



Literature Review
Coronial Recommendations
{Pertaining to SAR & Recreational Safety}

Recap Issues 26 – 11

Executive Summary:

The Coroner inquiries into a range of unexpected deaths to establish the identity of the person who has died and the cause and circumstances of their death.

While inquiring into a death, Coroner may make recommendations or comments for the purpose of reducing the chances of further deaths occurring in circumstances similar to those in which the death occurred.

The Office of the Chief Coroner issues a quarterly publication, titled Recommendations Recap. During the course of this Literature Review, sixty-three Search and Rescue (SAR) related incidents were considered over 16 issues.

In a number of cases the Coroner endorsed the Safety / Prevention messages already provided by relevant Recreational Safety agencies involved in the SAR Sector.

A number of recommendations have been useful in giving authority to stimulating discussion / action to improve existing safety measures / prevention messages in hazardous environments.

The recommendations have also stimulated user groups and interested people to convene and seek solutions to the problem.

It is also evident in the majority of cases, Government Departments, Local Government and communities have been proactive in making improvements to signage or messaging on Websites, in advance of Coronial deliberations.

The Coroner's recommendations have also highlighted the importance of the collaboration between the Coroner's Office, other Government Departments and organisations in the recreational space.

The Chief Coroner's Office has also commissioned a detailed analysis of death, associated to "Recreational Boat Deaths" (2015-2016) Recap Issue 15 and "Hiking" Recap Issue 11, which are very informative.

It is clear the Coroner relies upon the proactive Safety Messaging provided by the various disciplines and those involved in the Search and Rescue Sector.

The support that each provides to the other, is significant and plays an enormous role, in keeping those involved in their outdoor recreational endeavours safe.

Without visiting each site, it appears the vast majority of recommendations have been actioned.

Regrettably, despite the best prevention efforts of those involved in the recreational safety in the SAR Sector, people are still dying.

1. Recommendation:

1.1 Notwithstanding the Coroners need to remain independent and recognising the passage of time between an incident and the Coroner's Recommendation being published – the Office of the Chief Coroner and/or the SAR Secretariat convene a 6 monthly / yearly "Emerging Trends / Prevention Meeting" (virtual or otherwise) to discuss the mitigation of the areas of concern.

1.2 That the SAR Secretariat meets with the Chief Coroner's Office, on at least a yearly basis to offer advice on Search and Rescue Capabilities and Limitations.

1.3 That there is further analysis on the effectiveness of the Recreational Safety Prevention messaging.

2. Introduction:

The purpose of this Literature Review, is to review and collate all the recommendations that relate to SAR by theme or type.

Within each theme analyse the SAR related Coroner recommendations and establish if that recommendation is, still relevant – not yet addressed, still relevant – addressed in part or full or is no longer relevant.

Identify and comment on any current programmes or activities underway that are of relevance to the recommendations.

The recommendations reviewed were those published by the Office of the Chief Coroner, in the Recommendations Recap, Issues 26 – 11.

3. Review Methodology:

Identify and read cases that have relevance to Search and Rescue (SAR & Recreational Safety).

Review the recommendations and collate all recommendations that relate to SAR by theme or type.

Within each theme;

(a) Analyse the SAR related Coroner recommendations and where possible identify each recommendation as;

(i) still relevant, not yet addressed

(ii) still relevant, addressed in part or full, or

(iii) no longer relevant.

Identify and comment on any current programmes or activities underway that are of relevance to the recommendations.

4. Findings:

Safety initiatives have often been instigated ahead of Coronial recommendations being issued;

Renata [2021] NZCorC 37 (18 March 2021)

Choi [2020] NZCorC 35 (30 June 2020)

Jentsch [2019] NZCorC 38 (2 August 2019)

Wu [2018] NZCorC 100 (20 December 2018)

Azmi [2018] NZCorC 63 (23 July 2018)

Porter [2016] NZCorC 36 (19 April 2016)

Coronial recommendations have not been proffered because the issues are well recognised and prevention advice provided by established agencies.

The number of reviews totalled sixty-three.

The number of deaths totalled seventy-one.

On thirty-one occasions the Coroner has endorsed the advice provided by the relevant agencies.

On forty occasions the Coroner has endorsed the existing safety advice.

On thirty-three occasions the Coronial recommendations have served as a valuable / important prompt, for Government Departments / Organisations / Local Government to highlight hazards and amplify the recommendations.

There were twenty recommendations requesting improvements to signage and eleven recommendations that the hazard is highlighted on the relevant website.

Recap Issue 15 – Has a comprehensive analysis of “Recreational Boat Deaths” [2015 – 2016]

Recap Issue 11 – Has a comprehensive analysis of deaths associated with “Hiking”

Across Recap Issues 26 – 11, there are forty-eight Water related incidents (53 victims), ten deaths associated with Climbing – all but one in mountainous terrain, four with Tramping and three with Hunting.

5. Conclusions:

In the majority of cases District Councils / Regional Councils have been proactive in mitigating further risk, that is, either erecting “hazard signs” or fencing, prior to the Coroner issuing his/her recommendations.

