



**NEW ZEALAND
SEARCH
AND RESCUE
COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2013-2014**

CHAIR'S REPORT

MARTIN MATTHEWS



The New Zealand search and rescue sector provides effective search and rescue services, not only for the New Zealand land mass and inshore waters, but also throughout our vast 30 million km² search and rescue region. On average, we are involved with around six operations each day of the year. Most search and rescue (SAR) operations can be resolved relatively quickly, but some operations take many days and require substantial effort and cost. We also need to be prepared for a wide range of possibilities – from a missing aircraft in Antarctica, a lost tramping party in the Tararua's, to a cruise vessel in distress somewhere inside our region.

The New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Council is proud to provide strategic leadership and direction to the many organisations and approximately 14,000 people that make up this highly skilled and dedicated SAR sector.

To focus our thoughts and efforts, the NZSAR Council adopted a revised set of goals in 2014. The new goals are:

A ROBUST AND INTEGRATED SAR SYSTEM

We seek a collective, cross-sector culture of being 'one SAR body' within an integrated SAR sector. As a sector, we will also continually work on improving our effectiveness and efficiency, as well as our understanding of ourselves, our relationship with other SAR agencies, our operations, external influences and the risks to the sector.



EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SAR ORGANISATIONS

As a sector, we will further enhance our internal and external organisation and communications. We aim to be as efficient as possible with secure funding, which is adequate to meet the known SAR need. We will also adapt our organisations to meet the changing environment.



CAPABLE SAR PEOPLE

We will strive to maximise the potential of our people. Collectively, we will aim to ensure our people have access to adequate training, that we conduct SAR activities safely, and coordinate our standards, training, exercises and documentation.



REDUCED DEMAND FOR SAR SERVICES

We want to ensure the New Zealand public and guests to our country are appropriately informed and assist them to take personal responsibility for their activities in order to reduce the need for SAR services. As a sector, we will collaborate, inform, contribute to, and when required, coordinate or lead public-focussed preventative strategies and actions.

As you look through this annual report you will see examples of what the NZSAR Council is doing to support the SAR sector to achieve these ambitious goals. We also hope that you will gain a sense of the dimensions of the sector – and of the immensely positive effect SAR has on the wellbeing of Kiwis and visitors to our country and region. The Council and I are committed to our role in leading this sector and we trust you will enjoy reading more about our people's remarkable achievements over last year.

MANAGER'S REPORT

FROM THE SECRETARIAT



Duncan Ferner

Search and rescue people are a community. We know that we all have our own role, but we also know to value, recognise and appreciate the contributions of others who make up our sector.

It has been rewarding to see significant progress in a number of areas important to the SAR sector over the 2013-2014 year including the National Search and Rescue Support Programme (NSSP), which brings together a number of projects and initiatives designed to achieve the NZSAR Council goals. The programme relies very heavily on the guidance, active participation, support and hard work of a wide range SAR people and organisations. We are indebted to them all.

I am pleased to report that the 2013/2014 NSSP not only achieved what it planned to do but also allowed us to bring into the programme some additional high priority activities not initially planned at the beginning of the year.

A number of meetings, forums and workshops conducted over the year required a collective approach to address specific issues and risks. The benefit is evident in the thriving relationships throughout the sector, strengthening our 'one SAR' culture.

At the request of a wide range of skilled SAR people, and using their expertise, we developed a suite of standard SAR forms and guidelines for the whole sector to use. Units and groups can now work together to ensure that the material used in training is the same used for operations.

In supporting the Council's drive for better quality information and analysis, we established a project to collate existing data into a single 'data store' to improve Council and sector decision-making through a better understanding of ourselves, the work we do and the resources required to perform our roles. We further developed SAR-NET – our online collaboration tool – and the NZSAR Resource Database, providing information on all SAR resources available within New Zealand.

Huge effort went into SAR training: the 2009 SAR Training Core Curriculum was updated and renamed the Integrated SAR Incident Management Training Pathways and a number of recommendations will be followed up in due course. While SAR Adult and Community Education (ACE) offers an excellent opportunity for high quality needs-based training, its

training, processes and funding imposes a whole new range of responsibilities on NZSAR and the sector, requiring considerable attention.

The first full SAR Managers course was conducted in June. This training is our 'peak' SAR course so a lot of work has gone into ensuring it is the best we can make it. We completed the development of the Marine: Managing the Initial Response course, and ran a pilot. We also established START – an online SAR knowledge library freely accessible by anyone, anytime.

Asking people to work together in controlled but challenging situations enables continuous improvement and ties in well with the NZSAR Council goals. SAR people made good use of the SAREX planning guidelines embedding more effective monitoring and evaluation practice during the 13 search and rescue exercises (SAREXs) we supported this year. We also developed a sector-wide Mass Rescue Operation (MRO) policy and worked with Police and RCCNZ to update their MRO plans and processes.

Our 'Safety Partnership' with Coastguard NZ, NZ Mountain Safety Council and Water Safety NZ, continued to promote the family of Safety Codes, which are supported by the adventuresmart.org.nz portal and are available in i-SITEs visitor centres and Jasons brochures stands throughout the country.

In addition to the tasks contained within the NSSP, the Secretariat also completed a number of discrete projects and fulfilled its many business-as-usual functions such as the rewrite of the Police SAR manual. We continually maintain and update the sector's risk management matrix and have actively backed the integration of health and safety processes across the sector.

On behalf of the sector we attended the EMQUAL conference in Masterton, the Australian NATSAR meeting in Tasmania and the IMRF-run MRO conference in Sweden. We also held the refreshed annual NZSAR Awards, in Parliament in May, receiving comprehensive media coverage. With the assistance of the whole sector we collated, analysed and prepared a range SAR statistics – many of which are presented in this report.

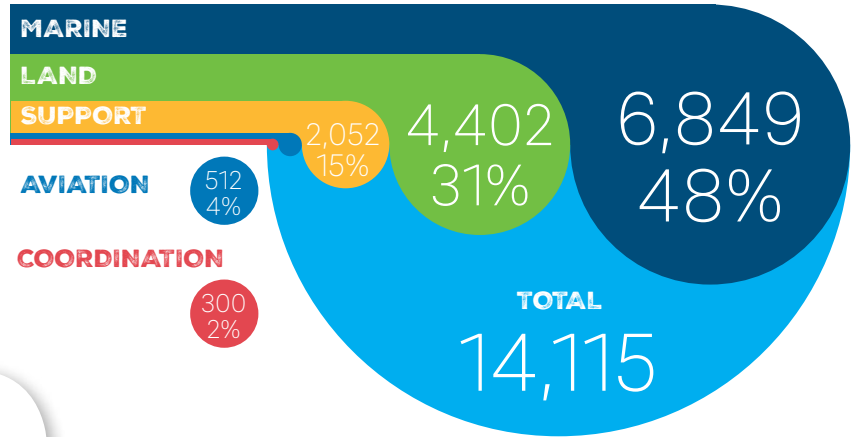
Once renewed funding was agreed by Ministers, the four joint Service Level Agreements (SLA) were renegotiated. These three-year agreements take some of the volatility out of the funding for our NGO partners and serve to create clear expectations around how we will work together, enriching initiatives and building upon the already strong partnerships that exist.

