



New Zealand Search and Rescue Council Annual Report



2008/2009

Chair's Report



The 2008/2009 year marks the sixth year since the New Zealand Search and Rescue Council, the Consultative Committee and the Secretariat were established. Taken collectively, these bodies provide strong strategic leadership and direction to the many organisations that make up the New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) sector.

Ours is a complex sector. We have many different organisations, over 12,000 people and hundreds of vessels, aircraft and vehicles. They all broadly share the aim of providing effective search and rescue services, throughout New Zealand's search and rescue region, in order to save lives. The Council has been very pleased to see the governance of the sector develop and become more effective over the past few years. In particular, the NZSAR Consultative Committee has grown and evolved into a crucial clearing house for sharing ideas, planning initiatives, providing advice and charting our future.

The job of the NZSAR Council is to ensure effective national level co-ordination and leadership between the many organisations that play a critical role in search and rescue. The publication of our second strategic plan is an important milestone in this ongoing process. In this plan, we articulate the values at the heart of New Zealand's search and rescue community. We will:

- be **proficient** at search and rescue;
- encourage open and effective **communication**;
- **collaborate and cooperate** between individuals, teams and organisations;
- **learn** from our individual and collective experiences;
- be **efficient** in the use of scarce resources;
- recognise the **dedication, courage and commitment** of the people who make up our sector.

These values recognise that if we are to reach our full potential, we need to continue to improve, collaborate, work alongside each other, build stronger relationships, and grow our understanding of our various roles and how we fit together as a community.

This report illustrates not only the very good work that is being done, saving lives on a daily basis around our vast region, but also describes the host of initiatives that have been pursued in the 2008/09 year. As you read this report, it is worth keeping in the back of your mind that for each search and rescue operation there is a story which often involves danger, risk – sometimes tragedy – but quite often selfless heroism; where people help out other people just because it's the right thing to do.

The Council and I are very proud to be involved in this sector and I trust you will enjoy reading more about it and our work in this report.

*Martin Matthews
Chair
New Zealand Search and Rescue Council*

Secretariat Manager's Report



2008/2009 proved to be a significant year for NZSAR. Two things in particular provided great opportunities to build a more connected sector. The first was the release of NZSAR's five-year NZSAR Plan. This Plan includes the goals:

- To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of New Zealand's SAR sector;
- To achieve a culture of "one SAR body";
- To promote continuous improvement;
- To maximise the potential of SAR people; and,
- To support SAR preventative strategies.

Everything that the Secretariat does on behalf of the sector is tied to one or more of these goals. Written on paper they look deceptively easy to address, but there is a lot of work that goes on in the background to make it all happen. Further NZSAR Plan details can be found on page 18 of this Annual Report.

Second, the interim Crown funding commenced on 1 July 2008, which allowed a number of long-planned initiatives to come into effect. These have served to strengthen our organisations, stabilise our SAR resources and improve our capacity to respond to search and rescue emergencies throughout the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region (NZSRR). This funding allowed Service Level Agreements (SLA) between the NZSAR Council and Coastguard NZ, LandSAR NZ and Surf Life Saving NZ to be established.

The SLAs have proved to be very successful. They're allowing key voluntary SAR agencies to resource their SAR activities adequately and have greatly improved our understanding of what our SAR partners do.

In addition to this, the funding has allowed more effective leadership on a range of SAR issues. This includes greater capture and analysis of SAR statistics and the initiation of a number of research projects. We have also completed a comprehensive review of SAR training and established a NZSAR training framework. Work has now begun to develop a NZSAR core curriculum.

One of the key aspects of our examination of SAR training was to refocus our attention on the SAR exercise as being the best tool to get our organisations to plan and work together. The new funding enabled a number of much needed individual training activities, such as air observer training and refresher courses, to take place.

The Secretariat doubled in size in September 2008 to two people, with Carl van der Meulen joining me. Carl has taken on the primary responsibility for monitoring the SLAs, capturing and analysing our national SAR statistics and planning the annual NZSAR awards, as well as a host of other research, policy and administrative tasks conducted in support of the Council and wider SAR sector.

The way in which we determine the coordinating authority for SAR incidents changed to the new Category 1 (NZ Police) and

Category 2 (Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand) system on 1 July 2008. This new NZSAR Council approved system has resulted in improved responses to SAR incidents and less confusion by the two coordinating authorities.

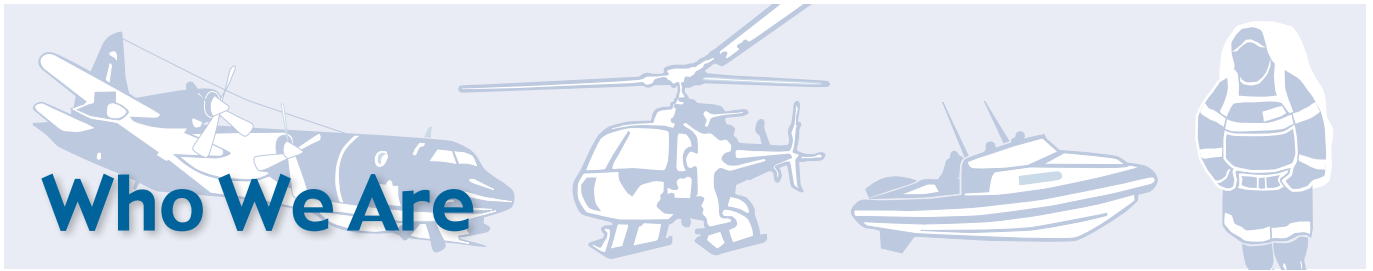
The distress beacon 'Switch to 406' campaign drew to a close this year with the international change from 121.5MHz to 406 MHz distress beacons being made on 1 February 2009. The four-year, \$1 million campaign had New Zealand well positioned for the changeover. The campaign came in on budget and with 94% of 121.5MHz beacon owners being aware of the need to switch to the new 406MHz beacons.

In addition to these initiatives, we have also managed a wide range of 'business as usual' tasks including developing policy, supporting the various SAR organisations, capturing and analysing SAR data, communicating with the sector (I hope you have seen our Link newsletter), and hosting many meetings.

None of this happens in isolation. Carl and I are indebted to the many people who support, advise and encourage us in our work on the sector's behalf. In particular, we would like to thank the members of the NZSAR Consultative Committee who give us a considerable amount of their time and always make themselves available to the Secretariat. The members of the Consultative Committee represent their parts of the sector very well and take a positive and collegial approach to points of difference as they arise. The Consultative Committee is a pleasure to work with and we are grateful for their counsel and support.

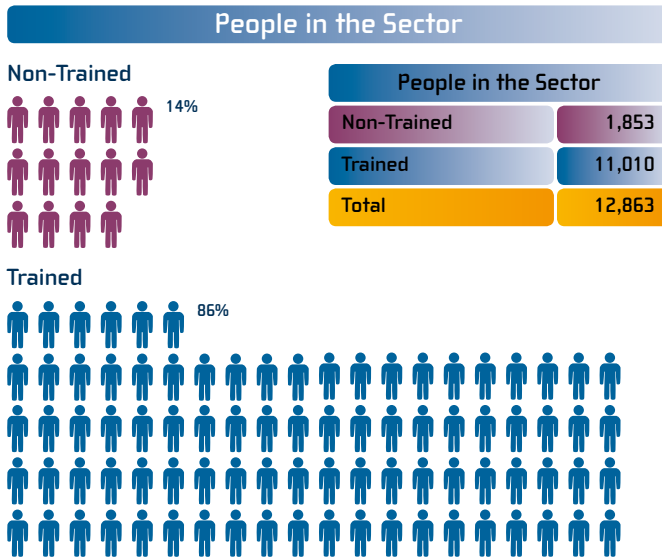
The 2009/2010 year will be another step up. We are looking at improving the national coordination of major SAR exercises, securing long term funding, finalising the development of the NZSAR training core curriculum, running a number of SAR related workshops around the country, providing better and improved online SAR tools, and further developing strategic policies that affect our search and rescue sector.

*Duncan Ferner
NZSAR Secretariat Manager*



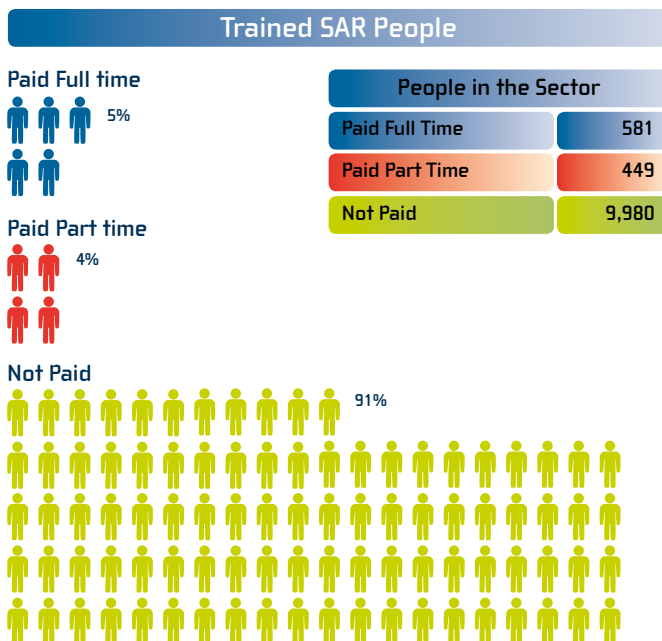
People in the NZSAR Sector

Of the 12,863 people involved in the NZSAR sector, 11,010 (86%) are trained SAR people, with 1,853 (14%) people working in support of them.