Government Departments, Agencies, Organisations and Interest Groups are proactive in promoting safety messages in their respective areas of responsibility / recreational activities.

The intensity of these messages is aligned to the respective seasonal activity.

National Media outlets often report on the incident but the Coronial recommendations are not that prominent.

Local Media devote greater coverage to Coronial recommendations.

Water related activities are the most hazardous, followed by those activities associated with Mountaineering, Tramping and Hunting.

Coroners recommendations are supported by many existing Prevention and Safety messages.

There are a number of excellent Recreational Safety Campaigns in existence. The Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and Plan My Walk campaigns, initiated by the MSC whilst in the aquatic environment, Water Skills for Life (Water Safety NZ) are and will make a difference.

Often, in close proximity to a person participating in an outdoor recreational activity, is their engagement or lack of with a Hazard sign.

Tables:

Table 1: Theme by Broad Category

Type of Activity		Number
Drowning		48 Incidents
Swimming	17	
Diving	14	
Rafting	1	
Boating	7	
Kayaking	3	
Shore Fishing	4	
Tramping	2	
Climbing		10 Incidents
Fall	9	
Avalanche	1	
Hunting		3 Incidents
Tramping		2 Incidents

Table 2: Activity Recommendations

Activity	No of Reviews	Recommendation Themes	Comment on Recommendations
Swimming	17	<p>Improved Signage: {15}</p> <p>Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {10}</p> <p>Include on Website: {5}</p> <p>Refers to Established Agencies: {3}</p> <p>Endorses existing Safety Advice: {9}</p>	<p>Signage was either, non-existent, vandalised or needed enhancement.</p> <p>Some websites did not alert the reader to hazards.</p> <p>Often the appropriate Safety Advice existed (Water Safe NZ) which was reiterated by the Coroner</p>
Diving	14	<p>Improved Signage: {1}</p> <p>Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {4}</p> <p>Include on Website: {1}</p> <p>Refer to Established Agencies: {7}</p> <p>Endorses existing Safety Advice: {7}</p>	<p>The Police National Dive Squad (PNDS) recommendations and existing Safety Advice for Scuba Diving were reiterated by the Coroner.</p>

Rafting	1	Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {1}	
Boating	7	Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {4} Refers to Established Agencies: {3} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {3}	The published safety recommendations from Maritime NZ, Coastguard NZ, Surf Life Saving were the foundations of the recommendations.
Kayaking	3	Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {3} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {3}	
Shore Fishing	4	Refers to Established Agencies: {1} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {4}	
Tramping (Drowning)	2	Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {2} Refers to Established Agencies: {2} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {2}	Existing Safety Advice from the Mountain Safety Council, DOC and other SAR participants influenced the recommendations
Fall	9	Improved Signage: {2} Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {4} Include on Website: {3} Refers to Established Agencies: {6} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {9}	Existing Safety Advice from the Mountain Safety Council and other SAR participants influenced the recommendations Initiatives mentioned include – Avalanche Advisory Mountain Weather advice
Hunting	3	Include on Website: {1} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {3}	Coroner referenced the well-established Firearms Safety Code
Tramping	2	Improved Signage: {2} Requests Govt Depts, Local Govt, Agencies, NGO – to highlight hazard & amplify recommendations: {2} Include on Website: {1} Refers to Established Agencies: {2} Endorses existing Safety Advice: {3}	Existing Safety Advice from the Mountain Safety Council, DOC and other SAR participants influenced the recommendations Initiative - the possession / use of a PLB may have meant a different outcome for the victims.

Table 3: Recommendation Themes

Signage (20)	Swimming Tramping Boating Climbing Hunting	16 1 1 1 1
Safety Plan (6)	Swimming Rafting Kayaking Climbing	2 1 1 2
Website (11)	Swimming Diving Hunting Tramping Climbing	5 1 1 1 3
Publication (30)	Swimming Kayaking Diving Boating Rafting Tramping Climbing	10 3 4 4 1 4 4
Existing Prevention Advice (40)	Swimming Kayaking Diving Hunting Boating Rafting Tramping Shore based Fishing Climbing	4 2 13 2 6 1 1 4 7