Looking ahead to the 2014/2015 year we are planning to deliver a similar array of projects with greater depth and engagement. A significant and positive cultural shift is occurring within the wider sector as we demonstrate the benefits of a cooperative and collaborative way of working together. Our thanks to the many people and organisations that have assisted us over the past year.

WHO WE ARE

PEOPLE IN THE NZSAR SECTOR

There are 14,115 people involved in the NZSAR sector. 84% of these are trained for operational SAR roles, including coordinating a SAR response, flying a search aircraft, crewing a marine rescue vessel, or searching the bush as part of a team. 16% of the sector support SAR operations by performing roles such as providing strategic direction, administrative tasks, training, and carrying out prevention services.



SUPPORT: People involved in providing training and prevention services. Most SAR training is carried out in-house by each of the SAR organisations. The Coastguard Boating Education Service and NZ Mountain Safety Council are the main organisations that provide preventative education services to the public of New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND HAS ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF VOLUNTEER SAR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WORLD. 95% OF THE PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE THE OPERATIONAL SAR RESPONSE ARE VOLUNTEERS

SUPPORT 16%



- COORDINATION SUPPORT
- ORGANISATION SUPPORT
- PREVENTION
- TRAINING

OPERATIONAL 84%



- 2.5% Paid Full Time
- 2.5% Paid Part Time
- 95% Not Paid

COORDINATION: People involved in the coordination of SAR operations, and in providing strategic direction and policy advice for the sector. These people are drawn from the Maritime Operations Centre, Maritime New Zealand's Rescue Coordination Centre, the New Zealand Police, and the NZSAR Secretariat.

MARINE



- COASTGUARD NZ
- DUNEDIN MARINE SAR
- SURF LIFE SAVING NZ

MARINE: People who are active in marine-based SAR. Most of these people are volunteers from Coastguard New Zealand and Surf Life Saving New Zealand.

LAND



- AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
- ANTARCTICA NZ
- DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
- LANDSAR
 - ALPINE CLIFF RESCUE
 - CAVE SAR
 - DOGS
 - TRACKING

LAND: People who are active in land-based SAR. Most of these people are volunteers from the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) and LandSAR New Zealand.

COORDINATION



- ANTARCTIC UNIFIED INCIDENT COMMAND
- MARITIME OPERATION CENTRE
- POLICE NZ
- RCCNZ

AVIATION

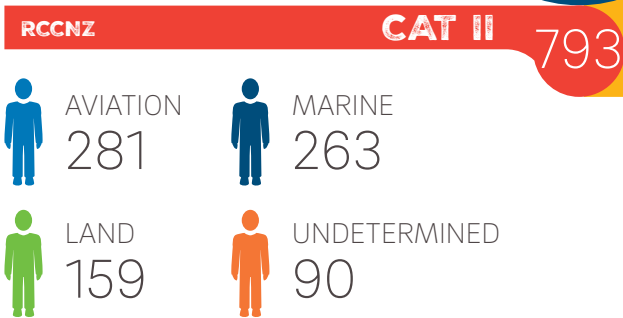
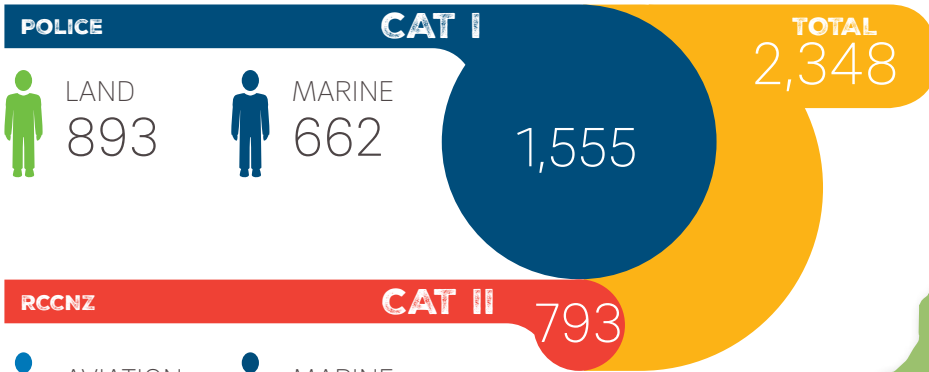


- COASTGUARD AIR PATROL
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE HELICOPTERS
- NZ DEFENCE FORCE
- WELLINGTON & AUCKLAND AIRPORTS

AVIATION: People involved in the aviation segment of the SAR sector. These people provide a great deal of support to a large number of SAR operations across all three modes – land, marine and air.

WHAT WE DO

SAR INCIDENTS IN 2013/14



DISTRESS BEACON ACTIVATIONS ACCOUNTED FOR 512 SAR INCIDENTS DURING THE YEAR - JUST UNDER 22% OF ALL INCIDENTS. DISTRESS BEACONS ARE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM, AND 170 OF THESE ACTIVATIONS ORIGINATED FROM OUTSIDE THE NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION (NZSRR).



COORDINATING AUTHORITIES

Two agencies in New Zealand have responsibility for coordinating Search and Rescue Operations (SAROPs) throughout the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region (NZSRR).

The New Zealand Police coordinate Category I SAROPs at the local level; including land, subterranean, river, lake, inland waterway and close-to-shore marine operations.

The Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) coordinate Category II SAROPs at the national level; including operations associated with missing aircraft, aircraft in distress, and off-shore marine operations within the NZSRR. Category II SAROPs typically require the use of national or international resources and may involve coordination with other states.



WHAT WE ACHIEVE



1,870 PEOPLE WERE AT RISK DURING 2013/14



These are significant numbers, that demonstrate the positive impact of the NZSAR sector. Sometimes it is found that people were not at risk at any stage of the operation. Common examples of these include accidental beacon activations (usually from aircraft undergoing scheduled maintenance) and possible flare sightings. Regrettably a number of people perish before SAR services are notified or despite our best efforts. A total of 106 fatalities were recorded during the 2013/14 year.

At the start of each SAR operation, it is assumed that there is a person, or people, at risk and that they require the assistance of New Zealand's SAR services.

LIVES SAVED: Where, if SAR agencies had not intervened, life would definitely have been lost.

PEOPLE RESCUED: Where SAR agencies locate and rescue a person or people at risk and return them to a safe location.

PEOPLE ASSISTED: Where SAR agencies aid a person or people at low risk, but who, if left, would be at risk.

NZSAR ESTIMATES THAT NEW ZEALAND AVERTED \$419 MILLION IN SOCIAL COSTS DUE TO THE 121 LIVES THAT WERE SAVED.

The social cost of a premature fatality is measured using the Ministry of Transport's Value of Statistical Life formula (VOSL). It includes intangible costs such as emotional costs to family and friends. The intangible benefit-to-cost ratio is estimated to be approximately 23.5:1 and can in part be attributed to the continual financial efficiency and operational effectiveness of the Sector.

Note: VOSL does not include medical costs and operational costs.

Of the approximate \$17.835m Government's investment, \$4.679m was sourced from the fuel excise duties paid by recreational boat users. This funded the NZSAR Secretariat, the four Service Level Agreements and some elements of the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand's (RCCNZ) activities.