As can be seen from the chart below, 91% of trained SAR people are non-paid volunteer professionals. New Zealand has one of the highest rates of volunteer involvement in SAR in the world.

New Zealand also has a latent pool of SAR capable people that can be used as occasions demand. The capacity of this pool is in excess of 33,000 people drawn from the New Zealand Defence Force, Department of Conservation, and the New Zealand Fire Service.



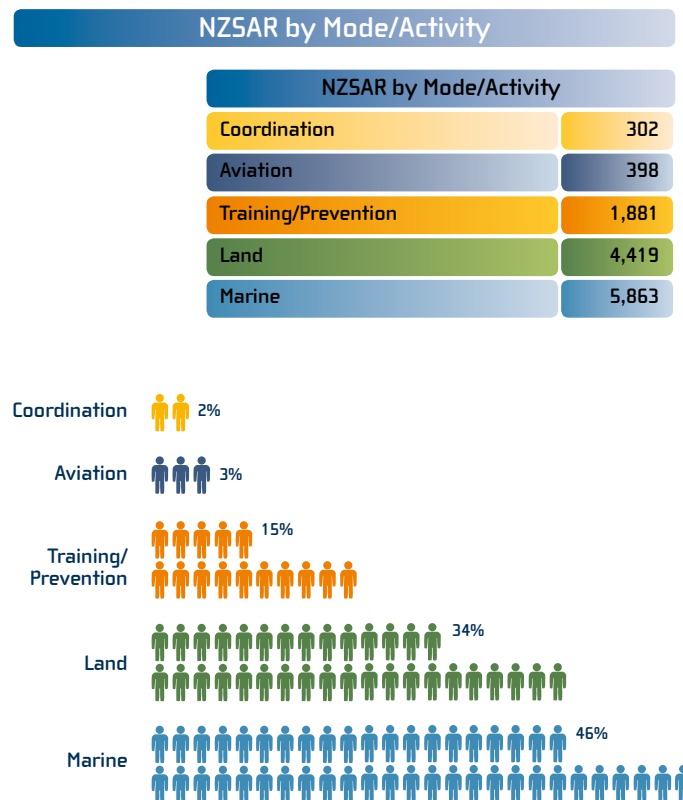
NZSAR by Mode/Activity

Of the 12,863 people involved in the sector, the bulk of them (80%) are involved as trained people in the marine and land environments. There are 5,863 people (46% of the sector) directly involved in marine based SAR. Surf Life Saving New Zealand and the New Zealand Coastguard are the primary organisations involved in this aspect of NZSAR activities. There are 4,419 people (34% of the sector) directly involved in land based SAR. LandSAR New Zealand and Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) are the primary organisations involved in this aspect of NZSAR activities.

There are 1,881 people (15% of the sector) involved in providing training and prevention services. Most SAR training is carried out in-house by each of the SAR organisations. The NZ Mountain Safety Council and Coastguard Boating Education Service are the primary organisations involved in providing preventative education services to the public of New Zealand.

The aviation segment is relatively small with 398 people (3% of the sector), however it provides a great deal of support to a large number of SAR incidents across all three modes; land, marine, and air.

There are 302 people (2% of the sector) involved in coordination of SAR operations, and in providing strategic direction and policy advice for the sector. The majority of these people belong to New Zealand Police and Maritime New Zealand's Rescue Coordination Centre and Maritime Operations Centre.



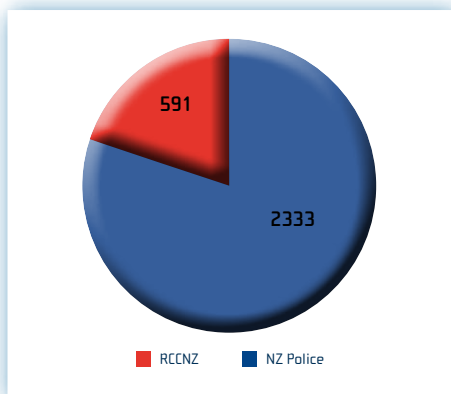
What We Do



People Assisted

This graph shows the total amount of people that required assistance from the two SAR Coordinating Authorities. This ranges from people who required no medical or external agency assistance, through to those people whose lives were saved by the actions of SAR volunteers.

People Assisted in Incidents in 08/09



Category 1



A Search and Rescue Operation (SAROP) coordinated at the local level; including land, subterranean, river, lake, inland waterway and close-to-shore marine operations.

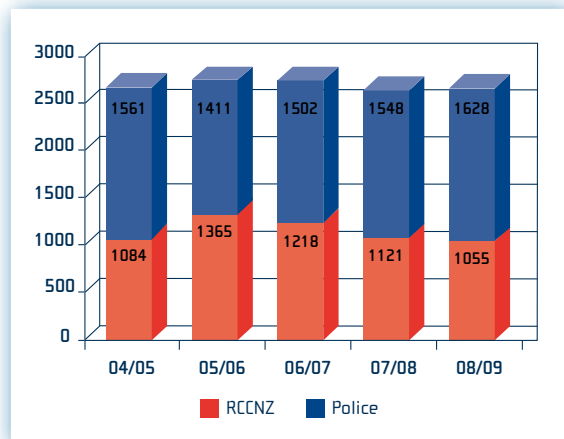
Category 2



A SAROP coordinated at the national level; including operations associated with missing aircraft, aircraft in distress, and off-shore marine operations, within the New Zealand search and rescue region. Category 2 SAROPs typically require the use of national or international resources and may involve coordination with other States.

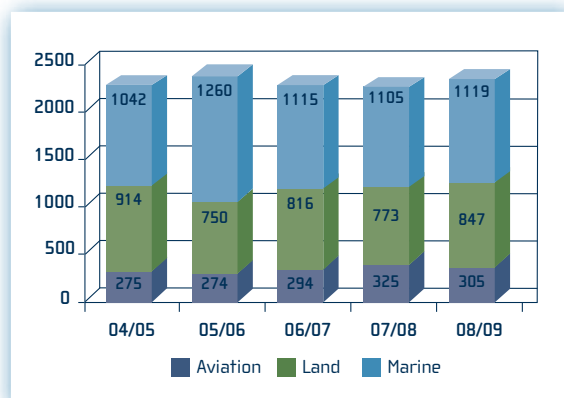
RCCNZ dealt with 39% of incidents, Police with 61% of incidents from 08/09.

Coordinating Authorities in 08/09



Incidents by Mode

Incidents by Mode



The total number of incidents for the 08/09 year is a slight increase on the previous year, but the trend over the last five years is steady. The 2,271 incidents during the year is an average of 6.2 incidents per day.

It can be seen that the largest amount of SAR activity occurs in the marine sector; however the 08/09 year had a 10% increase in land based SAR incidents on the previous year.

