommittee are:

Roscoe Tait Chairman, Don Bogie, Dave Saunders, Stu Thorne, John Tristram, Barry Were.

The Subcommittee has met three time during the year, usually on the Sunday after the National Committee, and the past year is best described as one of review and consolidation for the Training Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has developed a Mission Statement and has been resolving topics which include The Role of the Advisers, Affiliation and Reviewing the Report on the Audit conducted by Dr. Anthony Jones in July last year. One of the major items has been the Review of NZ Land SAR Inc., the organisation's role in Land SAR and its relationship with the Police. While not all of these issues have been resolved, significant progress has been made.

Standards

A number of Standards have been or are in the process of being developed. Some have been written by NZLSAR and some by associated organisations. The intention is for the NZLSAR organisation to become the repository for these SAR Standards and to ensure that they are reviewed on a regular basis. The status of the Standards is as follows:

• Adviser Standards

The Adviser Standards are now an accepted part of land SAR in New Zealand and the majority of Advisers have attended an Adviser Standards Workshop. Two Workshops were held during the last year, both of them in Christchurch, to give those Advisers who had not been able to attend one, the opportunity to do so. The number of Advisers who have not attended an Adviser Standards Workshop is given in the following table.

Region	District	Number	Totals
Northern	Northern	1	
			1
Midland	Gisborne	1	
	Rotorua	4	
	Tauranga	1	
	Waikato	7	
			13
Central	Manawatu/Wanganui	3	
	Taranaki	1	
	Wellington	1	
			5
Total North Island			19
Southern	Canterbury	2	
	Southland	4	
	Tasman	2	
Total South Island			8
TOTAL			27

A Workshop will be held in the central North Island later this year to pick up those North Island Advisers who have not, as yet, attended a Workshop. Future Workshops will be run for new Advisers and potential Advisers as the need arises, probably at the rate of one per year.

A total of 297 people have attended an Advisers Standards workshop. The total number of SAR Advisers (land and cave) now stands at 195. This is a significant reduction (25%) since the formation of NZLSAR Inc. in November 1994. However,

the introduction of the Adviser Standards and the associated Workshop has resulted in the people who now hold the position of Adviser fully understanding the role and the responsibilities associated with the appointment. This will result in a much better level of service being provided by our organisation to the Police and public of New Zealand.

- **Field Controller Standards**

The Field Controller Standards are a logical follow-on from the Adviser Standards. The Standards and associated Workshop follow a similar pattern to that of the Advisers Workshops and they have been well received by the participants. Four one-day Workshops were held last year and are summarised in the following table

Location	Month	Number of Attendees
Hamilton	August	12
Rotorua	August	17
Invercargill	September	23
New Plymouth	October	24
	TOTAL	76

A total of 280 people have attended a Field Controllers Workshops. Further Workshops will be run as the need arises.

- **Rescue Controller Standards**

A draft set of these Standards has been circulated for comment. The Training Subcommittee is not intending to run Workshops on these Standards as they should be self-explanatory.

- **Patient Care Standards**

This standard was developed by Trica Moller and Glenn Mitchell of Dunedin SAR. They were circulated for comment last year and adopted by the National Committee at the March 1999 meeting.

- **Communication Manager Standards**

Two Standards (Operational and Non-operational) are being written for SAR Communication Managers. The second draft of these Standards is currently being reviewed. While these Standards have been developed by AREC personnel, the Standards will be “owned” by NZLSAR Inc.

- **Strop Rescue Standards**

This Standard is being developed by Department of Conservation staff at Mt. Cook. This will eventually be “owned” by NZLSAR Inc.

Training

Emergency Management Ltd. Courses

Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd. continues to offer a range of courses that teaches new skills to our SAR volunteers. It is interesting to note that Ross recently ran a six day Managing Search Operations Course at the Police College for Police SAR personnel. The Training Subcommittee has continued its policy of encouraging Districts and Regions to undertake this new training to up-skill their SAR volunteers by sponsoring approved courses. The Incident Command System course, which appeared to fill a gap in our training has been put on hold until we see how the Coordinated Incident Management System (CIMS) programme, adopted by the Police, develops.