The total cost of SAR to Government varies year on year, as operational costs change according to the number, length and type of SAR operations. Significant overhead and capital costs are not fully represented, as it is difficult for some organisations to capture this information.



GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON SAR 2013/14

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

\$17,835
m

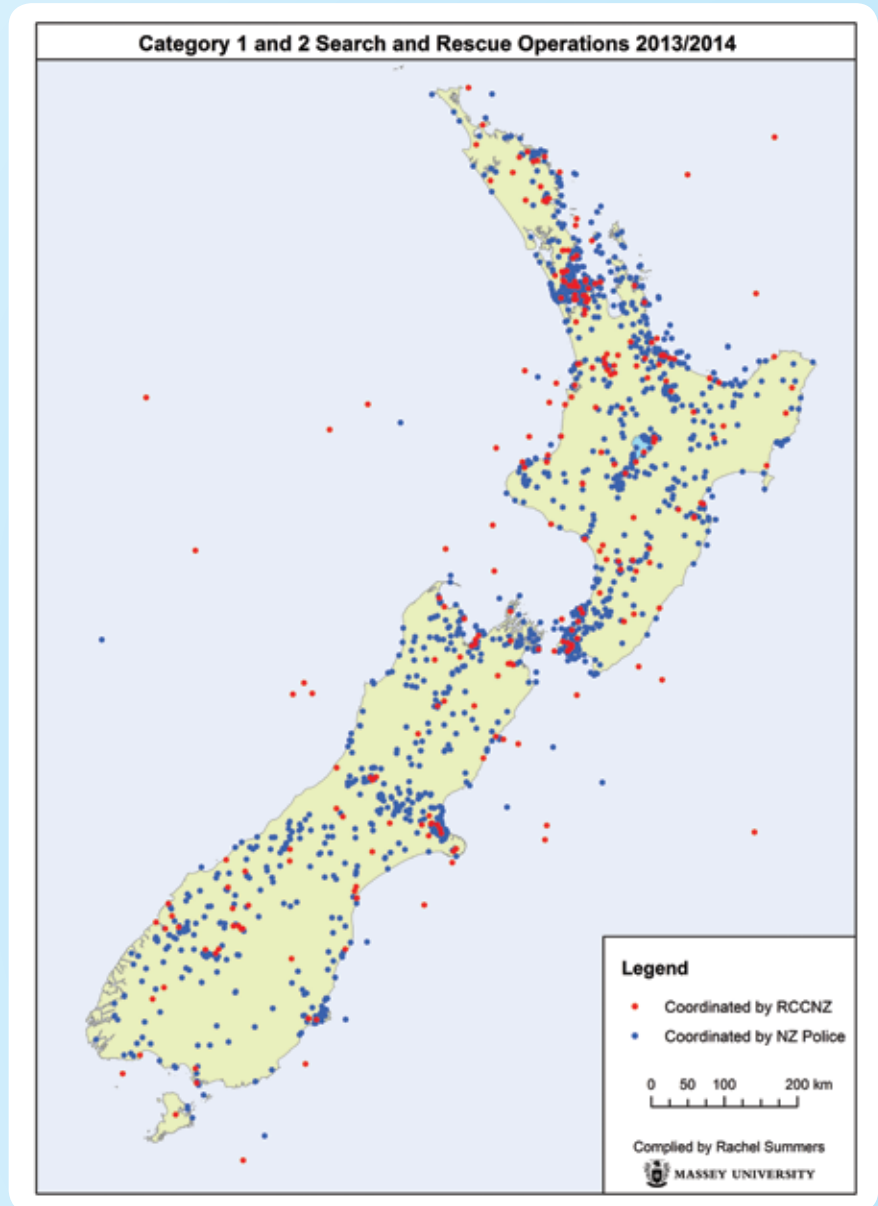
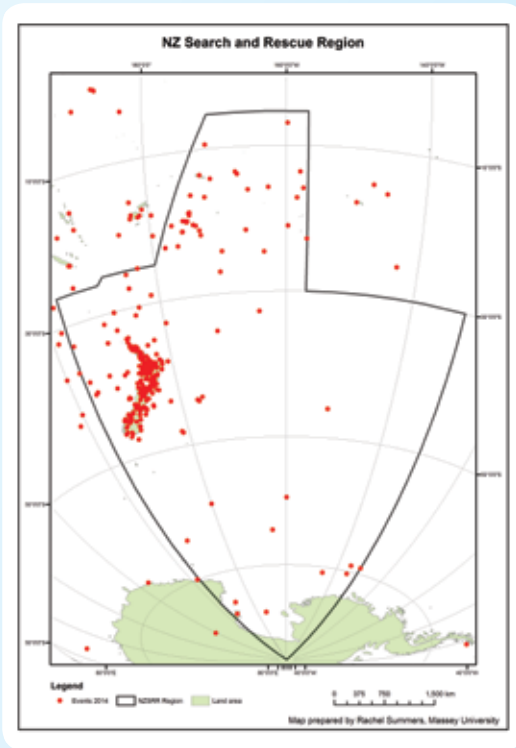
DOC	\$146 k
NZDF	\$925 k
NZSAR Sec	\$1,136 k
TEC	\$1,300 k
SLAs	\$2,789 k
RCCNZ	\$4,723 k
NZP	\$6,816 k

DOC	Department of Conservation
NZDF	New Zealand Defence Force
NZP	New Zealand Police
RCCNZ	Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand
NZSAR Sec	NZSAR Secretariat
SLAs	Service Level Agreements
TEC	Tertiary Education Commission

**Note: NZDF expenditure for 2013/2014 was not available at time of printing. These figures show NZDF expenditure for 2012/2013 and do not include New Zealand's financial contribution to the search for MH370.*



WHERE WE DO IT



The Secretariat is working with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team at Massey University to produce various maps such as this which assist in making robust strategic decisions for the sector.