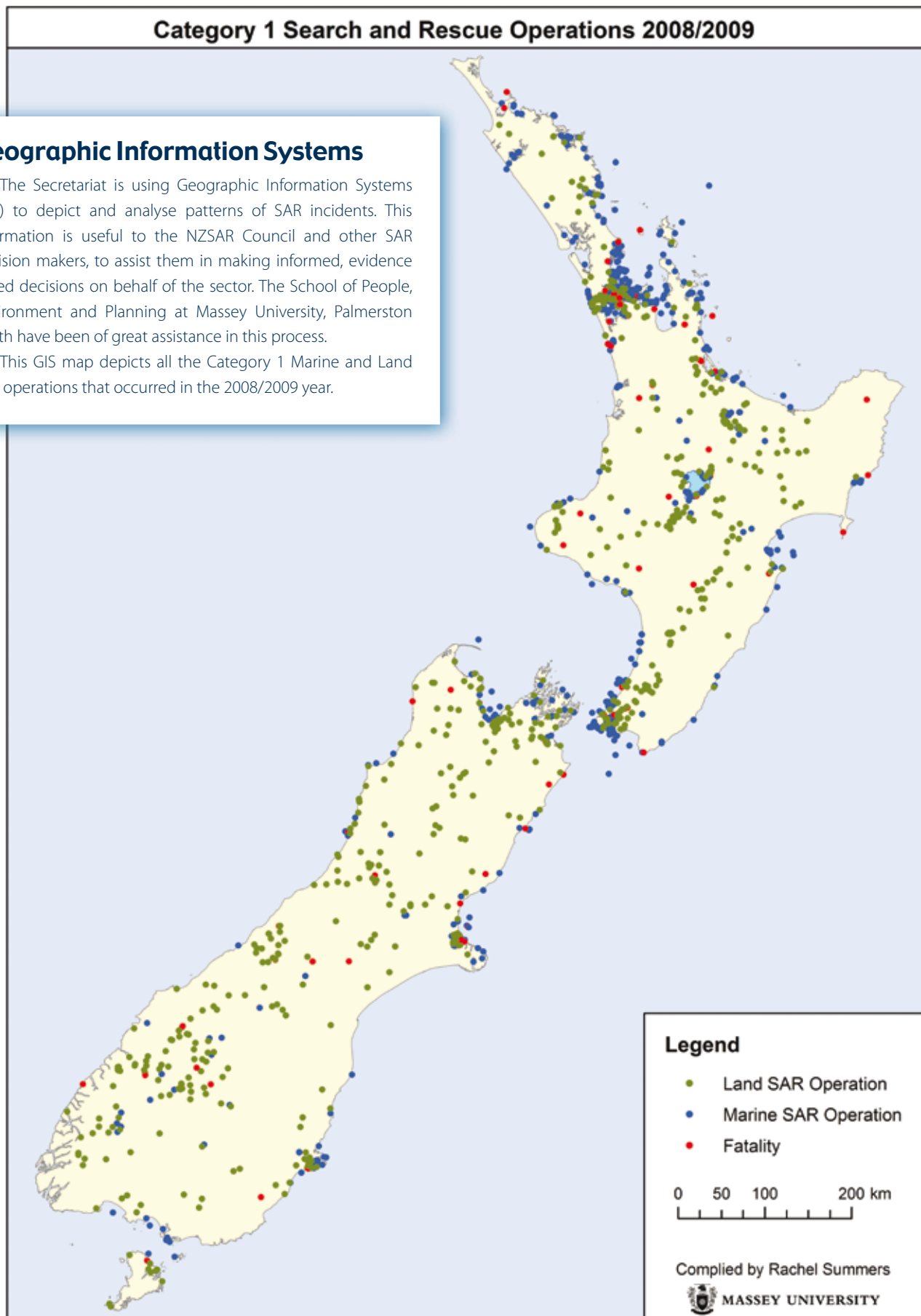
Where We Do It

Category 1 Search and Rescue Operations 2008/2009

Geographic Information Systems

The Secretariat is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to depict and analyse patterns of SAR incidents. This information is useful to the NZSAR Council and other SAR decision makers, to assist them in making informed, evidence based decisions on behalf of the sector. The School of People, Environment and Planning at Massey University, Palmerston North have been of great assistance in this process.

This GIS map depicts all the Category 1 Marine and Land SAR operations that occurred in the 2008/2009 year.



SAR People



Search and Rescue

New Zealand police play a vital role in search and rescue in New Zealand. Their SAR units are responsible for coordinating Category 1 SAROPs at the local level. These include land, river, lake and close to shore activities.

As with many units in Police, there is no such thing as a typical work day. The Auckland Metro Crime & Operations Support (AMCOS) SAR Unit is no exception. While the ‘trampers fallen down a bank’ and other such rescues are indeed part of the AMCOS SAR Unit’s role, they are only a small part of a much more varied workload.

The unit consists of a fulltime Officer in Charge Sgt Dene Duthie, 17 part-time SAR personnel, and 2 part-time dog handlers. The unit covers all three of the Auckland metro districts (Auckland, Waitemata, and Counties-Manukau), but also provides frequent support to Northland and Waikato. It also works very closely with LandSAR.

There is usually at least one callout a week, and they can occur at any time, in any weather, and during any season. The unit provides assistance to marine SAR operations, working closely with the AMCOS Maritime Unit, but the majority of jobs are on land.



Constable Darren Calkin

Land SAR includes both urban and rural operations. Urban SAR operations can involve lost children, dementia patients wandering off, assistance with serious crime scenes, and searches for weapons. Particularly unpleasant tasks include body recoveries; the unit includes victim identification specialists, and is responsible for the recovery of any decomposed bodies. The unit will almost always be called to fatal fires, and as Sgt Duthie puts it, they see the “worst of the worst.”



Mr Norm Shaw (left) and Constable Darren Calkin (below)

Rural operations can occur in any of the range of land types found in the greater Auckland region. The Waitakere Ranges are particularly bad for callouts, as are the Hunua Ranges, and there is also some demand from local islands.

Duty team members are also on very short notice to go overseas. Over the past year they have been involved in the aftermath of Victorian bush fires and the fatal Air NZ Airbus A320 crash off the coast of France.

Sgt Duthie admits working in the unit has its ups and downs. Recovering bodies can be particularly difficult. However, even that has its positives, as often the recovery of a body can give grieving family members closure. And there are plenty of good things: finding lost children, helping elderly dementia patients avoid being institutionalised, and rescuing hikers in the bush who would otherwise have certainly died.

Personnel are well trained, undertaking an annual SAR Exercise, Advanced FirstAid Courses, Line Rescue Courses, and River Rescue courses. The unit is also embracing technology, recently implementing the Wandtrak bracelet tracking system for people who frequently wander off, such as dementia sufferers and autistic children. The Wandtrak system has led to a reduction in search times of as much as 80%, freeing up Police resources and giving the community additional peace of mind.

Article amended from AMCOS's August/September Newsletter – Metropolitan

SAR People continued

Communications

Good communications are at the heart of effective search and rescue. But, in our large search and rescue region and with our often difficult and sparsely populated terrain, good communications are not always available to SAR teams. The success of almost all SAROPs depends on those technically gifted individuals and teams who establish and maintain good communications. We would be lost without them.

Channel 16

The lifeline for anyone at sea is the international VHF maritime distress channel 16, and the responsibility for 24/7 monitoring of channel 16 falls on the Radio Operators at Lower Hutt's Maritime Operations Centre (MOC).

Senior Radio Operator Graham Turner has 40 years experience of radio communication under his belt. "Our job is to look after the recreational as well as the professional mariners. We've got the ability to communicate with anything that floats; from a small runabout with a handheld radio to something the size of the Queen Mary 2 Cruise Ship."

No two days are the same. Although regular weather forecasts and navigation warnings are broadcast each day, there are days when no one calls up in distress or asking for assistance. There are also days when the operators can be dealing with as many as six or seven channel 16 [distress] calls at any given time.

Graham likens the 'ideal' distress call to the World Wide Web: the three Ws. "We need to know immediately, **Who** they are, **Where** they are and **What** is the nature of the problem. Then we can work out what sort of assistance is required.

"You'd be surprised how many people don't do it, though. They will call up 'mayday, mayday' and give the name of their boat! That's it!"



Senior Radio Operator Graham Turner

Graham says this is when an operator's skill comes to the fore. They must get every bit of information possible to pass onto the Rescue Coordination Centre or Police, who hold responsibility for coordinating rescues.

"I got one a few months ago where I asked them, 'do you have a GPS?' They said they didn't know how to work it. So I asked them whereabouts they were and they said, 'I'm on the water!'"

Graham says that even though the operators have experience, the adrenalin still flows when a channel 16 distress call comes through.

"It can be stressful at times and I still find the radio medical assistance calls quite hard, such as when you are talking to a wife alone on a boat whose husband has just died of a heart attack. You've got to look after them. It is traumatic for them. Those are the worst ones, the ones that stick in your mind. But it shows just how worthwhile our work is. We are helping people in need."

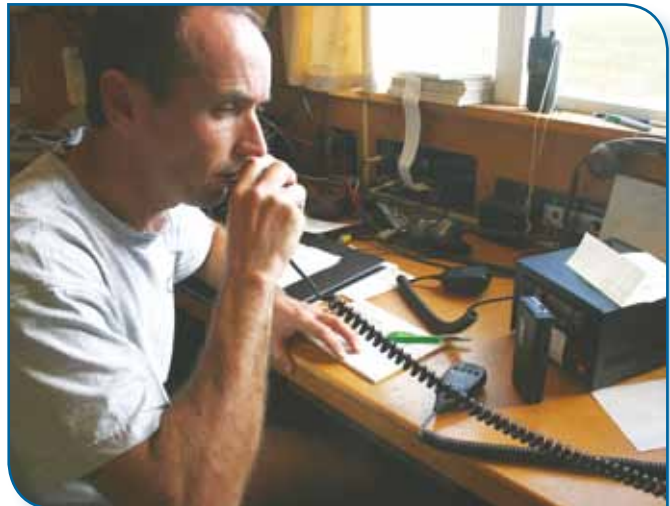
Some Facts:

MOC has responsibility for a region that covers 12.5% of the earth's ocean surface, extending from mid-Tasman to mid-Pacific and from Antarctica to the Equator.

MOC radio operators have assisted 35 thousand people since 1994.

For two weeks from Boxing Day every year, calls to channel 16 rise exponentially as new boats are put to use.

SAR People continued



The Backbone

A land search and rescue operation happening anywhere across New Zealand relies heavily on a highly specialised volunteer – an AREC Communications Advisor.

David Bray is one such advisor: “Basically, if it involves radio communications I am there. Based at search headquarters, I work closely with the Police SAR controller, the LandSAR advisors, as well as the search teams. I select the best radio options and get the radios ready for the teams.

“During the operation AREC volunteers receive messages over the radios, which are then written down or entered via computer for the search advisors to act on. Everything said over the radio is recorded.”

David is a member of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC), which is the non-profit organisation that provides communications support for SAR. All members are licensed amateur radio operators. They know radio, understand how radio signals get from place to place, advise on compliance with government radio regulations, and ensure correct call-signs and procedures are followed. Members are drawn from every walk of life and all professions. AREC members also assist Civil Defence.



AREC Communications Advisor David Bray
Photo: Wairarapa Visuals

“We get involved in events such as car rallies, mountain running events, fishing competitions and other community events, which all involve passing messages back to base and keeping track of people in the field.” David says these events provide excellent training to deal with the critical search and rescue operations (SAROPs).

“We must have sound technical knowledge and the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently under pressure.”

In May this year, David was involved in a search for a missing photographer who had been reported overdue from a trip to the rugged southern coast of the lower North Island. Search teams were sent to the area with the appropriate radio gear and, given the remote location arrangements, were made to use a dedicated VHF radio repeater, which was located close to the event.