Appendix: 1

Case & Recommendations

Case & Recommendations	Incident	Issue/s	Still Relevant Not Addressed	Still Relevant Addressed in Part	No Longer Relevant	Actions Taken or under Consideration
Renata[2021] NZCorC (18Mar2021)	Drowning Cable Bay	Dangerous Beach			X	Local initiative addressed floatation device issue
<i>a - Far Nth Council erect Water Safety signage at Cable Bay approaches</i>						https://fndc.govt.nz Comprehensive; General hazards, Beach hazards, Identifies Cable Bay, Taipa Beach and Coopers Beach; Water Safety links to Surf Life Saving NZ – Stay Safe & Beach hazards; Be Safe -findabeach.co.nz
<i>b - Extend signage to the beaches – Taipa Bay / Coopers</i>						
<i>c - Doubtless Bay Promotion Inc Amend its website to include warnings</i>						
<i>d - Far Nth District Council website To include warnings</i>						
<i>e - Water Safety Agencies & others to develop Emergency Response Plan</i>						
<i>f - Consultation with Surf Life Saving re appropriate Rescue Equipment</i>						
Rawhiti[2021]NZCorC 20 (10 February 2021)	Drowning Diving Swimming Otangawhiti (Sandy Bay)	Remote area, No signage re possible dangers – currents, tides			X	
TUITALAU [2021] NZCor26 (1 MARCH 2021)	Hokitika Gorge Drowning - Swimming	River – dangerous eddies, possibly no signage				
<i>i – Water Safety New Zealand provide information on its website regarding safe swimming in rivers</i>						
<i>iii – Unclear from evidence any signage about changes posed by multiple eddies in Hokitika River near the Hokitika Gorge – if not DOC to give consideration to the same</i>						

CHAND & Smith [2021 NZCorC 2 (30 October 2020)	Climbing - Fall (27/4/2017) Marian Peak – Darren Mountains - Foridland	Incorrect technique			X	Covered off by existing MSC recommendations
Deutschbein [2021 NZCorC 7(18 January 2021)	Climbing – Avalanche fatality (29/01/2018) Eugenie Glacier Aoraki – Mount Cook National Park	Weather & Snow Conditions rapidly changing – failure to appreciate conditions				
Endorses MSC recommendations to mountaineers						
Specifically recommends – MSC and other interest groups to give publicity to those recommendations and adopt them in educational programmes						
Rogers [2021] NZCorC 12 (25 January 2021)	Drowning - Diving (04 January 2019) Black Rocks off Moturoa Island Bay of Islands	Poor Diving practice & procedures				
<i>Recommendations of Police National Dive Squad (PNDS) endorsed by Coroner. Safe Practice for Divers</i>						
<i>Direct findings be provided to Water Safety New Zealand & editors of Dive NZ magazine for dissemination as appropriate</i>						Relevant disciplines to disseminate
Tornmarck [2021] NZCorC 52 (30 March 2021)	Cause of Death unknown. Missing Hunter Regina Creek area – Karangarua Valley – 13/22 May 2017	Overestimated ability, poorly prepared			X	MSC and DOC provide extensive advice
<i>DOC undertake to improve info about hazards and risks it provides to visitors</i>						
<i>Endorses recommendations made by MSC</i>						
RECAP ISSUE 25						
Zarifeh [2020] NZCorC 98 (19 November 2020)	Drowning – Rafting – Landsbrough River, West Coast 9 th December 2017	-River in flood -Experience of some of group questionable -Lack of rescue kit				

<i>Recommendation that Whitewater NZ, Maritime NZ & Water Safety NZ include comments in any safety information they provide to recreational river rafters and kayakers.</i>						
RECAP ISSUE 24						
Anderson & De Bruyn [2020] NZCorC 62 (17 September 2020)	Drowning Te Horo Beach Te Horo 23 January 2017	-No Life Jackets -Inflatable raft inappropriate for environment -No boating experience				
<i>Coroner endorses Maritime NZ promotion of use of recreational boating activities</i>						Covered off by Maritime NZ promotions, Coastguard etc
Fraser [2020] NZCorC 37 (2 July 2020)	Mt Climbing – Fall Mt Taranaki 27 June 2017	-Inexperience -Incompatible equipment			X	
<i>No coronial recommendations as recommendations made by MSC are consistent with current proactive prevention focussed messaging delivered by the MSC and its partners</i>						MSC provides extensive advice as does DOC
ISSUE 23						
Tautairi [2020] NZCorC 22 (26 May 2020)	Drowning – Diving for Paua – Kawakaputa Bay, Southland 30 Dec 2017	Poor driving Practice Diving alone			X	
<i>Endorses recommendations of the PNDS</i>						
Arvandam [2020] NZCorC 21 (22 May 2020)	Drowning Omanawa Falls 22 April 2018	Swept into pool by dangerous current			X	Council have addressed access
Aziz [2020] NZCorC 19 (21 May 2020)	Drowning – between Kauritutahi Island and Brooks Beach 4 th Feb 2018	No life jacket while fishing – caught by tide on return journey to shore			X	Auckland Council efforts re water safety and general info on value of lifejackets
Choi [2020] NZCorC 35 (30 June 2020)	Drowning Ngaruroro River Mouth 5 th December 2015	International Student poor swimming ability			X	New Horizon College of English has amended students handbook on Outdoor Safety
Halehally – Chikkanna [2020] NZCorC 16 (7 May 2020)	Tramping – hypothermia – Red Crater Lake – Mount Tongariro National Park 1 Oct 2018	Inexperience Inadequately clothed for terrain and environment			X	Issues being addressed
<i>Endorsed comments by MSC re increased signage and advice on Alpine Crossing direction of travel – work</i>						There are two prominent and clear signs, on either side of the track, at the Ketetahi end of the Alpine Crossing; (i) on the right,