WHAT WE USE

Antarctica Scott Base



Auckland & Wellington
International Airports



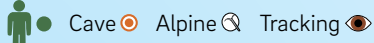
Cape Egmont Sea
Rescue Trust



Coastguard New Zealand



LandSAR New Zealand



Life Saving New Zealand



Milford Emergency
Response Team



New Zealand Defence Force



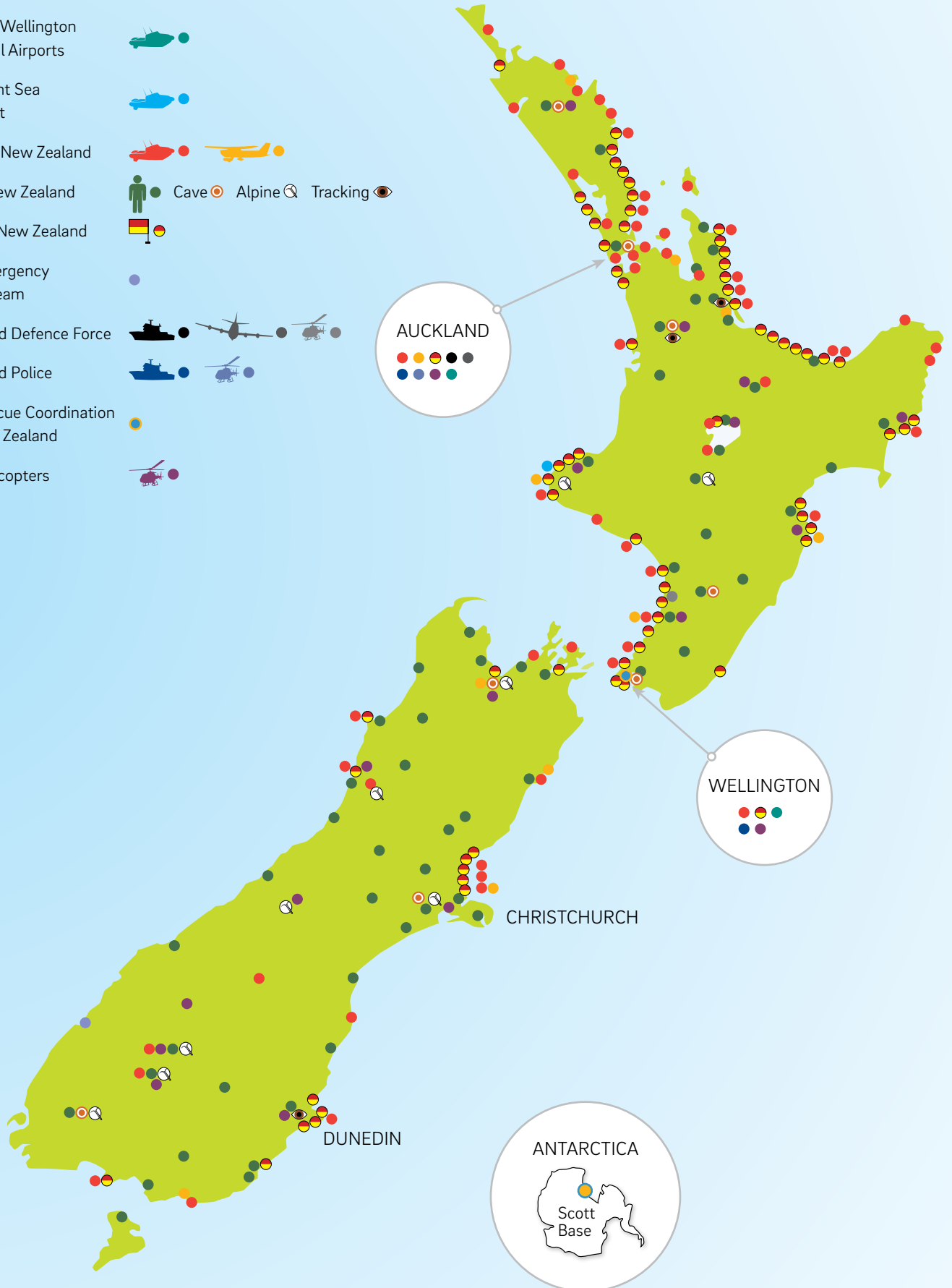
New Zealand Police



RCCNZ Rescue Coordination
Centre New Zealand



Rescue Helicopters



REFRESHING THE STRATEGY

The role of the NZSAR Council is to ensure effective, national level leadership for, and coordination between, the many organisations that play a critical part in the delivery of search and rescue in our region.

We have been in existence now for ten years, so it was timely that we re-examined our role and goals in 2013 so we can continue to shape and lead the sector.

The Council has worked hard to ensure this refreshed strategic plan reflects the impressive progress the sector has made over the past ten years, consolidating the previous five goals into four to strengthen our ability to influence and drive the SAR environment.



As a SAR community, our values, the things that bind us together, describe that we will:

- be **PROFICIENT** at search and rescue
- encourage open and effective **COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**
- **COLLABORATE AND CO-OPERATE** between individuals, teams and organisations
- **LEARN** from our individual and collective experiences
- be **EFFICIENT** in the use of scarce resources and
- recognise the **DEDICATION, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT** of the people who make up our sector.

NZSAR COUNCIL GOALS

As part of the NZSAR Council role to shape and lead the combined efforts of New Zealand's search and rescue sector, it seeks to attain these goals.



A ROBUST AND INTEGRATED SAR SYSTEM

We seek a collective, cross-sector culture of being 'one SAR body' within an integrated SAR sector. The sector will continually work on improving its effectiveness and efficiency. We will continue to improve our understanding of ourselves, our relationship with other SAR agencies, our operations, external influences and the risks to the sector. We will use this information to improve common SAR practices and procedures to ensure the safe delivery of effective SAR services.



EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE SAR ORGANISATIONS

The sector will further enhance its internal and external organisation and communications. We will be as efficient as possible with secure funding adequate to meet the known SAR need. We will make key decisions based on good quality information. We will also adapt our organisations to meet the changing environment and ensure we are effective at delivering SAR services. We will ensure we are located appropriately, with adequate equipment matched to the identified SAR requirements.



CAPABLE SAR PEOPLE

We will maximise the potential of our SAR people. We will maintain a good understanding of ourselves and what we need to succeed. We will work to ensure our people have access to adequate training and that we conduct SAR activities safely. We will collectively coordinate our standards, training, exercises and documentation. We will share knowledge without restriction and learn from each other. We will also promote and support SAR innovations, showcasing good practices, and when appropriate, recognise and celebrate our people.



REDUCED DEMAND FOR SAR SERVICES

We seek an informed and responsible public. We will collaborate, inform, contribute to, and when required, coordinate or lead public-focused preventative strategies and actions for individuals, groups and organisations. We want to ensure the New Zealand public and guests to our country are appropriately informed and assist them to take personal responsibility for their activities in order to reduce the need for search and rescue services.


PLANNING TO PERFORMANCE

NZSAR's four goals are ambitious, but also realistic and attainable. We have been instrumental in pulling together all manner of SAR people, and others, to work on a myriad of initiatives that will lead to a better performance. This snapshot highlights just some of our achievements – putting our strategic plan into action. They illustrate our leadership in supporting the SAR sector to grow, thrive and ultimately achieve the best outcomes possible for those who find themselves in need of SAR services.

KEEPING THE SECTOR INFORMED AND UP TO DATE

 NZSAR plays a vital role in linking the dynamic and diverse range of organisations, agencies and individuals working across all facets of search and rescue in New Zealand. Every quarter our newsletter, Link, keeps you up to date with the latest news and information, as well as showcasing the skills and dedication of SAR people, providing insights into what we do well and what can be done better, and taking snapshots of SAR organisations. Publications such as this annual report keep you informed on the more strategic aspects of the NZSAR Council and Secretariat. We ensure the SAR messages are heard by our members and the wider community as we present at a wide range of conferences, workshops and SAREXs. nzsar.org.nz is our window on the SAR world – having had a welcome redesign it houses a multitude of both strategic and operational material in a layout that is easily accessible and immensely practical.