A summary of the training courses sponsored and/or facilitated by NZLSAR during the past year is given in the following table:

Course	No of Courses
Introductory Track & Clue Awareness	7
Stage 2 Track & Clue Awareness	3
Managing Search Operations	4
Search Methods	3
Team Leader	3
Introductory Search Management	1
Adviser Standards Workshops	2
Field Controller Standards Workshops	4
TOTAL	27

The Canterbury SAR group ran a well received one day Introductory Search Management Course for their members. It is hoped this course will be able to be run on a much wider basis.

All the above courses are in addition to the Local and District training (including SAREX's) that is regularly undertaken by SAR volunteers.

The number of Courses that were sponsored by the Training Subcommittee

last year decreased slightly. Some of the reasons for this have been identified and remedial action has been taken. The following table shows the number of courses that have been run since the formation of NZLSAR Inc.

Course type	94/95	95/96	96/97	97/98	98/99	TOTALS per Course
Introductory Track & Clue Awareness	2	5	14	13	7	41
Stage 2 Track & Clue awareness	0	0	0	3	3	6
Managing Search Operations	5	0	2	4	4	15
Incident Command System	0	0	0	1	0	1
Suburban Search Methods	0	0	0	2	0	2
Search Methods	0	0	3	1	3	7
Search Team Leader	0	0	0	1	3	4
SUBTOTAL	7	5	19	25	20	76
Introductory Search Management	0	0	0	0	1	1
Adviser Standards Workshops	4	11	3	1	2	21
Field Controller Standards Workshops	0	0	0	10	4	14
Alpine & Cliff Rescue Standards Workshop	0	0	0	1	0	1
Risk Management	0	1	1	0	0	2
TOTALS per Year	11	17	24	37	27	115

The Training Subcommittee is now looking at developing material for the next round of workshops to follow on from the Adviser and Field Controller Standards Workshops. It is proposed that an element of these Workshops will include some training modules that the participants can take back to their District and run them for their local SAR volunteers.

Resource material

- **Field Guide** The Field Guide has proved to be an extremely popular publication. The initial print run has been distributed around the country and an additional 1500 copies have been printed to meet the demand for this publication.

SAR Workbook

- After some careful consideration it was decided that the format of the workbook needed to be made more user-friendly

and to have a better explanations of how it could be used. This work is now been completed and hopefully it will be printed in time for the AGM.

Certificates

- There has been an increasing demand by participants on the various courses for course certificates etc. To meet this demand, certificates appropriate to various occasions and a membership/ID card have been printed and are available upon request

Training Modules

- While progress in this area has been slow, there are a number of topics that are in the development stage. Now that the “core” training resource documents, the Field Guide and the SAR Team Members Workbook have been published, we should see much

more progress in this area during the coming year.

Acknowledgments

There are a large number of people who assist with the work of the Training Subcommittee and it is very difficult to find a satisfactory way of acknowledging their contribution. Without their assistance and enthusiasm the organisation would not function as well as it does. Particular thanks go to Trevor Burgess for the SAR Workbook, the members of the District and Regional Committees for assisting with the organisation of the Workshops and in the training courses offered by Emergency Management Ltd. Ross Gordon of Emergency Management Ltd. for his enthusiasm and encouragement throughout the year. The Committee of NZLSAR Inc. for their unfailing support of the aims and objectives of the Training Subcommittee. A very special thanks 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. Thanks also to Barry Were, my co-presenter, for his help and encouragement with the Standards workshops and a special mention for Dave, Stu and Don, the other members of the Training Subcommittee for their assistance, encouragement and help throughout the year. Last, and certainly not least, my thanks to all the volunteers who give freely of their time to attend courses to learn new skills and improve their training, run the SAREXs etc, so that the NZLSAR organisation will become the best provider of land SAR expertise and service to the public of New Zealand.

Roscoe Tait

Chairman, Training Subcommittee.

Underground Subcommittee Report

The big event of the year was the deep cave rescue in the South Island during January. This was at Bulmer Cave, the scene of last years SAREX and involved over 80 cavers from throughout the country. It took four days to get the injured person to the surface. Although the rescue was relatively straight forward the massive scale of the operation helped cavers to assess the requirements for future such operations which could be even more demanding.

During the last 12 months there were four reported rescues. Three of these were in the South Island and one incident involved a fatality where a forestry worker on the West Coast fell into a Tomo.