<i>underway by "Issue Specific Advisory Group".</i>						is headlined STOP and recommends that the reader starts at the Mangatepopo end of the track and warns that you add 350 vertical meters to your climb. This message is underlined with an "Elevation Graphic" (ii) on the left is a DOC sign. It suggests the reader would be better to start from the other end. It also warns the reader to consider the weather and offers alternative options. There is a large Topo Map which clearly identifies where the reader is and where the suggested start point is. Additionally; the website tongariocrossing.org.nz is comprehensive and is replete with safety messages. doc.govt.nz Tongariro Alpine Crossing is comprehensive – identifying Winter and Summer Period – Planning Considerations, Hazards & Safety messages.
Issue 22						
Brookes [2020] NZCorC 2 (13 January 2020)	Drowning Diving – Motunau Beach, Nth Canterbury , 5 th March 2017	Poor Diving practice and technique			X	Comments on a number of other similar cases
Hollnsteiner & Murphy [2020] NZCorC 5 (17 February 2020)	Drowning – Kayaking , Lake Tekapo, 25 Sept 2015	Poor Operator Practice No MOSS "Maritime Operator Safety System"			X	
<i>Findings sent to : NZ Media outlets The Sea Kayakers Association of NZ Water Safety New Zealand Maritime NZ Worksafe</i>						
ISSUE 21						
Che [2019] NZCorC 52 (24 October 2019)	Tramping – Mt Robert ridgeline – Nelson Lakes National Park – 11/15 July 2018	hypothermia			X	
<i>Endorsed comments of MSC re safe tramping practice</i>						
ISSUE 20						
Buckley [2019] NZCorC 45 (22 August 2019)	Drowning – Diving – Stephens Island – Marlborough – 28 February 2017	Poor Diving Practice / Technique			X	

<i>General reiteration of Safe Diving Practices</i>						
Hodges [2019] NZCorC 36 (19 July 2019)	Drowning – Diving (Shallow water blackout) Sandfly Bay – Dunedin – 3 rd February 2017	Poor Diving Practice (One up One Down)			X	
<i>General reiteration of Safe Diving Practices</i>						
ISSUE 20						
Jentsch [2019] NZCorC 38 (2 August 2019)	Drowning - Swimming Hukatere Beach, Pukenui Far North 4 Dec 2016	Swimming in Unsafe conditions. No warning signs			X	Warning signs now in existence, erected by Te Onerua – a Tohe Board
<i>Comment on work of WSNZ emotional program</i>						
Power [2019] NZCorC 28 (3 July 2019)	Drowning – Free Diving – Shallow water Blackout	Poor Diving Practice (Diving alone)			X	
<i>Endorses Best Practice comments from Police National Dive Team (PNDT)</i>						
Leech [2019] NZCorC 40 (9 August 2019)	Hunting 2 April 2018 <i>No location specified</i>	Poor Hunting Practice (Fails to ID target)			X	
Reiterates advice in Firearms Safety Code						
Issue 19						
Nil						
Issue 18						
Cooper [2018] NZCorC 82 (5 Nov 2018)	Drowning Aparima Riverton 17 Oct 2015	Alcohol – Flooded River			X	
<i>Endorses Water Safety messages</i>						
Gardner [2018] NZCorC 84 (8 November 2018)	Drowning – Swimming Kawarau River Bannockburn 10 Dec 2016	-Swimming in unfamiliar water - No signage		?		
Recommendation to Crown Property & Central Otago District Council – Erect signage in prominent locations on shore in vicinity of the pontoon in the Kawarau River						
Wu [2018] NZCorC 100 (20 December 2018)	Drowning – Swimming Uretiti Beach, Waipu 22 November 2015	-Victim over estimated ability to swim -Inflatable dinghy -Changeable weather -Lack of signage			X	Signage erected in December 2015

<i>Endorses recommendation of Surf Life Saving NZ</i>						
<i>Issue 17</i>						
Tiatia [2018] NZCorC 61 (19 July 2018)	Drowning – Fishing Fisherman’s Rock Point Paieka Bay Waitakere 28 February 2015	-Fell into blowhole -No Life Jacket -Caught out by tide			X	
<i>Endorses Safe Fishing Practices from Water Safety NZ</i>						
Azmi [2018] NZCorC 63 (23 July 2018)	Drowning – Swimming Waikupe Landing Lake Karapiro 26 February 2017	-Victim couldn’t swim -Unaware of variance in depth of water -No danger signage			X	
<i>Waipa Distict Council & Waikato Regional Council working to erect sign & deploy “warning in water buoys” Endorsed by Coroner</i>						Remedial work underway
Lesoa [2018] NZCorC 68 (14 Sept 2018)	Drowning – Boating – Bar Capsize – Manukau Harbour – 2 April 2015	Poor Bar Crossing Technique			X	
<i>Recommendation: That Skippers of recreational boats familiarise themselves with information and advice provided by Maritime NZ website in relation to bar crossings & Maritime NZ National Code of Practice for Bar Crossing Notice</i>						Extensive warnings / advice provided by various agencies and publications; -Maritime NZ -Coastguard -Regional Councils nzfishingworld.co.nz boatiesbestmate.nz fishing.net.nz
De Jong [2018] NZCorC 72 (5 September 2018)	Drowning – Aratiatia Dam Rapids – Waikato River 6 th February 2017	Access Safety Check			X	
<i>Recommendation: Signage – more explicit – Swimming Prohibited – physical check of area – (perhaps by Drone)</i>						Additional signage and more substantive barriers erected
Smith [2018] NZCorC 70 (24 August 2018)	Fall – Rock Climbing “free solo” Charleston West Coast 3 April 2017	No Helmet No Rope			X	
<i>Endorses recommendation of MSC</i>						Covered off by MSC