FORMS AND GUIDELINES

 At the request of, and working with, key SAR organisations, NZSAR has produced a suite of more than 30 consistent forms and guidelines. The forms, which include missing persons, incident action plan, team tasking and search urgency, mean SAR personnel anywhere in the country have a clear understanding of the logistics of an operation, ensuring improved standards and more effective data collection. In an example of great collaborative practice, LandSAR NZ allowed their existing templates to be rebranded and tweaked for all the SAR sector to use. The forms and guidelines are available on: nzsar.org.nz/resources

MISSING PERSON REPORT – CONFIDENTIAL

The MPR provides a format to collect information in an efficient and coherent manner and is used to support a missing person investigation or search and rescue operation. It may also be used as a guide for conducting an interview. Information used to complete a comprehensive subject profile should come from multiple sources and from multiple interviews. Use a separate form for each interview and collate the information in a master file. If there is more than one missing person associated with this case, use a separate form for each subject. In conjunction with Lost Person Behaviour use this information to continually build a comprehensive profile of the missing persons.

Operation name: _____ Time: _____
 Location: _____ Date: _____
 Prepared by: _____
 Name: _____ DOB: _____
 Address: _____
 Home phone: _____ Business phone: _____ Cell/other phone: _____
 Email address: _____
 Occupation: _____
 Employer: _____
 Relationship to missing person: _____
 Where and how can the informant be contacted in the foreseeable future: _____

MISSING PERSON:
 Name: _____
 Nick name: _____
 Name to call: _____ Aliases: _____
 Safe word: Y N Word: _____
 Who knows it: _____ Subject's primary language: _____
 Home address: _____
 Business or local address: _____
 Home phone: _____ Business phone: _____ Cell/other phone: _____
 Email address: _____

DESCRIPTION:

Age: _____ Race: _____ Gender: _____ DOB: _____
 Height: _____ Build: _____
 Hair colour: _____ Length: _____ Style: _____
 If landing, describe: _____
 Describe, facial hair: _____
 Eye colour: _____ Glasses Y N Regular Sun Contacts
 Describe, glasses: _____
 Eyesight without glasses: _____ Wearing: _____
 Facial features, shape: _____
 Complexion: _____
 Distinguishing marks, scars: _____
 General appearance: _____


Clothing worn when last seen: Note brand, style, pattern, colours and sizes for each

Hat/cap/scarf: _____
 Top/shirt/layers: _____
 Pants/trousers/shorts: _____
 Shoes/skitts: _____
 Sweater/jersey/thermal layers: _____
 Wet weather gear: _____
 Footwear: _____
 Socks: _____
 Underwear: _____
 Other: _____

NZSAR leads and supports all manner of projects tied to our strategic plan. Each of these symbols represent one of our four goals. Sitting alongside some of our achievements here to demonstrate the pipeline from strategic planning to practical success.



SAR-NET EXPANDS

 SAR-NET, our virtual meeting room, continues to bring people from around the country, and the world, together in a secure video conferencing format. People meet over the internet, they share their documents, audio and images, and take notes – all from their own computer or tablet. A new function using text pods has been developed and is now being employed in the field during training and operations. Some Coastguard units in particular have recognised SAR-NET's value, reporting it works well in a fast-paced marine environment giving them instant information sharing. Text pods are used for a radio log, a situation update or to log messages from vessels out on a search. Police and volunteers find it really easy to use, as fundamentally it is texting in a box, and it can be customised to fit the situational needs.



A NATIONAL TRAINING PLAN



NZSAR's Core Curriculum, which determines our approach to training, was reviewed and updated.



Training undertaken by organisations that meet the Core Curriculum was mapped, alongside a plan to fill the gaps that were identified. A training pathway was also developed – linking training undertaken by individual organisations and integrating it into cross-sector training. This means future managers will have a more cohesive and structured training path.

WORKING TOWARDS BETTER PRACTICE



Bringing people together to analyse and progress specific SAR topics in a workshop format continues to be a successful practice that helps advance NZSAR's goals. During the year workshops were held to discuss guidelines and standards for rescue swimmers, and the method for evaluating searches was examined and revised. Search evaluation methodology now emphasises the opportunity to investigate and evaluate a larger number of factors that lead to a successful outcome, such as interviewing techniques rather than relying on mathematical probabilities.

and standards for rescue swimmers, and the method for evaluating searches was examined and revised. Search evaluation methodology now emphasises the opportunity to investigate and evaluate a larger number of factors that lead to a successful outcome, such as interviewing techniques rather than relying on mathematical probabilities.





EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP



There are a number of factors that contribute to saving lives in SAR operations; high on the list, though, would be the extensive knowledge of excellent SAR practice and robust processes. Standardising these processes was an integral cog in the newly developed SAR Managers course that NZSAR advanced in this last year. The first SAR Managers course in June 2014 built on what was learnt during the pilot, which was held the previous year. By the end of the two week course participants, which included volunteers in week two, could manage a multi-agency Police-led SAR operation through all its stages, effectively. All participants' leadership, communication, planning and information technology skills were enhanced. Those involved in search and rescue, and certainly those in need of being found or saved, will now benefit from these vigorous, consistent, processes that best practice demands.



To make it easier for SAR people to grow or reinforce their learning we developed



START – an online library tool that houses a series of 'SAR knowledge' modules. The modules can be accessed at your own pace – in your own place – to learn, revise, recall or simply for interest. START also houses material needed to prepare for courses. One such example is the Marine MIR (manage the initial response) module. The online video tutorials – Search Area Determination and Search Area Coverage – are used to learn, revise and refresh knowledge and skills. Additionally, the modules can also be used for pre-course requirements or by anyone as teaching aids.



