

# NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE

Rapu Whakarauora Aotearoa



## Selflessness, bravery, and operational excellence honoured at NZ Search and Rescue Awards

Embargoed until 9pm Tuesday 17 May 2022

Earlier this evening, the Rt Hon Dame Cindy Kiro, DNZM, QSO, Governor-General of New Zealand presented the 2021 New Zealand Search and Rescue Awards.

These awards are presented annually in recognition of outstanding achievements within New Zealand's search and rescue region, which covers 30 million square kilometres.

Awards given in the Operations category recognise significant rescue operations that took place between 1 January and 31 December 2021.

Awards given in the Support category recognise the contributions of individuals to search and rescue in New Zealand.

One Gold Award and up to four Certificates of Achievement are awarded in each category. Twenty-eight nominations were received for 2021, with two Gold Awards and eight Certificates of Achievement being awarded at this year's ceremony.

"The calibre of this year's Award winners is very high," says New Zealand Search and Rescue Secretariat Director Duncan Ferner.

"Some of these individuals have involved in search and rescue for decades. Others have only been involved for a few years but have already had a tangible impact on the sector. Their skills, dedication and experience are typical of the search and rescue professionals that serve New Zealand.

"Every one of them has sacrificed time with their whānau, friends and communities to reunite families, and bring loved ones home."

Those who received awards were:

### **Gold Award – Operational**

The Gold Award for Operational Activity is awarded for a very significant contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2021.

***West Coast Police SAR Squad***  
***Christchurch Police SAR Squad***  
***South Westland LandSAR***  
***Hokitika LandSAR***  
***Methven LandSAR***  
***Aoraki/Mt Cook Alpine Rescue Team***  
***The Helicopter Line – Mt Cook***  
***Precision Helicopters***  
***GCH Aviation Rescue Helicopter***

For the rescue of a tramper near Mungo Pass on 23-27 February 2021.

### **Gold Award – Support**

The Gold Award for Support Activity is awarded for a very significant contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.

***Alan Doy***  
***LandSAR***

For his commitment to search and rescue and Taranaki LandSAR.

### **Certificates of Achievement – Operational Activity**

The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for **Operational Activity** are awarded for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2021.

***Christchurch Alpine Cliff Rescue Team***  
***GCH Aviation Greymouth Rescue Helicopter***  
***Christchurch Police SAR Squad***  
***Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand***

For the rescue of two climbers from Kaimatau/Mount Rolleston on 22-23 October 2021.

***Karekare Surf Life Saving Club***

For the rescue of an adult and two children from Karekare Beach on 21 November 2021.

***Senior Constable Mark Lendrum***

For the rescue of four adults near Kaiaua on 6 February 2021.

***Whangārei Police SAR Squad***  
***Northland LandSAR***  
***Far North LandSAR***  
***Whangārei Coastguard***  
***Ruakākā Surf Life Saving Club***  
***Skywork Helicopters***  
***Whangārei Fire Brigade***

For the rescue of a man from Mount Parihaka on 8-11 July 2021.

### **Certificates of Achievement – Support Activity**

The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for **Support Activity** are awarded for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region.

***Phoebe Havill***  
***Surf Life Saving New Zealand***

For her service and commitment to Surf Life Saving New Zealand and the Wāhine on Water programme.

**Peter Kara**

**Coastguard New Zealand Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa**

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Nelson.

**Richard Craig**

**Coastguard New Zealand Tautiaki Moana Aotearoa**

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and Coastguard Kaikoura.

**Ray Harkness**

**Amateur Radio Emergency Communications**

For his service and commitment to search and rescue and WanderSearch.

### **More information about the Awards and NZSAR**

Media access to the venue is not available this year, however some images from the ceremony can be supplied from approximately 9pm on the evening of the Awards. We can also arrange for the Award recipients to speak to media in the days leading up to the ceremony. Please contact Tania Seward to arrange this.

The New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Council was established in 2003 to provide strategic leadership to the New Zealand search and rescue sector. We help improve the overall co-ordination, cohesion, capability and leadership of search and rescue by working alongside the key organisations and individuals providing search and rescue services throughout New Zealand. For more information see [nzsar.govt.nz](http://nzsar.govt.nz)

In the year ending 30 June 2021, New Zealand's search and rescue sector responded to 2,966 incidents, resulting in 134 lives saved, 595 people rescued and 792 people assisted. There are over 11,500 people involved in search and rescue in New Zealand, with over 90 percent being volunteers.

Additional information including the full Award citations can be requested from Tania Seward.

### **Media contact**

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