“In addition to the VHF,” David explained, “we monitored HF frequencies as we knew there would be places where teams would be unable to access the repeater”. Masterton Police Station was the base for the search where access to aerials on the building allowed radios to monitor a wide range of channels used for SAR repeaters.

“Because of the radio coverage available, we were able to keep the search teams advised as new clues came in, to narrow down the search area, and the man’s body was located that night.”

David’s day job is in telecommunications, installing telephone lines, PABX and data cabling. He does SAR work because “we are all acutely aware that SAR involves a life or lives at risk, and good communications is vital. We are the backbone of SAROP communications.”

SAR People continued

Planning for SAR in Antarctica

Demand for search and rescue (SAR) services in and around Antarctica is escalating steadily as tourism and fishing activities continue to increase in number and size. Once the domain of extreme adventurers or research scientists, Antarctica has become a popular destination for cruise ships, helicopters and hovercraft operators; showing people the ice caps, providing up close encounters with penguins, or dropping them onto the ice shelf. It has also become a lucrative commercial fishing location.

Some of Antarctica is part of the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region which means New Zealand's Rescue Coordination Centre (RCCNZ) has overall accountability for the management and coordination of SAR operations in the area. The resources to actually undertake SAR missions in the area are generally scarce, but the providers for this service are Antarctica New Zealand, the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) and NZ's Defence Force.

As Antarctica's popularity has grown over the past few years, the organisations involved in SAR in the region have continued to develop ways for working together in order to achieve the best SAR results. The demanding terrain and weather, the extreme distances both within the continent and from surrounding countries, as well as the scarce resources available, are all issues they are grappling with. An important initiative has been the development of the Antarctic SAR Response Plan. This defines how the NZ and US National Antarctic Programmes and RCCNZ will work together on SAR missions.



Antarctic Field Training.
© W Rack, Antarctica NZ Pictorial Collection: K053 08/09



Mt Erebus.
© R Gardner, Antarctica NZ Pictorial Collection: K301 08/09

Manager for New Zealand's Antarctic Programme, Erik Barnes, says the level of goodwill and the close working relationship that already existed ensured great understanding, cooperation and collaboration.

"We are totally committed to our SAR and assistance responsibilities, but both the New Zealand and US Antarctic programmes are primarily focused on scientific research. With this plan in place we have clarity over our SAR roles and whether an incident should be coordinated locally at Scott Base or McMurdo Station, or coordinated by RCCNZ," says Erik.

The response plan covers marine, air, and land incidents. It uses a version of the current NZSAR Category System to clarify which agency or organisation has the prime responsibility for a particular incident. In essence, Antarctica New Zealand will coordinate and manage "local" incidents down in Antarctica that can be handled with local resources; RCCNZ will coordinate and manage all other incidents.

Erik says it means a more efficient response and better planning for the Antarctic programmes: "taking pressure off limited resources. It also means that the SAR events are efficiently coordinated between multiple agencies, ensuring that we can all save lives in one of the most remote areas in the world."

NZSAR
New Zealand Search
and Rescue



Maritime Search and Rescue Assets



Coastguard New Zealand CRV – Coastguard Rescue Vessel

- Northern Region CRV: 79
- Eastern Region CRV: 25
- Central Region CRV: 13
- Southern Region CRV: 26



Surf Lifesaving New Zealand IRB – Inflatable Rescue Boat

- Northern Region IRB: 59
- Bay of Plenty IRB: 35
- Gisborne IRB: 8
- Hawkes Bay IRB: 10
- Taranaki IRB: 21
- Western Districts IRB: 11
- Wellington IRB: 15
- Canterbury IRB: 26
- Otago IRB: 15

- Dunedin Marine SAR personnel: 30
- RCCNZ Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand personnel: 24
- MOC Maritime Operations Centre personnel: 20
- Auckland International Airport Rescue vessel: 2 Hovercraft: 1
- Wellington International Airport Rescue vessel: 2



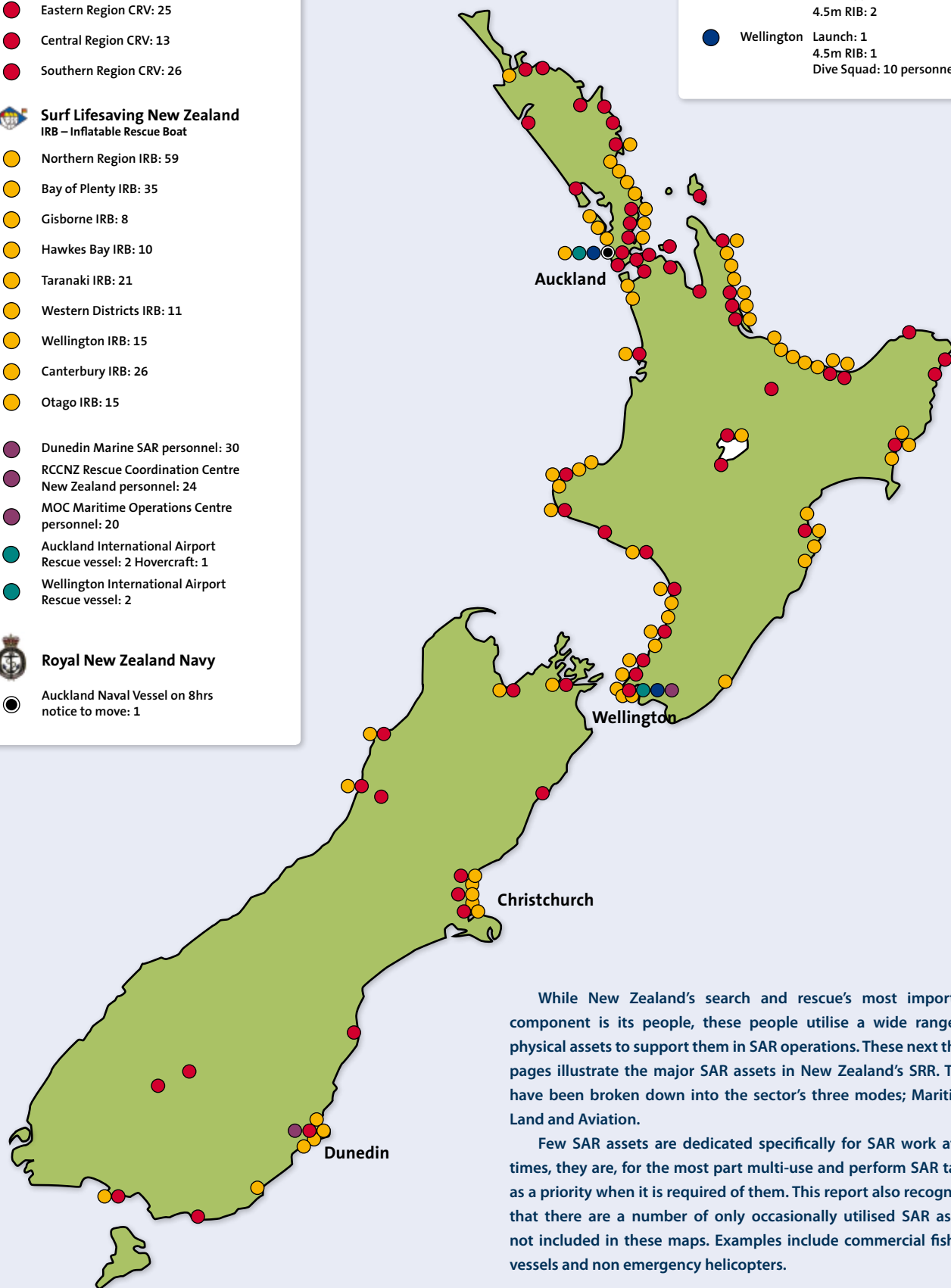
Royal New Zealand Navy

- Auckland Naval Vessel on 8hrs notice to move: 1



New Zealand Police RIB – Rigid Inflatable Boat

- Auckland Launch: 1
12m RIB: 2
4.5m RIB: 2
- Wellington Launch: 1
4.5m RIB: 1
Dive Squad: 10 personnel



While New Zealand's search and rescue's most important component is its people, these people utilise a wide range of physical assets to support them in SAR operations. These next three pages illustrate the major SAR assets in New Zealand's SRR. They have been broken down into the sector's three modes; Maritime, Land and Aviation.

Few SAR assets are dedicated specifically for SAR work at all times, they are, for the most part multi-use and perform SAR tasks as a priority when it is required of them. This report also recognises that there are a number of only occasionally utilised SAR assets not included in these maps. Examples include commercial fishing vessels and non emergency helicopters.