SUPPORTING IN THE CLASSROOM AND ON THE FIELD TRAINING



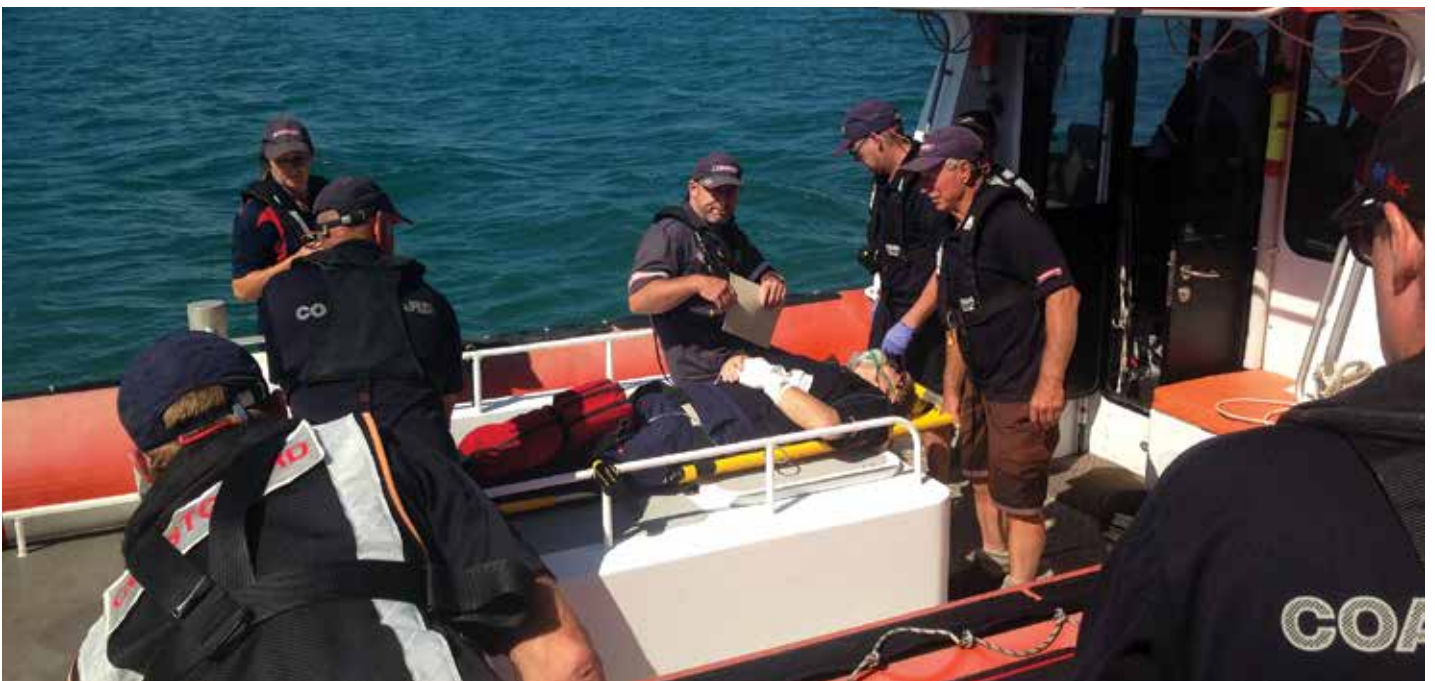
NZSAR part-funded 13 search and rescue exercises (SAREXs) in environments ranging from a glacier to the deep blue sea. These SAREXs were held across the country: Wairarapa, Christchurch, Coromandel, Wanaka, Lake Rotoiti, Waikato (2), Gisborne, Nelson, Invercargill, Mount Peel (Canterbury), Whakatane and Craigieburn. LandSAR NZ, Department of Conservation, Alpine Cliff Rescue, Coastguard, Dunedin Marine SAR, Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, NZ Mountain Guides Association, helicopter ski companies, helicopter operators, avalanche search dogs, Royal New Zealand Air Force, Police and the Rescue Coordination Centre all participated in the exercises relevant to them.

Funding these SAREXs collaboratively with Police means there is greater capacity to plan, monitor, evaluate and debrief the exercises. We are raising the bar when it comes to the expected process as well as embedding consistency across the country.

PREPARING FOR MASS RESCUE



Playing our part to make sure the country is well prepared for a mass rescue operation (MRO), we are planning and running MRO SAREXs across New Zealand's Police Districts. A trial MRO desktop exercise was held in the Wellington Police District to test the response at management level. This showed that more work was needed to clarify some of the roles and responsibilities for incident management at the outset of an MRO. It led to improvements in how we will run the SAREXs. By their very nature MROs are complex and require the cooperation and coordination of a large number of agencies. To this end we are working collectively with Police and RCCNZ to deliver the SAREXs, while also working closely with Maritime NZ, ports, harbourmasters, Customs, Fire Service, Ambulance, local and regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management, District Health Boards, our SAR partners, and others (as determined by the Police Districts) during the exercises.



HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES STAY SAFE



NZSAR remains committed to educating people to keep themselves safe, thus preventing the need to call on SAR services. As a member of the National Pleasure Boating Safety Forum we helped plan New Zealand's first ever Safer Boating Week, which took place in October. adventuresmart.org.nz – NZSAR's online portal – enjoys growing patronage with increasing visits to the site. Also available in a mobile-friendly format, the site is packed with adventure safety tips and advice for the public. It is the go-to place, housing more than a thousand links to safety information from various relevant organisations. Adventurers can download the Boating, Outdoor and Water Safety Codes (in 16 languages), and the Outdoor Intentions form. International tourism is a particular focus for NZSAR, so we target channels that tourists will most likely access such as i-SITES that stock brochures about the Codes. We also manage the safety partnership, made up of Coastguard NZ, NZ Mountain Safety Council and Water Safety NZ, who are all playing their part to get our consistent safety messages out amongst the adventurous public. To date, thousands of brochures in all shapes and sizes promoting AdventureSmart and the three Safety Codes have been distributed around the country.



KEEPING OURSELVES SAFE



Health and safety of employees and volunteers is increasingly recognised as a key responsibility of organisations, so NZSAR engaged a health and safety expert to assist sector organisations to review their plans and provide them with technical and practical advice. This led to Coastguard NZ developing a plan of action to improve safety, so that it is more embedded within the organisation across each unit, and integrated with MOSS (Maritime Operator Safety System). Surf Life Saving NZ also took up the opportunity, forming a strategy to help it to improve the oversight and management of health and safety across its clubs. LandSAR developed a sophisticated Safety Management System and AREC was also reviewed during the year. While they all belong to separate organisations, these health and safety systems are integrated within the broader SAR sector.

NZSAR has been instrumental in positioning the sector to be amongst the leaders in the health and safety space.



BRINGING THE WANDER PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK TO LIFE



Wander SAR is a catch-all term that has helped determine the organisations and people who have a role to play collectively in responding to the growing issue of cognitively impaired people getting lost or going missing. NZSAR has led the establishment of a partnership framework aimed at reducing the risks associated with people who wander. The organisations involved are diverse and include, Alzheimers NZ, Autism NZ, DHB's, IDEA, LandSAR, and the Ministry of Health, Police. NZSAR is supporting a number of initiatives agreed at the NZSAR-run Wander Symposium, including ongoing training for searchers and mapping the organisations that should be involved in this collective framework.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



2013 NZSAR AWARDS



Every year it is the NZSAR Council's great pleasure to host the NZSAR Awards. This year the awards were split into operational activity and support activity categories. This recognises the efforts of the 'backroom' teams, individuals and programmes, such as training, prevention, and long-service, and nicely complements the category for Operational Activity.

This year's ceremony saw a number of joint awards given to organisations and individuals who joined together during testing operations, indicating that strong relationships and collaboration are alive and thriving throughout the sector.

One Gold Award and seven Certificates of Achievement (including two in the Support Activity category) were presented.

The NZSAR Gold Award for Operational Activity for a very significant contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2013 was awarded to *Marius Bron, Jonathan Hattrell, Richard Bottomley and Sam Innes – from South Westland Alpine Cliff Rescue, for the Explorer Glacier rescue on 7 March 2013.*

This rescue of Sabine Hellenbrandt was conducted in extreme conditions: poor visibility, at altitude, and in steep glacial terrain. The team chose to carry out the operation at a calculated personal risk. If they had not done so, Sabine would not likely have survived the night.

The NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for Operational Activity for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region during 2013 were awarded to:

Antarctica New Zealand and the United States Antarctic Program, for the response to the Twin Otter Air Accident in the Queen Alexandra Range on 23 January 2013.

JASART members were ferried to the remote 13,000ft high crash site by helicopter, where they worked tirelessly in the extreme environmental conditions to assess the terrain and access the crashed aircraft.



Sunset Beach Surf Life Saving Club, for the rescue of ten rock fishermen on 1 April 2013.

The mobile lifeguard patrol took about half an hour to rescue all ten men, many of them in various stages of hypothermia. All the lifeguards involved in this rescue displayed great skill in a dangerous situation.

Peter, Katherine and Matthew Craig – from the Whakatane Surf Life Saving Club, for the rescue of two divers at Otarawairere Bay on 10 August 2013.