<i>– “Free solo climbing is inherently dangerous and is not an activity that MSC would encourage people to participate in”</i>						
Issue 16						
Hollaway [2018] NZCorC 53: Thislethwaite [2018] NZCorC 54 (26 June 2018)	Mountaineering – climbing fall Mt Silberhorn Aoraki – Mt Cook National Park 29 Dec 2015	-Diminished vigilance on descent -Incorrect establishment of anchor points			X	
<i>Endorses recommendations of MSC; Increased vigilance on descent Vigilant to sections that expose mountaineers to the possibility of high factor falls Discuss best method & equipment use & correct establishment of anchor points</i>						Covered off by MSC
Seiuli [2018] NZCorC 35 (26 April 2018)	Drowning – Boat launching – Waipuna Boat Club Ramp Pamure Estuary 25 April 2015	Incorrectly fitted Life Jacket			X	
<i>Re-emphasises the safety messages associated with recreational small vessel suuage – copy of findings to CEO’s of Maritime NZ, MOT, Water Safety NZ, Auckland Council – as a potential means of informing any future safety messages</i>						Covered off by Maritime NZ and other others
Smith [2018] NZCorC 37 (16 May 2018)	Drowning – Swimming – Takou Bay Beach, Northland , 17 January 2015	Dangerous Beach No signage warning of dangers			X	
<i>Recommendation: Takou Trust; Installs safety signage at all access tracks to Takou Bay Considers creating a safety pamphlet on site dangers (particularly relating to water safety) for visitors to Takou Bay even when no one is on site to manage access</i>						
Parker [2008] NZCorC 38 (21 May 2018)	Drowning – Bogie Boarding – Pakiri Beach – Northland	Rough and windy conditions			X	

	3 March 2018					
<i>Reiterates – Water Safety NZ safety guidelines in and around water – Two guidelines in particular – make sure you are aware of the water conditions (and the presence of any rips or currents) and being alert to the dangers.</i>						
Wooton [2018] NZCorC 43; Samuela [2018] NZCorC 44 (30 May 2018)	Boating – Bar Crossing {returning} Manukau Bar Manukau Harbour 29 December 2014	Conditions had changed – Bar was dangerous for the return journey			X	
<i>Emphasises the need for all mariners to use the “Bar Watch” system. The crossing of bars in NZ Waters is inherently dangerous even in perfect conditions</i>						Extensive warnings / advice provided by various agencies and publications; -Maritime NZ -Coastguard -Regional Councils nzfishingworld.co.nz boatiesbestmate.nz fishing.net.nz
Faitaua [2018] NZCorC 45 (1 June 2018)	Drowning – Swimming O’Neill Bay near Bethells Beach Auckland 15 January 2015	Caught in rip			?X	
<i>Recommendation: -DOC liaises with Surf life Saving NZ & Auckland Council for the purpose of installing and (if necessary) relocating water safety signage at access tracks to O’Neill Bay Beach from Te Henga walkway -DOC provide link to SLSNZ’s “Find a Beach” website on its website for the Te Henga walkway</i>						
ISSUE 15						
Focus on Recreational Boating Deaths – analysed the 21 deaths in closed Coronial findings issued from 2015 -2016 where a person has died in recreational boating circumstances. Identified four Key Risk Factors in recreational boating		-Failure to wear Life Jackets in small craft -Not being able to communicate when an accident happens -Failure to check forecasts to avoid boating in bad weather & sea conditions -Alcohol consumption, as it is likely to				

		impair judgement and maybe a factor in accidents & fatalities				
Priestley [2018] NZCorC 8 (1 February 2018)	Drowning – Diving Pourerere Beach Southern HB 19 June 2016	Poor diving Practice Poorly maintained Scuba gear			?	
<i>Encourages Water Safety NZ to continue their efforts to educate recreational divers on all aspects of diving</i>						Additional comments from Water Safety NZ in reply
Issue 14						
Jacomb [2017] NZCorC 50 (25 September 2017)	Fall – Mountaineering Whataroa, West Coast 2 nd January 2016	Bum sliding – Lack of terrain awareness			X	
-Outdoor training providers should continue to include risks associated with “Bum Sliding” as part of their educational material. Trainers should continue to reiterate the absolute need to ensure people are aware of what is below them at all times when travelling in difficult terrain, especially where hazards such as bluffs or crevasses exist. -Encourage the MSC and other applicable interest groups to give publicity to these recommendations and to adopt them in educational programmes						
Horell [2017] NZCorC 28 (21 July 2017)	Drowning – Kayaking , Te Waewae Bay , Southland 20 February 2015	Kayak not suitable for sea conditions, Life Jacket & clothing inappropriate			X	
Agreed with Maritime NZ advice & noted kayakers should ensure that they are appropriately attired and have the correct safety equipment available						
Dawson [2017] NZCorC 31 (18 July 2017)	Drowning – Scuba Diving Akaroa Heads Akaroa Peninsula	Poor diving Technique / Practice / Equipment maintenance			X	