Land Search and Rescue Assets

Land SAR New Zealand

- Northern Region Land SAR personnel: 106
3 Units located within the region
- Midland Region Land SAR personnel: 504
13 Units located within the region
- Eastern Region Land SAR personnel: 229
3 Units located within the region
- Central Region Land SAR personnel: 458
9 Units located within the region
- Tasman Region Land SAR personnel: 463
13 Units located within the region
- Canterbury Region Land SAR personnel: 396
10 Units located within the region
- Southern Region Land SAR personnel: 529
11 Units located within the region

Alpine Cliff Rescue Teams

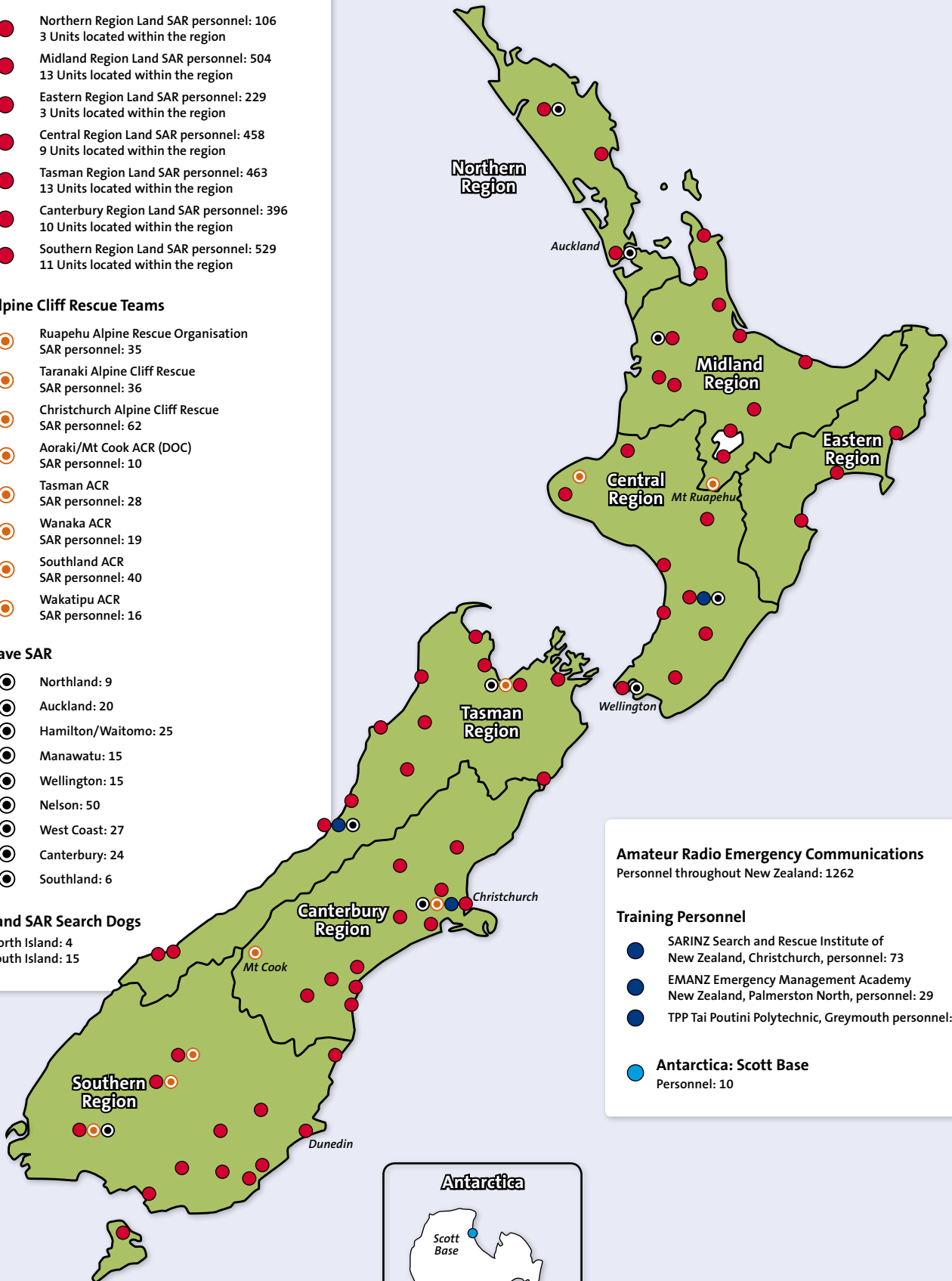
- Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation
SAR personnel: 35
- Taranaki Alpine Cliff Rescue
SAR personnel: 36
- Christchurch Alpine Cliff Rescue
SAR personnel: 62
- Aoraki/Mt Cook ACR (DOC)
SAR personnel: 10
- Tasman ACR
SAR personnel: 28
- Wanaka ACR
SAR personnel: 19
- Southland ACR
SAR personnel: 40
- Wakatipu ACR
SAR personnel: 16

Cave SAR

- Northland: 9
- Auckland: 20
- Hamilton/Waitomo: 25
- Manawatu: 15
- Wellington: 15
- Nelson: 50
- West Coast: 27
- Canterbury: 24
- Southland: 6

Land SAR Search Dogs

North Island: 4
South Island: 15



Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

Personnel throughout New Zealand: 1262

Training Personnel

- SARINZ Search and Rescue Institute of New Zealand, Christchurch, personnel: 73
- EMANZ Emergency Management Academy New Zealand, Palmerston North, personnel: 29
- TPP Tai Poutini Polytechnic, Greymouth personnel: 2
- Antarctica: Scott Base
Personnel: 10

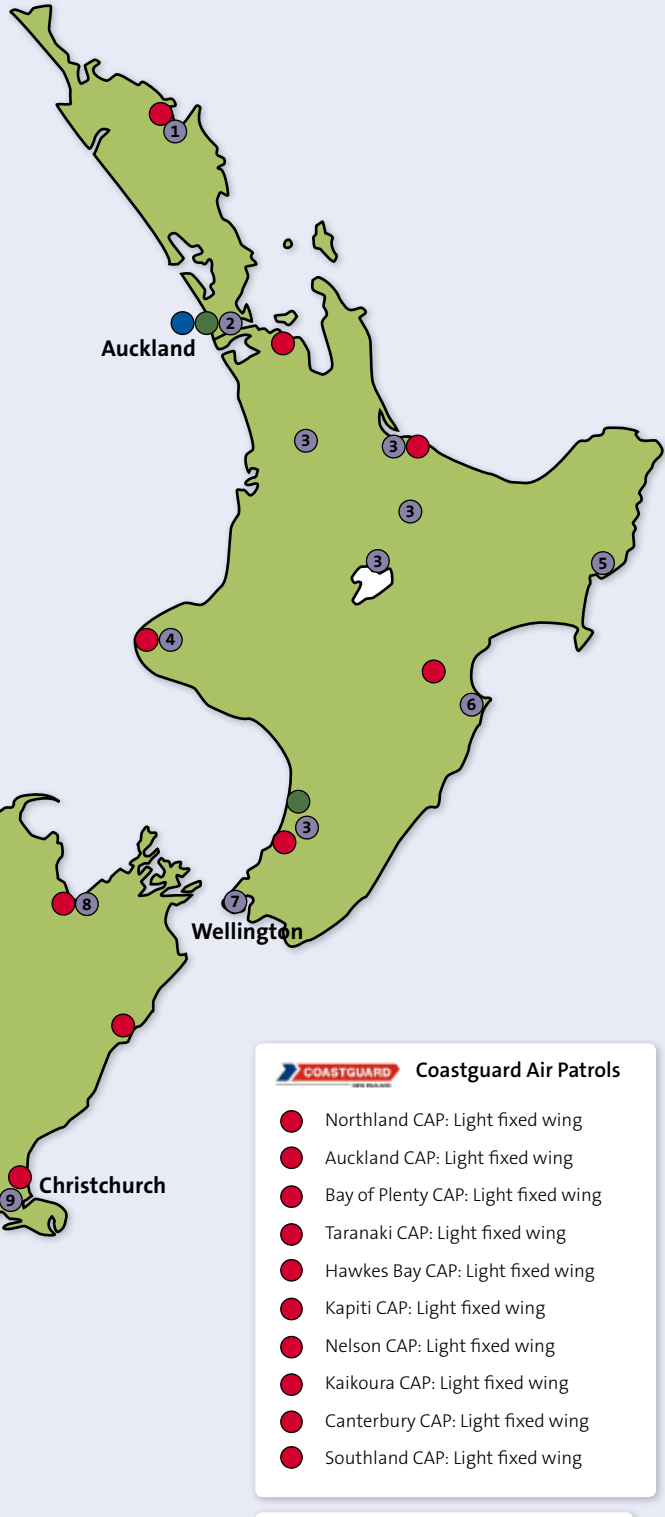


Aviation Search and Rescue Assets



Search and Rescue Aircraft

- 1 Northland Emergency Services Trust
 - 2 x Sikorsky S-76A – Whangarei
- 2 Auckland Rescue Helicopter Trust
 - 1 x BK117B2 – Auckland
- 3 Philips Search and Rescue Trust
 - Westpac Waikato Air Ambulance – 1 x Bell 222B helicopter
 - 1 x Piper Chieftain fixed wing – Hamilton
 - Trustpower TECT Rescue Helicopter – 1 x AS350BA Squirrel – Tauranga
 - BayTrust Rescue Helicopter – 1 x AS350BA Squirrel – Rotorua
 - Youthtown Trust Rescue Helicopter – 3 x AS350B2 Squirrel – Taupo
 - Square Trust Rescue Helicopter – 1 x AS350FX Squirrel – Palmerston North
- 4 Taranaki Rescue Helicopter Trust
 - 1 x Augusta Westland AW19 – New Plymouth
- 5 Eastland Helicopter Rescue Trust
 - 1 x AS350BA Squirrel – Gisborne
- 6 Hawke's Bay Helicopter Rescue Trust
 - 1 x Cessna 421C and 1 x Piper Navajo fixed wing – Hastings
 - 2 x AS350 Squirrel helicopter – Hastings
- 7 Life Flight Trust Wellington
 - 1 x BK117B2 – Wellington
- 8 Nelson Marlborough Rescue Trust
 - 1 x AS350 Squirrel – Nelson
- 9 Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust
 - 1 x AS350 Squirrel – Greymouth
 - 1 x B117B2 and 1 x AS350 Squirrel helicopters – Christchurch
 - 2 x Cessna fixed wing – Christchurch
- 10 Lakes District Air Rescue Trust
 - 6 x AS350 Squirrel – Queenstown (Heliworks, The Helicopter Line, Glacier Southern Lakes)
 - 2 x AS350 Squirrel – Te Anau (Southwest helicopters, Southern Lakes helicopters)
- 10 Otago Rescue Helicopter Trust
 - 2 x BK117B2 – Dunedin