The divers, who had become trapped by the rising tide as they made their way home, were rescued by the Craig family after a Coastguard crew was unable to reach them. Peter and Matthew went out in an IRB with a borrowed spotlight, while Katherine coordinated their activity from the shore.

Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation, 3 Squadron RNZAF, Taranaki Alpine Cliff Rescue and Taranaki LandSAR, for their efforts during Operation Labour on Mt Taranaki, 26-29 October 2013.

Rescuers spent almost 36 hours battling the most horrific weather conditions many of them had ever operated in, trying to reach a pair of climbers stuck on Mount Taranaki. They knew where the climbers were, but the conditions were such that they were unable to reach them in time to save them.



John Goldswain, Colin Larsen, Michael Hall, David Huntley – from Life Flight Trust, for the rescue of crew from the Sea Wanderer in the Cook Strait on 6 January 2013.

The 40ft twin masted sloop was battling extremely rough seas in the Cook Strait. The wind and sea conditions were at the limits of the helicopter's performance, making the rescue difficult and arduous. The helicopter crew spent an hour on-scene, in terrible conditions, to rescue the three crew members.

Two NZSAR Certificates of Achievement for Support Activity for an important contribution to search and rescue in the New Zealand Search and Rescue Region, either during 2013 or over an extended period, were awarded to: ***Chris Astall, Nicola Hockley and Rachel McKenzie – from Coastguard Canterbury, for their efforts in developing training material for Coastguard New Zealand.***

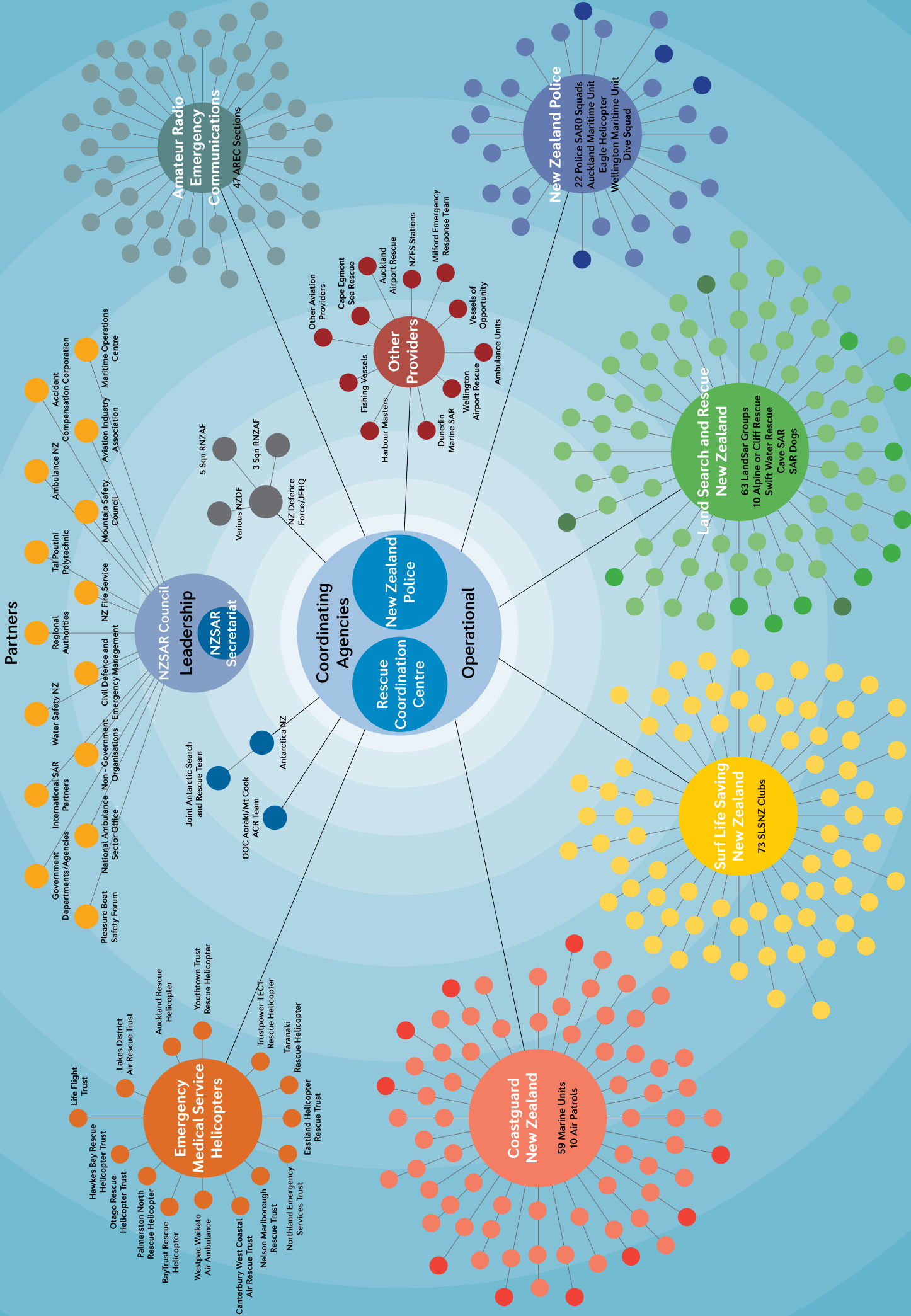
Over the past three years, the three volunteers have either developed or redeveloped the major training resources for the marine SAR sector. The results of their work will make a major difference to the competency of volunteers and staff, not only within Coastguard but also across the whole marine SAR sector.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand, for the Coastal Risk Management project at Hot Water Beach.

To reduce the incidence of drowning on the coast, Surf Life Saving New Zealand developed a coastal risk management strategy that provides a framework for evidence-based drowning and injury prevention initiatives. An independent evaluation concluded that the programme was a cost effective way of informing best practice decision-making on the coastline, while reducing drowning and injury.

The NZSAR Council and Secretariat congratulates all our 2013 winners. A more detailed summary of these awards can be found at nzsar.org.nz as well as information about how to nominate an organisation or someone you know who deserves recognition for their contribution to search and rescue in New Zealand. The 2014 Award nominations close 31 January 2015.

OUR SECTOR



GOVERNANCE

NZSAR COUNCIL

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

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, Department of Conservation, Maritime New Zealand and the Civil Aviation Authority.