	19 December 2014					
Endorsed PNDS recommendations for recreational divers to enhance safety when diving						
X [2017] NZCorC 45 (29 June 2017)	Drowning – Fishing – Surf casting – Rivermouth – Clarence River – Marlborough - 26 March 2016				X	
Reiterated the existing safety measures for those who engage in recreational fishing, including surf casting in and around NZ's coastal & tidal waters						
Jane [2017] NZCorC 48 (22 September 2017)	Drowning – Diving – Akaroa – Banks Peninsula – 22 October 2016	Diving without Buddy			X	
Reiterated Water Safety NZ recommendations – copy sent to Diving organisations to assist in their educational role						
Rivett [2017] NZCorC 65 (13 November 2017)	Drowning river Crossing – Deception River – Otira – 3 January 2016	Inexperience , Poor technique, Group Management , Decision making			X	
Reiterates MSC recommendations on river crossings MSC and organisers of Coast to Coast, give publicity to the circumstances of this death, causative features, recommendations of MSC						
Wakelin [2017] NZCor 70 Wakelin [2017] NZCorC 71 (30 November 2017)	Drowning – Rip – Heavy Surf	Sea stae “turbulent & rough”			X	
Reiterates Surf Life Saving recommendations – Safe swimming at beaches & Rip extraction techniques						
Linesses [2017] NZCorC 75 (11 December 2017)	Drowning – Rip – Hukatere Beach – 90 Mile Beach – Northland – 27 December 2015	Changeable Sea state – Not recognising the dangers – No hazard signs			X	FNDC working with stakeholders
Recommendation;						

“that FNDC facilitates the erection of water safety signage which meets the requirements of the combined Australia / New Zealand Standard at the road entrance to Hukatere Beach						
Roucher [2017] NZCorC 21 (8 May 2017)	Fall Mountaineering – Mt Taranaki 7 th June 2016	-No Experience -Winter conditions -No info on website re winter route to the summit			X	MSC & DOC to investigate the need for further detailed winter climbing info
MSC & DOC investigate the provisions of more detailed winter climbing conditions information (including route selection, equipment and gear) to climbers on Mt Taranaki						
Tall [2017] NZCorC 26 929 June 2017)	Hunting – U/D – Nevis Valley Central Otago ¼ March 2016	-Incorrect clearance of firearm -Firearm pointing in wrong direction			X	
Reiterates the existing firearm safety messages for those who engage in recreational hunting						
Duncan [2017] NZCorC 9 (21 March 2017)	Drowning – Kayaking – Lake Coleridge – Canterbury 4 April 2015	Dangerous conditions No Life Jacket			X	
Highlights need for Kayakers to correctly access conditions and the need to wear a Life Jacket						
Collins [2017] NZCorC 11 (3 February 2017)	Drowning - Scuba Diving Phillips Point Lyllall Bay Wellington 20 December 2015	Inexperienced Scuba Diver Poor Diving Practice			X	
Reiterates recommendations of the PNDS – Safe Diving Practices						
ISSUE 12						
Liu [2016] NZCorC 66 (23 September 2016)	Drowning – Beach Rip Ruapuke Beach Raglan 25 December 2015	Poor Sea State Rip conditions			X	
Reiterates risks of entering Coastal Surf Break without						

appreciating the risks that maybe encountered						
Loh [2016] NZCorC 87 (14 August 2016)	Drowning Tolaga Bay Wharf 25 February 2015	Poor Swimming ability		?		
Recommends Gisborne District Council erect a sign at the wharf, warning of the dangers of entering the water when sea conditions make swimming & exiting the water hazardous & to access sea conditions and swimming ability before entering the water						Gisborne District Council website appears silent on the potential hazards of swimming off the wharf
Cashell [2016] NZCor 95 (30 November 2016)	Drowning – Scuba Diving – Red Rocks Owhiro Bay Wellington 12 December 2015	Unsafe Dive Practices			X	
Reiterates PNDS recommendations regarding Safe Diving practice & procedures						
Pitman [2016] NZCor C 108 (2 December 2016)	Drowning – Ocean off Waikuku Beach North Cape NZ 14 October 2014	Unsafe Dive Practices / Techniques			X	
Reiterates PNDS recommendations regarding Safe Diving practice & procedures						
ISSUE 11						
Brown [2016] NZCor 25 (1 March 2016)	Drowning – Scuba Diving Momorangi Bay Marlborough Sounds	Unsafe Dive Practices / Techniques Health conditions incompatible with Scuba Diving				
Reiterates PNDS recommendations regarding Safe Diving practice & procedures						
Viellehiner [2016] NZCor C 4 , (11 January 2016) Viellehiner [2016] NZCor C 5, (11 January 2016) Bishop [2016] NZCor C 6, (11 January 2016)	Climbing Mountaineering Upper Linda Glacier Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park 29 December 2014	Unfamiliarity with NZ Alpine conditions			X	
Recommendations:						
Coroner - I comment that deaths which have						