Coastguard Air Patrols

- Northland CAP: Light fixed wing
- Auckland CAP: Light fixed wing
- Bay of Plenty CAP: Light fixed wing
- Taranaki CAP: Light fixed wing
- Hawkes Bay CAP: Light fixed wing
- Kapiti CAP: Light fixed wing
- Nelson CAP: Light fixed wing
- Kaikoura CAP: Light fixed wing
- Canterbury CAP: Light fixed wing
- Southland CAP: Light fixed wing



New Zealand Police

- Auckland: Squirrel helicopter



New Zealand Defence Force

- Auckland: P3K Orion
- Ohakea: UH-1H Iroquois

Training

Comprehensive Training Structure for New Zealand's SAR Sector

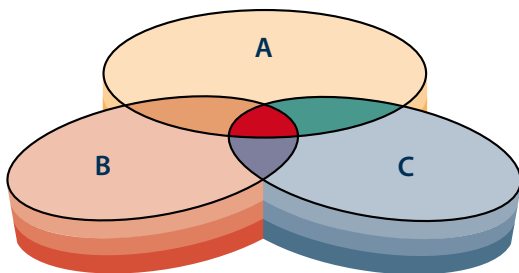
NZSAR began work this year to implement a thorough and wide-ranging training framework that will help individuals and organisations build greater connections, particularly during search and rescue operations (SAROPs).

The framework is one of the core recommendations from the NZSAR Council commissioned report: *Improving search and rescue outcomes through interagency collaboration and training*. It found that search and rescue (SAR) in New Zealand would benefit significantly if sector organisations and individuals were able to share their expertise and resources by planning, training and committing to working together with goodwill and better communication.

NZSAR Training Core Curriculum

At the heart of the NZSAR integrated training framework will be the NZSAR Training Core Curriculum, which is being developed under the auspices of the NZSAR Council. There are already many courses and other training activities offered throughout the SAR community. Every organisation has its own approach to promoting competence and development amongst its staff and members, and there are many 'public' courses designed to increase operational skills.

The Training Core Curriculum will not interfere with any of that, rather it will bring together the essence of several existing courses, adding a strategic level that overarches what is on offer already.

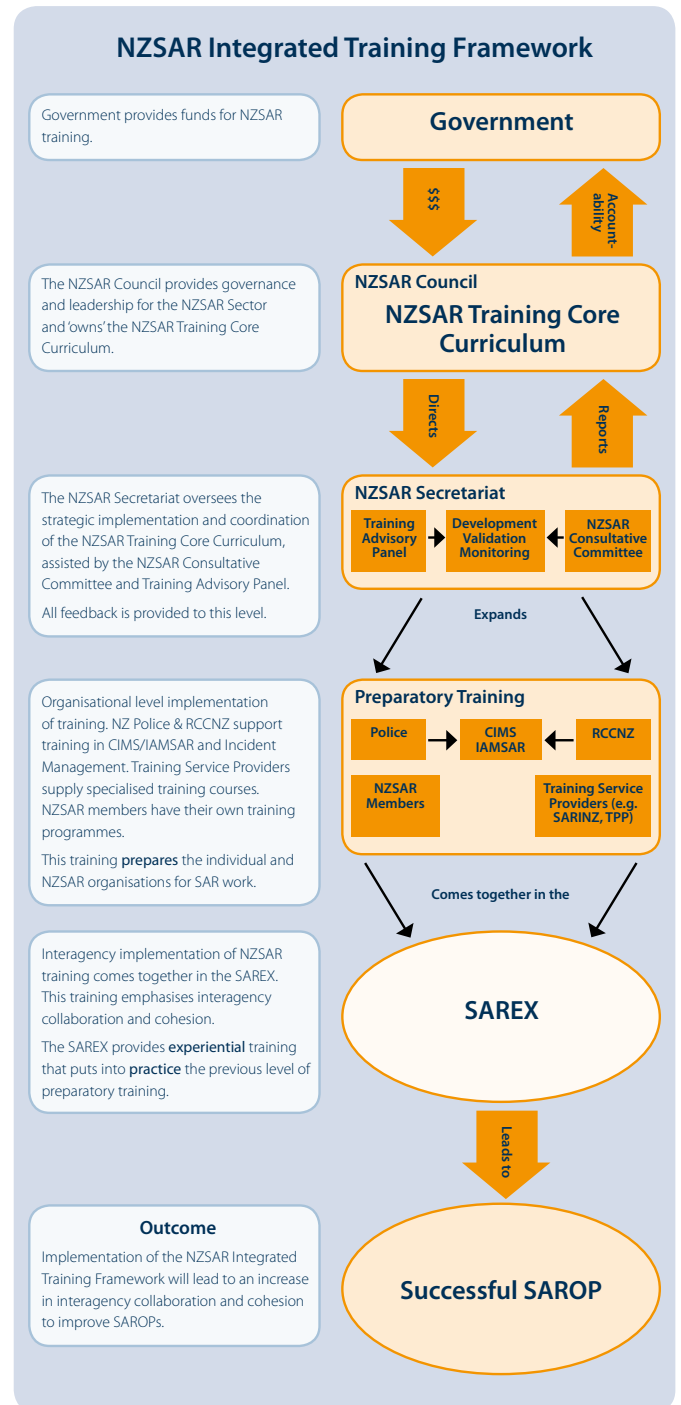


An NZSAR Core Curriculum Working Group has been set up to identify the common activities of SAR organisations and ways in which they can work together to share their skills and knowledge with their peers.

The content of the core curriculum will define the common activities practised across the SAR sector. Managers and trainers will use it when making decisions about training, not only for their organisation but also to identify opportunities for training with partner organisations in order to improve individual and multi-agency responses.

The purpose of this framework is to enhance training arrangements that already exist and to address identified training gaps so that a college of progressive thinkers about SAR, backed up

by a core curriculum of courses, can provide the sector's leaders with a platform of expertise and good practice that they can use as they wish in their organisations.



406 Beacon Campaign



Over the past four years, the NZSAR Secretariat ran a very successful campaign advising owners of the old style 121.5MHz and 243MHz distress beacons that they would need to make the switch to 406MHz distress beacons. This came to an end on 1 February 2009, when the international COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system that supported the old style beacons was switched off. This affected all maritime beacons (EPIRBs), all aviation beacons (ELTs) and all personal beacons (PLBs).

The new 406MHz beacons offer significant benefits in terms of safety. 406MHz signals can be received by both orbiting and geostationary satellites and each beacon has a unique identification code, which is part of its signal. If the beacon is registered with the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand, the code provides vital details to rescuers, including the owner's emergency contact details. From these, it's possible to find out more about the party in distress and their intentions.

The old beacons could provide a search area of around a thousand square kilometres within the New Zealand land mass, and about 900 to 1500 km from the coast. In contrast, the 406s are picked up across the entire globe and can narrow down the search area to approximately 20 square kilometres – and even down to a few square meters if the beacon is GPS enabled.

The campaign used a range of media, direct mail and other outlets to inform members of the public of the need to switch beacons. **A survey completed at the end of the campaign indicated that there was 94% awareness amongst current or former 121.5MHz beacon owners of the need to make the switch.** Fortunately, many had already done so. RCCNZ figures also show that by the end of the 2008/09 year over sixteen thousand 406MHz distress beacons had been registered with them.

How will a 406MHz beacon help save your life?

- **It works.** Only 406MHz beacons are monitored by satellite since 1 February 2009.
- **It's faster.** Once activated, the signal from a 406MHz beacon is picked up almost instantly by satellite.
- **It's more accurate.** 406MHz beacons give rescuers a search area of approximately 20 square kilometres. When GPS equipped, this area reduces down to only a few square metres.
- **It brings the right response.** With 406MHz beacons, alerts are cross-referenced against a database of registered owners. Being able to contact you, or a person you nominate, saves time and resources from being wasted on false alerts.

Helping save your life.

- 1) Check your beacon. **If it's not a 406:**
- 2) Disable it by disconnecting the battery.
- 3) Dispose of it safely by taking it to your nearest beacon disposal centre or Police station.
- 4) Find out what type of beacon is best for you by talking with a supplier.
- 5) Purchase a new beacon.
- 6) Register it for **free** with the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand.
- 7) Enjoy the outdoors with some peace of mind!

For more information and where to buy or rent, visit www.beacons.org.nz

SAR Awards



The 2008 NZSAR Gold Award winner John McLellan, from North Otago Search and Rescue.

Bravery, skill, innovation and 55 years of voluntary commitment, were attributes recognised and celebrated at the NZSAR Awards Ceremony held in Parliament in May. The Awards were presented by the Minister for Transport, Hon Steven Joyce.