Last year it was identified that there was a need to improve the search skills of Cave Advisers and Field Controllers. As a result an MSO course was held at Nelson in April. This was well attended by cavers representing all the South Island groups as well as two North Island groups.

The two main centres for Cave Rescues are Waitomo and Nelson.

The Waitomo cavers have been upgrading the equipment in their rescue trailer with the purchase of new handheld radios and the construction of new Michie Phones.

The North Island SAREX last year focussed on search, being the national theme at present.

In Nelson the MSO course has been followed with a SAREX where the theme was also search related.

The Cave Rescue Handbook is still being written and should be ready to publish before the end of 1999. This project has been in need of support and input from other cavers which has been difficult to generate.

An area of concern is the appointment of Cave Advisers by Districts where the names have not been first vetted by the national body of cavers, the NZ Spelological Society. This has been the accepted practise since 1983 when Cave SAR Advisers were first recognised.

The Cave SAR organisation remains a well-positioned organisation for managing cave

rescues. A major factor contributing to this is the level of commitment of its members.

Barry Were
Chairman Underground Subcommittee

NZLSAR Awards

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

Anthony Jones	22 August 1998
Jim Farley	22 August 1998
Rod Mills	22 August 1998
Ray Furness	22 August 1998
Kenneth James Burrows	14 November 1998
Gordon Edgar Hasell	14 November 1998

At the first meeting of NZLSAR all volunteer members of the Federated Mountain Clubs SAR Subcommittee were presented with an Award by the then Police Commissioner Richard Macdonald. The Commissioner also gave a Commissioners Award to the FMC Patron Ray Burrell in recognition of the contribution over many years from that organisation to SAR. The Subcommittee members and other recipients who have received the Award are:-

John P Tristram	20 November 1994
Roger Bates	20 November 1994
Roger Barrowclough	20 November 1994
Peter Davis	20 November 1994
Fred Gallas	20 November 1994
Ivan McLachlan	20 November 1994
Ted Robinson	20 November 1994
Roscoe Tait	20 November 1994
Barry Were	20 November 1994
Trevor Plowman	25 March 1995
Ron Kingston	11 November 1995
Ted Withers	11 November 1995
Merv Passau	16 March 1996
Jim Rowe	16 March 1996
Don McKay	24 August 1996
Don Major	24 August 1996
Ken Hayhurst	24 August 1996
Lawrence William Cobb	15 March 1997
Alan Hepburn	15 March 1997
Keith Hepburn	15 March 1997
Neil Harris	15 March 1997
Edward (Ted) Neil Morgan	16 August 1997
Gordon Victor Brett	16 August 1997
Max Curtis	16 August 1997
Leon Bradley	16 August 1997
Alan V Berry	16 August 1997
Ron Boocock	8 November 1997
Derick Mathews	8 November 1997

Graham Thorp
Chairman NZLSAR

Treasurer's Report

Thanks again to the Police for the operational grant and for the provision of accommodation and associated services for the National Field Officer. Thanks also to volunteer Committee members and others whose efforts cannot be satisfactorily measured in dollars.

The 1998/99 Business Plan totalled \$135,500, compared with the Police Grant of \$123,000, and some \$103,000 was spent against this so there is \$27,000 from this year's operations available for the future. However, the Police Grant is not received until three or four month's into the financial year, although a part payment is received earlier, and up to

\$10,000 monthly must be provided to cover any funding gap.

The amount, disregarding the forthcoming Grant, available for the 1999/2000 Business Plan or other purposes may be as follows;

Funds at the bank	\$122,458
Less creditors	11,870
Less Publications Fund	19,484
Less Redundancy Provision	9,406
Less Funding Gap, say	25,000
Uncommitted Funds	\$56,698

Phil Rundle
Treasurer. NZLSAR

Financial Report

NEW ZEALAND LAND SEARCH AND RESCUE INCORPORATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 1999

		1999	1998
		\$	\$
Accumulated Funds		84,199	56,920
Publications Fund	Note 6	19,484	22,951
Redundancy Provision	Note 7	9,406	9,406
		-----	-----
		113,089	89,277
		-----	-----
Represented by:			
Bank accounts			
Westpac Trust current a/c		3,371	1,303
Westpac Trust call a/c		16,087	26,491
		-----	-----
		19,458	27,794
Term Deposits-Westpac Trust		103,000	74,000
Debtors and prepayments	Note 4	2,501	2,310
		-----	-----
Total Current Assets		124,959	104,104
Less Current Liabilities			
Creditors	Note 5	11,870	14,827
		-----	-----
Net Current Assets		113,089	89,277
		-----	-----