been the subject of this inquiry are further examples of mountaineers who are recent visitors to New Zealand failing to understand the fact that conditions in the alpine areas of New Zealand are different from conditions in the mountains in other countries.						
Lessard [2016] NZCor 21 Lemieux [2016] NZCor 22 (7 February 2016)	Tramping – Avalanche Kepler Track Fiordland National Park	-Unsafe weather conditions -Failure to heed advice				
Recommendations: -Enhancement to existing practices at Visitor Centre at Fiordland National Park -Kepler Track Management -Management of avalanche hazards -Installation of signage on the Kepler Track identifying to trampers the areas of acute avalanche risk present by paths in the vicinity						Comprehensive response from DOC
July [2016] NZCorC 23 (9 February 2016)	Drowning – Kayaking Kaituna River Okere Falls Rotorua 11 March 2015	-Grade 5 Rapid -Underwater Hazards unknown -Inadequate signage				
“Forum be held of all interested people and users of the Kaituna River and those involved in extreme sports						
Case Number CSU-2015-Ham-000013- NZCorC 26	Drowning – Paddleboard Whangamata Harbour Whangamata DATE ?	-Paddle Board leash caught -Strong current -Adequacy of signage				
Recommendation: OffLine – Catchphrase adequacy of signage						Waikato Regional Council responded. (unable to access)
Wong [2016] NZCorC 30 (5 April 2016)	Drowning – Whitbaiting Lake Ferry Palliser Bay Southern Wairarapa 18 August 2015	Poor swimmer Struck by wave Obsolete Surf Life Saving Equipment used			X	
Recommendation: -Not to use Surf Life Saving Reel						

-Any rescue equipment used only by trained, competent person						
Porter [2016] NZCorC 36 (19 April 2016)	Drowning – Swimming Waipu River Mouth 5 th January 2015	11 years of age Poor swimmer Remote Limited Access			X	Awareness campaign Swimming Hazard signs installed at three entry points Volunteer Group formed to alert beach goers to hazards
No Recommendations Commends initiatives already undertaken						
Smith [2016] NZCorC 43 (7 March 2016)	Drowning – Yacht – Plimmerton Porirua Wellington 8 th February 2015	Incorrectly fitted gas cannister on Life Jacket				
Recommendation: Self-inflating Life jackets serviced and maintained by recognised experts						
Sharma [2016] NZCorC 44 (9 February 2016)	Drowning Geothermal Hot Pool Rotorua 7 December 2013	Significant exposure to hydrogen sulphide			X	RDC introduces Bylaw making it mandatory to display sign
Recommendation: Rotorua District Council consider making compulsory in its redactory control of thermal pools that the signage clearly displays a warning that the users of pools should not bath alone						
<u>CASE STUDY</u>	<u>RECREATIONAL DEATHS - HIKING</u>					
Lessard [2016] NZCorC 21 Lemleux [2016] NZCorC 22 (7 February 2016)	Kepler Track Fiordland 9 July 2015	Avalanche				Comprehensive reply from DOC to the Chief Coroner's Office
Viellehner [2016] NZCorC 4 Viellehner [2016] NZCorC 5 Bishop [2016] NZCorC 6 11 January 2016	Upper Linda Glacier Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park 29 December 2014	Avalanche				
Willem [2015] NZCorC 108 (13 November 2016)	Young River Mt Aspiring National Park	Drowning / Head Injury				
Asmin [2015] NZCorC 91 (9 October 2015)	Pompolona Creek / Clinton River – Milford Track	Cold Water Immersion				