The 2008 **NZSAR Gold Award** for the most significant contribution to SAR was presented to John McLellan, from North Otago Search and Rescue, for long-standing service to marine search and rescue.

John has been a key player in marine search and rescue in North Otago since September 1953. The most significant of John's many contributions to our sector is funding his own marine radio station. John and his wife Pauline have spent many hours every day monitoring both marine VHF and HF channels.

The Youthtown Trust Rescue helicopter crew – pilots John Funnell and Hendry de Waal, crewman Senior Constable Barry Shepherd and Advanced Paramedic Graeme Harvey – were awarded the **NZSAR Certificate of Achievement** for an important contribution to SAR. This was for the rescue operation involving four people on the fishing vessel *San Cuvier*, on 27 July 2008.

The team located and recovered two of the crew at the bottom of a vertical rock cliff, in tight ravines. Tragically, the other two members of the fishing vessel did not survive the incident. The team managed to recover one of the deceased.

Kevin O'Sullivan, from Coastguard Northern Region, received the second **NZSAR Certificate of Achievement** for Innovation in Marine Search and Rescue.

During his 35 years of service to Coastguard, Kevin has instigated and delivered a number of initiatives. He is acknowledged as the 'father' and leading promoter of the continuous 'NowCasting' weather forecasting service, which is currently being rolled out nationwide.

The NZSAR awards are judged by the NZSAR Council annually. There are two categories:

1. The NZSAR Gold Award honours the person, group or organisation that has made **the most** significant contribution to search and rescue.
2. The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement are awarded for an **important contribution**. More than one NZSAR Certificate can be awarded each year.

These awards are valuable not only for the contribution they acknowledge but also for raising community awareness about the efforts SAR people go to in this often complex and difficult work.

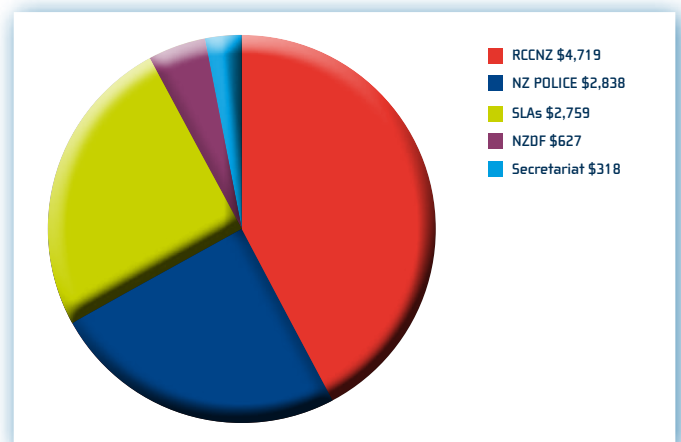
Government SAR Expenditure

The Government makes a significant investment in search and rescue each year. Much of the expenditure is variable in response to the number, length and type of SAR operations conducted in a given year. There are also significant overhead costs which ensure coordinating services are available 24/7 as well as ensuring SAR people are trained and equipped for SAR operations.

The Government spent \$11,261,000 on SAR objectives in the 2008/2009 financial year. The increase in expenditure over previous years is due to the inclusion of additional interim funding (approximately \$8.4m over two years) to address identified SAR strategic risks.

The graph below shows the breakdown of the Government's expenditure. The full cost for the provision of SAR services within the New Zealand search and rescue region is difficult to determine, due to the many organisations involved within the sector and variations on how each organisation accounts for its expenditure.

Government SAR Expenditure (\$,000)

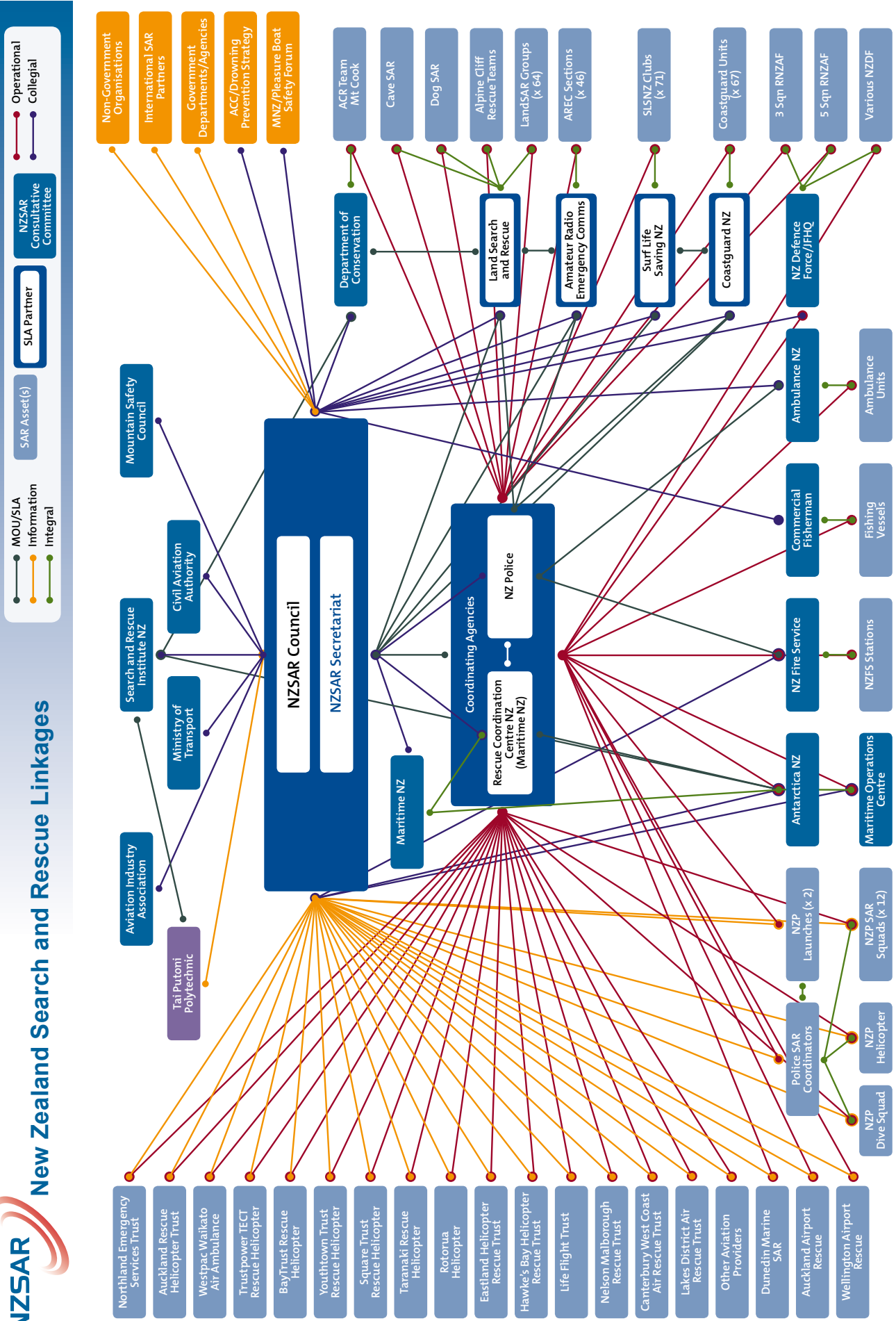


Notes:

- New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) costs are marginal costs only, reflecting fuel and other operational expenses, but not including the costs of wages, asset maintenance or training.
- Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) costs are subject to final auditing.
- Service Level Agreements (SLAs) were reached with Coastguard NZ, Surf Life Saving NZ and LandSAR NZ.



New Zealand Search and Rescue Linkages



The New Zealand search and rescue sector is diverse, with a complex web of linkages to enable effective and efficient responses.

NZSAR Plan 2009 – 2014

The NZSAR Council provides strategic leadership and direction to the many organisations that make up New Zealand's Search and Rescue sector.

As part of its ongoing commitment towards a more connected and cohesive sector the Council released The New Zealand Search and Rescue Plan 2009 – 2014 in June. The Plan gives an overview of our sector and among other things outlines NZSAR's:

Purpose

NZSAR will provide effective search and rescue services for people in distress throughout New Zealand's search and rescue region in order to save lives.

Vision

To find and rescue people in distress using New Zealand's community of search and rescue resources, expertise and services.

Values

The New Zealand search and rescue community will:

- be proficient at search and rescue;
- encourage open and effective communication;
- collaborate and co-operate between individuals, teams and organisations;
- learn from our individual and collective experiences;
- be efficient in the use of scarce resources;
- recognise the dedication, courage and commitment of the people who make up our sector.

Parameters

This plan does not alter or abrogate any participant organisations' SAR responsibilities as defined by statutes, executive orders or international agreements.

NZSAR Council goals

The NZSAR Council adopts these goals in order to lead the combined efforts of New Zealand's search and rescue sector to meet the purpose and vision of this plan.

- **To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of New Zealand's SAR sector**

With high public expectations of SAR success, and limited resources, it is important that the sector works hard to improve both its effectiveness and efficiency. To realise this, we will continue to improve our understanding of ourselves, our relationship with other SAR agencies, our operations, and the risks to the sector. We will use this information to develop our organisations, improve our ability to work together using common procedures, and reduce the risks facing the sector.



- **To achieve a culture of "one SAR body"**

Search and rescue works best when the sector works together. The sector is diverse, made up of thousands of people performing many different roles in a number of organisations. In order to achieve an effective culture of being "one SAR body", the sector will enhance its internal and external communications and better coordinate its standards, training and activity.