The Notes 1 to 10 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 1999

	1999	1998
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Police Depart. Contract	123,000	103,000
Interest	6,947	9,320
Sundry		89
	-----	-----
Total income	129,947	112,409
EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	900	475
Committee and Review Meetings	6,947	6,258
National Field Officer		
Salary and ACC Levy	42,394	41,342
Travel	4,282	3,356
Other Expenses	894	2,141
	-----	-----
	47,570	46,839
National Office		
Administration and Stationery	1,319	1,412
Travel	598	-
Communication Subcommittee	721	1,316
Specialist Subcommittee		
ACR Courses	(1,051)	6,533
Subcommittee Expenses	1,786	431
	-----	-----
	735	6,964
Training Subcommittee		
Adv. and F C. Workshops	10,508	8,377
Subcommittee Expenses	3,428	1,977
	-----	-----
	13,936	10,354
Underground Subcommittee		
Cave SAREX		6,111
Subcommittee Expenses	378	132
	-----	-----
	378	6,243
Regional Com. Admin. Support	1,713	3,748
Regional Training Support	27,851	22,793
	-----	-----
Total Expenses	102,668	106,402
Operating Surplus	27,279	6,007
Publication Fund Movements	Note 6 (3,467)	(7,049)
	-----	-----
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	23,812	(1,042)
	-----	-----

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 1999

ACCUMULATED FUNDS	1999	1998
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	56,920	60,319
Surplus for the year	<u>23,812</u>	<u>(1,042)</u>
Total Recognised Income for the year	23,812	59,277
Less Transfers to/from Reserves	<u>(3,467)</u>	<u>(2,357)</u>
	<u>84,199</u>	<u>56,920</u>
 RESERVES		
Publications Fund		
Opening Balance	22,951	30,000
Add transfers from/to Accumulated Funds	<u>(3,467)</u>	<u>(7,049)</u>
Closing Balance	<u>19,484</u>	<u>22,951</u>
 Redundancy Provision		
Opening Balance	9,406	-
Add transfers from/to Accumulated Funds	<u> </u>	<u>9,406</u>
Closing Balance	<u>9,406</u>	<u>9,406</u>
 TOTAL RESERVES	 <u>28,890</u>	 <u>32,357</u>
 CLOSING EQUITY	 <u>113,089</u>	 <u>89,277</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 1999

1. Reporting Entity:

The financial statements presented here are for the New Zealand Land Search & 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 reporting framework as it not publicly accountable and 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 basis consistent with those 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:

These are accrued interest, prepaid insurance premium 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.

6. Publication Fund:

Movements for the year are as follows;

Balance 1 July 1998	\$22,951
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Less -

Field Guide reprint	1,938
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Certificates	910
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ID Cards	546
----------	-----

Sundry	<u>73</u>
--------	-----------

3,467

Balance 30 June 1999	<u>\$19,484</u>
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7. Redundancy Provision

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

8. Contingent liabilities:

There were no known contingent liabilities as at balance date. (1998 nil).

9. Capital Commitments:

There were no known capital commitments as at balance date. (1998 nil).

10. Related Party Transactions:

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

Performance Audit Report

The audit this year has been done against two reference points, the Jones 1997/98 Performance Audit Report and the 1998/99 Budget approved at the March 1999 committee meeting. It is in four parts as follows.