	19 May 2014					
Buckley [2014] NZCorC 145 (9 September 2014)	Sefton Bivi Route Aoraki / Mt Cook National Park 14 September 2013	Climbing - Fall				
Taylor [2014] NZCorC 145 (8 September 2014)	Mikonui River area – South Westland – 23/25 October 2012	Tramping / Slip / Fall				
Rait [2013] NZCorC 144 (9 September 2014)	Tasman Saddle Hut area, Aoraki Mt Cook National Park 13 September	Fall on Ice				
Spychalski [2013] NZCorC 137 (4 October 2013) CSU-2012-DUN-000508	Mt Aspiring National Park Plyon – Cascade Saddle area 29 November 2012	Mountaineering / Climbing				
Stukenborg [2012] NZCorC 88 (30 April 2012) CSU-2011-DUN-000273	Fiordland National Park 17 June 2011	Tramping / Fall				
Taylor [2012] NZCorC 109 (13 September 2012) CSU-2012-DUN-000004	Mt Aspiring National Park 31 December 2011	Tramping / Fall				
Ong [2012] NZCorC 52 (30 April 2012) CSU-2010-DUN-000455	Mt Aspiring National Park Southwest Ridge 15 November 2010	Mountaineering Climbing/Fall				
Yun [2010] NZCorC 217 (15 March 2010) CSU-2009-DUN-000022	Mt Aspiring National Park Dart River Catchment 31 December 2008	Tramping / Drowning				
Jackson [2010] NZCorC 215 (15 March 2010) CSU-2009-PNO-000378	Tararua Forest Park, near Kime Hut 12 July 2009	Tramping / Hypothermia				
Miranda [2010] NZCorC 196 Miranda [2010] NZCorC 197 CSU-2009-CHH-000078 (Akshay) CSU-2009-CCH000024(Ashish)	Fox Glacier (terminal face) 8 th January 2009	Crush Injuries				
Okin[2009] NZCorC 76 (27 July 2009) CSU-2008-DUN-000270	Fiordland National Park (Roaring Creek)	Tramping / Fall				

	26/27 March 2008					
Phase[2009] NZCorC 68 (21 July 2009) CSU- 2008-DUN-00095	Mt Aspiring National Park 26 July 2008	Mountaineering Climbing / Fall				

Websites:

Website	Content
Far North District Council: https://fndc.govt.nz	Swim Safety in the Far North Comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General hazards • Beach Hazards • Identifies Cable Bay & hazards • Taipa Beach • Coopers Beach Water Safety information has links to; Surf Life Saving NZ – Stay Safe Beach hazards Be Safe (findabeach.co.nz) Water Safety Signage
Dept of Conservation – doc.govt.nz Tongariro Alpine Crossing	Comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies Winter period June – October • Planning Considerations • Hazards • Safety Messages Summer Period November – May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning considerations • Hazards • Safety messages • Including “How to pack for a Day Walk”
tongarirocrossing.org.nz	Comprehensive Replete with safety messages
Department of Conservation	Home – Messaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know before you go • Alerts (in each Region) • Protect Nature • Be Prepared (comprehensive) Keep NZ Clean • Show Respect Links to Winter what you need to know Visitor Centres Walking Track categories
Otago District Council	Bannockburn - silent
Waikato District Council Waikato Regional Council	Waikupe Landing – does not appear to feature

Aratiatia Rapids	
lovetaupo.com	Highlights safety Specifically states : “Swimming is not Permitted”
nzherald.co.nz	6 Oct 2019 “Waikato Regional Council & Taupo District Council ignore Coroner’s swimming ban recommendation following death of Rachael de Jong”
waikatoregion.govt.nz	Report published 01/09/2020 -Regional Councillors to vote on committee recommendation to lobby for legislation which will enable swimming to be banned in the Aratiatia Rapids -3 person committee set up to consider submissions on proposed changes to Navigation Safety Bylaw -Friday (28 August 2020) Taupo District Council, Mercury and DOC told committee that prohibition would help prevent the loss of more lives and should be included in the Bylaw. Committee told; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steel fence subsequently erected has made it extremely difficult to access the pool. • New graphic signage has been designed to emphasise the dangers and stop people from entering the water • Education programmes involving all agencies, including Regional Council and Harbourmaster have also been run in Taupo District. <i>{Taupo Police SAR Co-ordinator confirms these programmes are ongoing}</i>
stuff.co.nz	31 Oct 2020 “Council want law change to ban swimming in dangerous Taupo spot”
BAR Crossing	
maritimenz.govt.nz	Recreational – Crossing the bar Comprehensive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses • Video • Recommendations
coastguard.nz	Boating Safely – Bar Crossing safety Comprehensive
nzfishingworld.co.nz	Crossing the Mighty Manukau Nov 12 2019 Peter Jessep
boatiesbestmate.nz	Crossing a Bar
fishing.net.co	Crossing a bar – important points
waikatoregion.govt.nz	Bar Crossing

boprc.govt.nz (Bay of Plenty)	Bar Crossing
nrc.govt.nz (Northland)	Crossing Harbour Bars
Coast to Coast	Specific instructions on expectations of competitors on each leg. Mountain Run Section "Competitors must acquire adequate river crossing skills before they compete in the Coast to Coast"
https://www.gdc.govt.nz	Tolaga By Wharf – appears silent on swimming safety messages

Initiatives:

Mountain Safety Council;

- Plan my Walk App
- Firearms Safety

Department of Conservation:

- Weather Forecasts - Collaboration with NIWA & MetService
(Park Forecasts, Severe Weather Warnings, NZ Avalanche Advisory)
- Know Before You Go

Maritime NZ:

- YouTube - Safety videos
- {RCCNZ} – PLB Use

Surf Life Saving NZ:

- Website takes you to numerous Safety Videos in the Beach / Maritime environment also provides a link to, adventuresmart.nz - Know before you Go

Coastguard NZ

- Safe Boating Education – boatingeducation.org.nz

NZ Police

- Firearms Safety