- **To promote continuous improvement**

The NZSAR Council will adapt to the ever changing environment and challenges it faces by making continuous improvements to its organisations, training and operations. This will be achieved through information sharing, showcasing good practices, promoting innovation and effective monitoring of the sector.

- **To maximise the potential of SAR people**

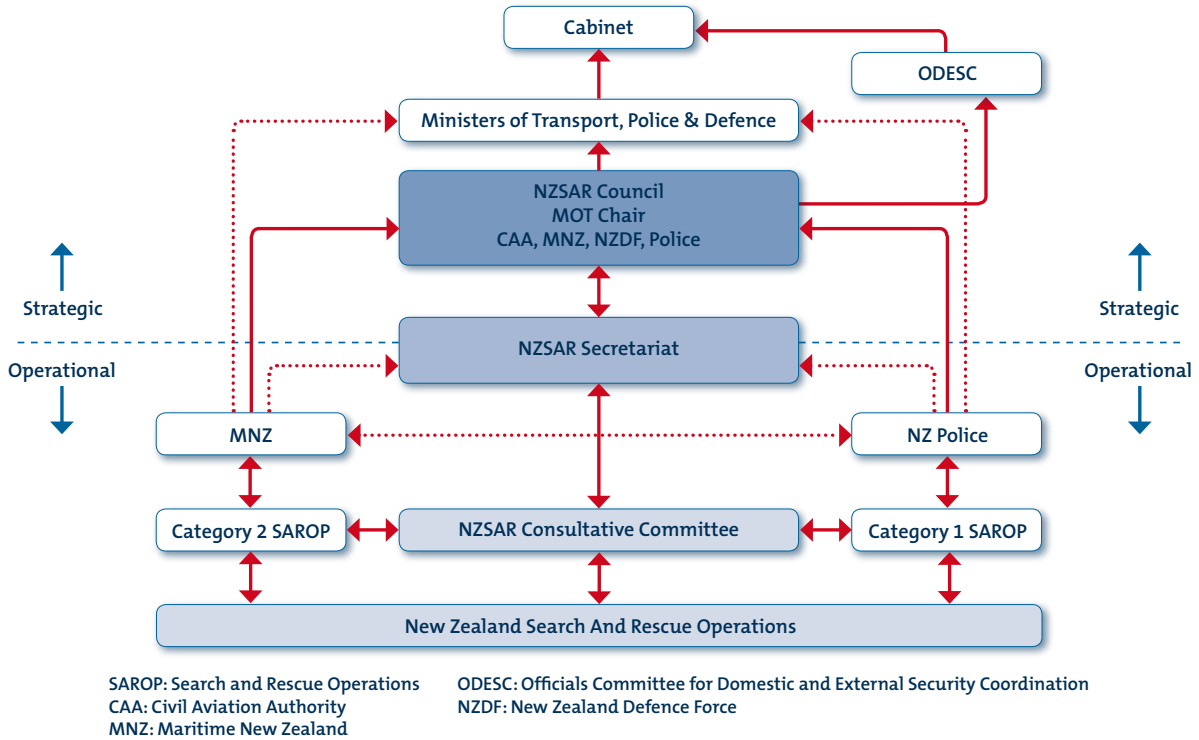
People are at the heart of New Zealand's search and rescue sector. We need a better understanding of who our SAR people are and what they need to succeed. We will support and promote the work our people do as we assist SAR organisations to manage, recruit and retain our SAR people.

- **To support SAR preventative strategies**

The NZSAR Council, together with dedicated specialist organisations and groups, has an important role to play in helping prevent the need for search and rescue responses. The Council will inform, support, contribute to and, when required, coordinate or lead preventative strategies and actions for individuals, groups and organisations that should lessen the likelihood of them needing search and rescue services.

Prevention involves individual, collective and organisational behaviour that minimises the risk of injury or loss of life. SAR organisations are not primarily responsible for preventative strategies, but we must play an active role in initiatives that minimise the need for our services where we can. This may include a mix of information, education, advice, influencing environmental factors, assessing risk, imparting skills, recommending appropriate equipment and regulation.

Governance



NZSAR Council

The Council's role is to provide national strategic governance to New Zealand search and rescue.

In keeping with the Council's high level strategic function, its membership is drawn from the chief executives (or delegated to a person from the senior executive level) of the Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force, Maritime New Zealand and the Civil Aviation Authority.

NZSAR Secretariat

The council is supported by the NZSAR Secretariat. Its purpose is to provide a national forum for all New Zealand SAR stakeholders including voluntary groups. It provides the Council with support services, policy advice and implements agreed measures to effectively coordinate strategic SAR in New Zealand.

Consultative Committee

The Committee provides advice to the Council and informs the strategic decision making process. Consultative committee members include:

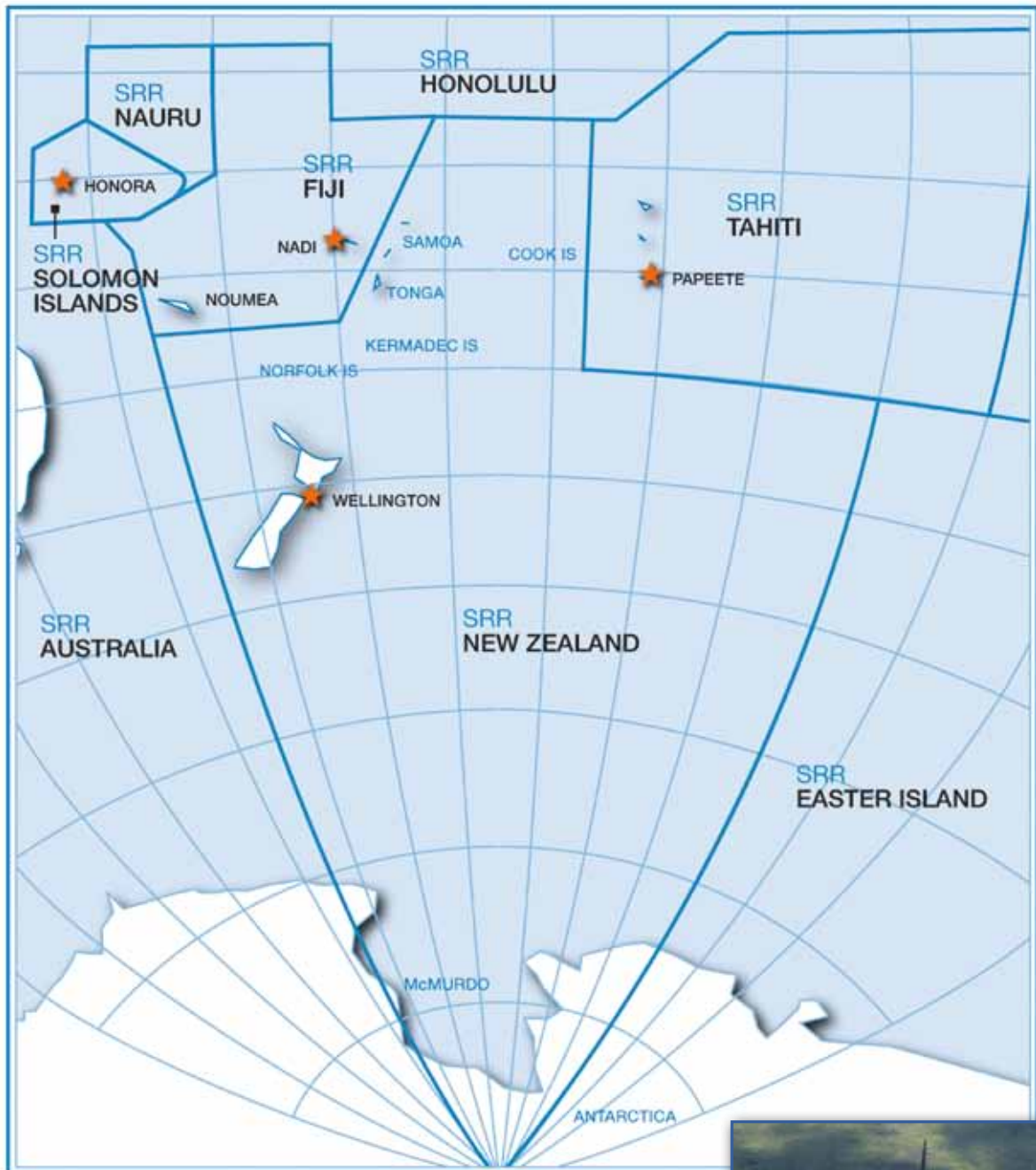
- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Ambulance New Zealand
- Antarctica NZ
- Aviation Industry Association
- Civil Aviation Authority

- Department of Conservation
- Federation of Commercial Fishermen
- Land SAR New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand
- Maritime Operations Centre
- Ministry of Transport
- New Zealand Defence Force
- New Zealand Police
- NZSAR Secretariat (Chair)
- Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand
- Royal New Zealand Coastguard Federation
- Search and Rescue Institute New Zealand
- Surf Life Saving NZ
- The New Zealand Mountain Safety Council
- The New Zealand Fire Service

The Council, Secretariat and Consultative Committee operate cohesively to ensure their objectives are successfully delivered.



New Zealand Search and Rescue Region



- ★ Rescue Coordination Centre
- Search and Rescue Region boundary of SSR



New Zealand Search and Rescue Council

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