1. A list of recommendations to NZLSAR or its Committee
2. A summary of the Committee volunteer members NZLSAR management activities and an attempt to quantify this in hours. Also given is a summary of the SAR Statistics for the number of operations in the last year including problem type, activity type and injury type. Please note that not all the Pol 130 returns have been received for the previous year at the time of writing this report.
3. The 97/98 Performance Audit Report by Dr Anthony Jones. The question asked in reviewing this report was "what has the NZLSAR Committee's subsequent action if any been"? This has been done by reviewing in detail the "recommendations" and then a summary of the "suggestions" contained in the "Jones" Report.
4. The 98/99 budget approved at the March 1999 NZLSAR Committee meeting. This was assessed by noting the budget items and therefore what the Committee's intentions were. Then it was asked, had those intentions been carried out and if so was it within the finances allocated. In places an attempt has been made to "weigh" or give value to what has been achieved while in others, information has been given so the reader can form their own conclusions. This has been done, as the authors of this report are so close to the decision making, that they find it difficult to apply a value judgment to the information, for instance, that the NZLSAR subsidy on the ten TCA courses was \$84 per person.

Graham Thorp Chairman NZLSAR

John P Tristram NFO NZLSAR

Part 1 Recommendations and suggestions.

Suggested - That the Committee keep in mind the idea of a tri-annual conference or holding meetings other than in Wellington

Recommended - That the Committee consider the implications of a national alpha numeric paging system for SAR.

Recommended - That the Committee acknowledge the changes that have occurred to the Police boundaries and the actual non involvement in the NZLSAR Regional set up by parts of some Districts and realign their Regional boundaries so a more inclusive organisation is created.

Recommended - That the Committee give every assistance to the Specialist Subcommittee in bringing about the approved changes to the ACR system.

Recommended - That the Committee, with urgency, consider the options for the collection of data relevant to the requirements of good SAR management.

Recommended - That the Committee needs to consider the "Way Ahead Paper" as a clear direction or produce another document such as the Five Year Plan"

Suggested - That the Committee need to consider the amount of work and finances going into "search" and ask are SAR practitioners sufficiently skilled in "rescue"

Recommended. That due to the alleged misunderstanding of the role of NZLSAR, the Committee put in place a strategy to overcome this which would include further consideration of the desirability of "affiliation" by SAR organisations to NZLSAR.

Recommended - That Action Lists generated from meetings should not have one person doing much of the work and every effort should be taken to delegate tasks.

Recommended. A number of "Items" in the budget have sums of money against them and no expenditure. The Committee should ensure that if they request financial support, there is every intention of the task being performed.

Part 2 NZLSAR Committee and Subcommittees activities during the 1998/99 year.

Committee meetings held	3
Total person days of attendance by Committee members	30
A one day meeting for reviewing NZLSAR was held with 4 persons in attendance.	
An evening meeting between the Review Team and Police with 5 persons in attendance	

Communications Subcommittee meetings held	1
Total person days of attendance	7
One Teleconference was also held	

Training Subcommittee meetings held	3
Total person days of attendance	14
Advisers Standards two day Workshops held	2
Estimated hours of preparation by two facilitators	5
Adviser Workshop attendees	18
Total Adviser Workshop attendees	297
Field Controllers one day Standard Workshops held	4
Estimated hours of preparation by two facilitators	8
Total number of FC Workshop attendees	280

Operational activities of NZLSAR volunteers for the period 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999.				
	98/99	97/98	96/97	95/96
Class II operations	332	352	370	398
Operational hours contributed	14,368	20,146	15,812	22,011
Number of personal involved	2,108	2,829	3139	3954

Total of NZ Residents as "customers", land and water - 1288
Total Tourists as "customers" - 100
Percentage of Tourists - 8%

Operation information

Problem Type		Activity Type		Injury Type.	
Alcohol	2	Aircraft Accident	7	Abrasion	7
Attempted suicide	3	Camping	3	Amputation	0
Equipment	7	Canoeing		Bruising	3
Homicide	2	Caving	3	Burn	1
Inexperience	6	Climbing	37	Coronary	2
Medical	104	Cycling	6	Dislocate	5
Navigational	81	Fishing Shore	10	Fatal	35
Other	93	Gliding	7	Foot	2
Overdue	32	Hunting	55	Foreign Body	0
Rivers	25	Motor Accident	11	Fracture	47
Suicide	7	Orienteering	6	Head	5
Weather	35	Other Land	45	Hypothermia	12
Flares negative	1	Running	2	Internal	3
		Skiing	5	Laceration	6

		Tramping	124	Leg	2
		Walking	69	Medical Condition	16
		Working	8	Multiple	21
				Poisoning	1
				Spinal	7
				Sprain	18
				Torso	17
					1

Part 3 The 97/98 Performance Audit Report by Dr Anthony Jones. In considering the report we felt it was of such significance that it was worth printing his full summary. The Jones report is in italics and the NZLSAR response is documented as “bullet points”

It is suggested, that in any new structure (of NZ Land SAR), the Officers of the Committee should not represent any particular faction but should be independent during their period of office

- Constitution clause 9(b) has been changed to allow a Region to select another Representative if the existing Representative become the Chairman.
- A person has been selected by Region Three as a replacement for their Representative who has the role of NZLSAR Chairman.

It is suggested that consideration be given to developing the tri-annual meeting of The Committee and Regional Officers into a tri-annual conference open to all who would wish to attend

- A costing has been done for the travel expenses to a number of locations.
- The Committee has considered the merits of holding the meeting and does not support of the idea at the present time because they believe the benefits are outweighed by the extra cost.
- The Committee has agreed to budget for and hold a joint Committee Members/Regional Officers meeting over a weekend in the 99/00 financial year. This decision included. the belief that it was more cost effective to meet in Wellington.
- The Committee agreed that it was more cost effective to hold this in Wellington

It is suggested that the Committee exercise great caution in its approach to national fund raising and that, at the very least, they must have clearly defined projects for which funds would be allocated.

- The Committee has noted this.

It is suggested that work continue to encourage the expansion in the use of alpha-numeric pagers. It is further suggested that a national scheme for the provision of pagers should result in the savings due to the potential large size of the procurement.

- No progress has yet been made on this.

It is recommended that a reference library specialising in search and rescue be established.

- A costed list of books to be purchased has been submitted to the Committee and approved for acquisition.
- This is a cost item put to the Police in the Budget proposal for financial support in the 99/00 year

It is suggested that, as a first step, the National Library be approached to ascertain whether they would be interested in assisting with such a project.

- No approach has been made.
- The NFO believes a library can be run from the NZLSAR Office

It is suggested that the Police Review could provide a timely opportunity for NZ Land SAR to look to the future, to consider the variety of types of land SAR operations, the structure and organisation needed to meet future demands.

- A NZLSAR Review Team has been appointed.

- Meetings with senior Police have been held and more are scheduled to be held.
- Maps of the revised Police District boundaries have been drawn up and will be circulated
- Meetings have been held with one Sub District and assurances have been gained that they wish to be a Region in their own right

It is recommended that a system for tracking such ACTIONS (in the Committee minutes) until completed be developed.

- An action list is generated from Committee and Subcommittee meetings and circulated with the minutes.
- The NFO to be more diligent in following up each item on the various Lists.

It is suggested that there are three tasks (in the Business Plan) that need to be pursued with some vigour:-

i) *“Data collection to enable research and review of victim behaviour, system performance and search management on an ongoing basis”.*

- See the action taken and suggested on Incident Reports below and marked **

ii) *“Avalanche SAR Skills. ACR Team Instructor Seminar”.*

- A costed business case has been presented to the Police for funding in the next financial year

iii) *“Medical Work Group to consider a patient care protocol”.*

- A Patient Care Standard has been approved and circulated to all Advisers, Police involved in SAR and a number of others for implementation.
- The Committee need to be aware that much time and effort has gone into the search aspect of SAR and they need to consider has enough been done for rescue?

With regard to the “The Way Ahead” paper it is suggested that the Committee give consideration to placing the points in some order of priority.

- An attempt has been made to number as suggested and enhance this paper but efforts to date have not included a wide circulation.
- Our recommendation is the Committee needs to consider the Five Year Plan which has almost run its course and set some documented direction for another period.

It is suggested that a five yearly cycle of assessment of SAR Groups would best balance the maintenance of standards and the extra work load involved.

- The Committee agreed with the suggestion.

***It is recommended that the Committee develop a system for the collation and analysis of Incident Reports for all Class II operations on land.*

- This is a cost item put to the Police in the Budget proposal for financial support in the 99/00 year.
- We recommend that the Committee, with urgency, consider the options for the collection of data relevant to the requirements of good SAR management.

It is suggested that the inclusion of an Annual Incident Report in the body of the Annual Report would greatly increase its interest and value.

- Police have been approached for annual SAR statistics for inclusion in the NZLSAR Annual Report.

It is suggested that the Committee consider having the Annual Report commercially printed (eg. A 5 size) and circulated as widely as possible within and outside the Organisation as a whole. The Committee might wish to consider making the report available for sale through a variety of outlets.

- The Committee considered this, but have decided against this suggestion at the present time due to the cost.

- We suggest that if the Committee can guarantee that a Printer would receive all the material to be able to adhere to the circulation timetable required in the Constitution, then the idea should be reconsidered.

It is recommended that the Committee give every support to the Specialist Subcommittee in the introduction of ACR Standards bearing in mind the comments made above

- A costed business case has been presented to the Police for funding in the next financial year.

It is suggested that a critical review of the ACR Teams and their actual roles would be timely. Furthermore it is suggested that there should be formal minutes of meetings of the Specialist Subcommittee be kept on file at the National Office.

- As part of the costed plan mentioned above, a review is underway.
- Specialist Subcommittee reports are retained by the National Office.
- No formal meetings have been held that we are aware of so therefore there are no minutes.

It is suggested that there should be formal minutes of the Training Subcommittee kept on file at the National Office.

- Signed minutes of the Training Subcommittee with agendas and action lists are kept by the NFO.

It is suggested that the Training Subcommittee reconsider policies on funding of training of all sorts.

- The Training Subcommittee has reaffirmed its funding for training policy on a number of occasions.

The recommendation that the Aviation Sub-committee considers the apparent proliferation of “rescue” helicopters around the country and their impact on land search and rescue.

- Police have documented a “Definition of a SAR” in an effort to differentiate between picking up of patients in suburban areas or roadsides and the more hostile environment of the larger outdoors.

It is recommended that the Committee give serious consideration to the development of suitable Instructor courses. In addition, the Committee should develop and maintain a register of recognised Instructors.

- We are not aware of any work done in this direction.
- We recommend that the Committee give urgent consideration to this.

It is suggested that the Committee consider the desirability of courses specifically related to rescue.

- We are not aware of any work done in this direction.
- We recommend that the Committee give urgent consideration to this.

It is recommended that the Committee continue to encourage and support the publication and dissemination of information.

- The Committee by its action of agreeing to set up a library and encouraging the publication and circulation of the Annual Report, Advisers and Field Controllers Folders, Field Guide, SAR manual, Advisers List and six editions of the News is progressing well in this area.

It is suggested that it would be to the severe detriment to land search and rescue as a whole should the post of the National Field Officer cease to exist.

- We entirely agree with the perspicacity shown in this comment

It is suggested that attention be given to correcting the apparent lack of understanding of the role and functions of NZ Land SAR.

- This suggestion is in relation to a perceived “lack of understanding of the NZLSAR role” by some of those “in the field” and deserves attention by the Committee
- Research on “affiliation” and how other organisations bring disparate groups under their wing has been done.
- Papers on the costs and benefits of affiliation have been circulated within the Training Subcommittee and now need to go to the Committee for consideration and further development.

It is suggested that the annual audit be carried out by someone other than the Officers of NZ Land SAR, ie. someone from one of the Regions. It is further suggested that an external audit by someone from out of the country be conducted every five years.

- It is our recommendation that the Committee reconsider the method of the Performance Assessment.
- In view of the value of the Jones Report it is our recommendation that some financial assistance be offered to him or some other international SAR expert to perform such an audit on the recommended five year cycle.

Part 4 Note. This assessment was done in early July using the Financial Report to the 30 June. The A previously accounted for may mean some small changes in expenditure may need to be made.

No	Item	Budgeted amount	Actual expenditure	Comments
1a	NZLSAR Committee meetings	\$6,500	\$4,608	Three meetings were held, minutes w which were done prior to the next meet The costs were considerably under Training Subcommittee, which held twc
1b	AGM Meeting			Not budgeted for but identified from indicated is to be considered for holdin
1c	Review Meeting	\$2,500	\$2,339	A meeting was held for Review membe A meeting was held between the Mathews of the NZ Police. A meeting is scheduled between the Brennan
2	Administration Costs	\$2,000	\$2,219	Necessary purchases such as envelop Audit expenses have been identified.
3	NFO Salary + ACC	\$42,000	\$42,394	A National Field Officer continues to be He has received a Personal Performan A work accident insurer has been selec
3a	NFO Travel and expenses	\$8,000	\$5,176	A number of District SAREX's, Cours attended by the NFO
4	Aviation Subcommittee	\$200		A watching brief has been held by the (
5	Communication Subcommittee	\$2,000	\$721	One meeting held. One "teleconference" held. Minutes have been kept with accor generated. Budget submitted to the Police for \$99,
6	Specialist Subcommittee	\$3,000	\$1768	A new Chairman has been appointed of the previous Chairman at the Augus of the ACR Team placement and Stanc

7	ACR Training/Standards Workshops	\$3,600	Nil	A training proposal has been submitted and approved. A documented and costed proposal budget request submitted to the Police
8	ACR Exercise			No exercises budgeted for or held
9	ACR Equipment			This is funded separately by the Police. As part of the ACR Team rationalisation, the Police that the Dunedin and Invercargill the Region Five Otago/Southland Committee have done.
10	Working Groups - Medical	\$500	Nil	This item is a disappointment. Financial resources to do the work is in place or alternative arrangements to vigorously ensure work is done when necessary.
	Working Groups - Dogs	\$500	Nil	Comments as for Working Groups - Medical. The Committee requested that the Search Dog Training Course be funded. A number of articles have been written on dog training. The Committee has given no further funding and needs to consider its position on dog training.
11	Training Subcommittee	\$3,000	\$3,428	The Training Subcommittee has met and Action lists have been generated, but some have not been completed. The last action list has one volunteer to perform. It is our belief that work needs to be completed by the Subcommittee. As this Subcommittee was able to "cover" the budget, it is a concern. If training is a major reason for a greater travel budget.

12	Advisers Standards Workshops	\$4,000	\$5,257	While two Workshops were budgeted for The decision to run the Workshop over of various destinations and consult Committee. A North Island Workshop should be year. Adequate finances should be available
13	Risk Management Workshops	\$4,000	Nil	These Workshops were not run which that the Committee needs to be more
14	Field Controller Standards Workshops	\$4,000		No Workshops were held. An ongoing appraisal should be made of Acknowledgment needs to be made of distant places by setting aside adequate
15	Training Modules for Trainers	\$1,500		No modules have been published.
16	TCA Courses	Note 1	\$13,000	Ten Courses held. 154 persons were trained. NZLSAR subsidy per person - \$84.
17	MSO Week Course			No finances were allowed for this and the next financial year.
18	MSO Courses	Note 1	\$5771	Three Courses held. 52 persons were trained. NZLSAR subsidy per person - \$110.
19	Search Techniques Courses	Note 1	\$4,000	Three Courses held. 65 persons were trained. NZLSAR subsidy per person - \$61.
20	ICS Course	Note 1		No Courses were held. Integration with the Coordinated Incident to be made. Invitations to Police CIMS Courses should
21	Team Leader	Note 1	\$5,850	Three Courses were held. 49 persons were trained. NZLSAR subsidy per person \$120.

22	Underground Subcommittee	\$500	\$378	Country wide liaison maintained. A MSO Course for South Island Under
23	National Cave SAREX			No finances made available but "flagg financial year.
24	Cave SAR Handbook			Drafts have been circulated.
25	Data Collection			No finances made available but "flagg next financial year.
26	Regional Seminars	\$6,000	\$463	Region Two held a Seminar attended b If the Committee allocates funds to thi they take place.
27	Administration Support for Regional Committees	\$1,500	\$1,250	All Regions offered a grant of \$250. Four Regions took up this offer. One of these Regions later applic approved.
28	Seminar for Regional Administrators			No finances made available but "flagg financial year.
30	Chairman's Travel & Discretionary fund	\$2,200	\$598	It is our opinion that a sum of money r Chairman or his delegate for unforseer
31	Publicity / Public Relations	\$2,500	Nil	This item is a disappointment. Financi to do the work is in place, or alte vigorously ensure work is done when n
32	Marketing Plan	\$2,500	Nil	This item is also a disappointment. Fi plan to do the work is in place, or al vigorously ensure work is done when n

Note 1 \$30,000 was allocated as a "Contestable Fund" to be used by the Regions for a nominated range of co
as they saw the Regional training needs