NZSAR SECRETARIAT

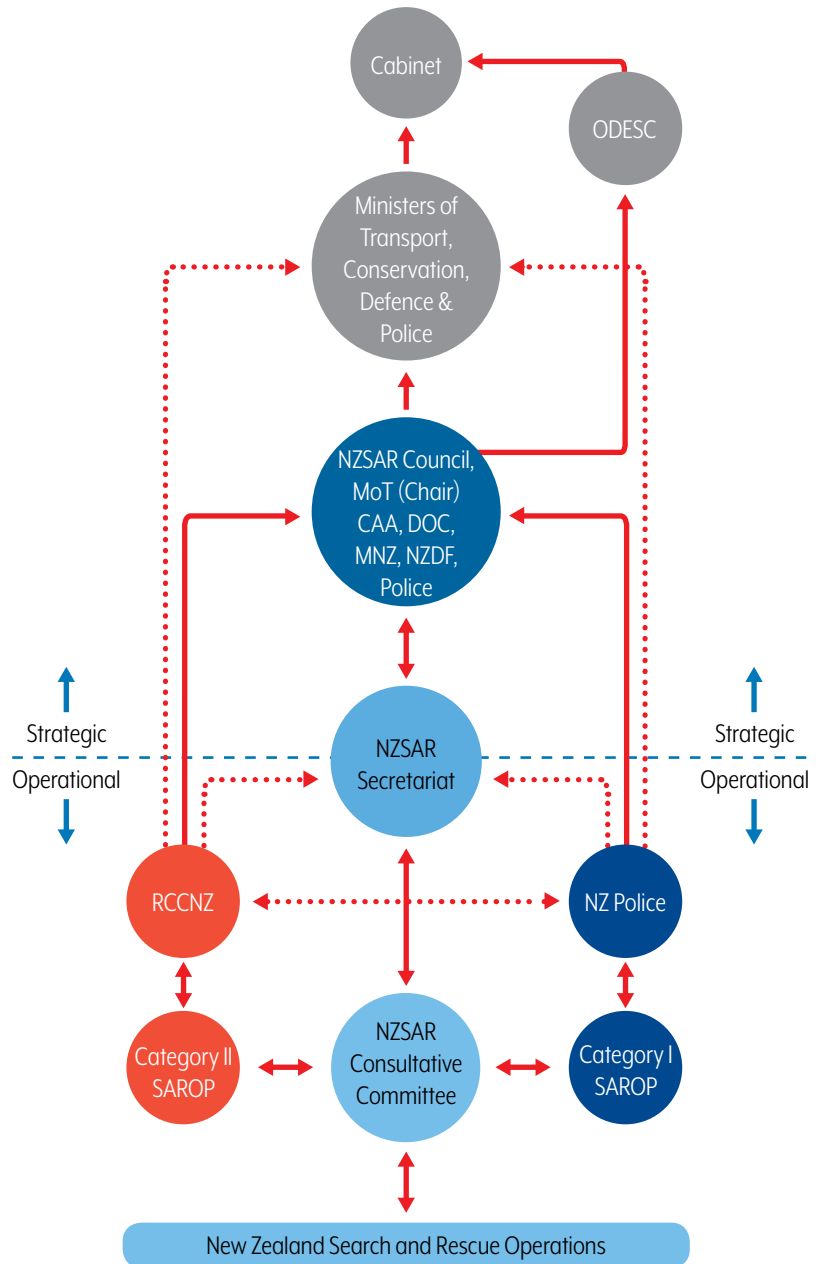
The Council is supported by the NZSAR Secretariat. Its purpose is to provide a national forum for all New Zealand SAR stakeholders including voluntary groups. It provides the Council with support services, policy advice and implements agreed measures to effectively coordinate strategic SAR in New Zealand.

NZSAR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

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

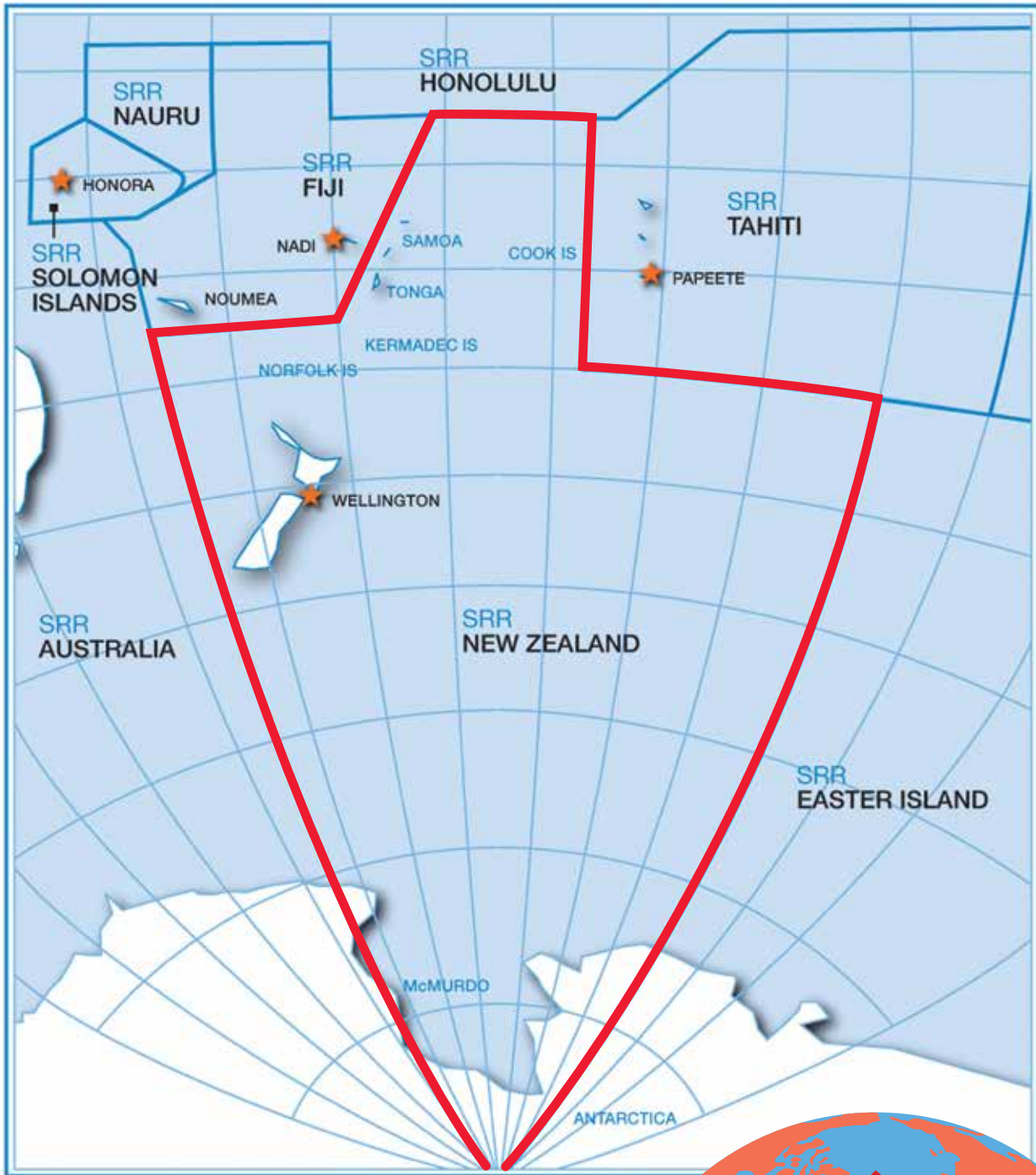
- Amateur Radio Emergency Communications
- Ambulance New Zealand
- Antarctica NZ
- Aviation Industry Association
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Coastguard New Zealand
- Department of Conservation
- Federation of Commercial Fishermen
- LandSAR New Zealand
- Maritime New Zealand
- Maritime Operations Centre
- Ministry of Transport
- National Ambulance Sector Office
- New Zealand Defence Force
- New Zealand Police
- NZSAR Secretariat (Chair)
- Rescue Coordination Centre 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.

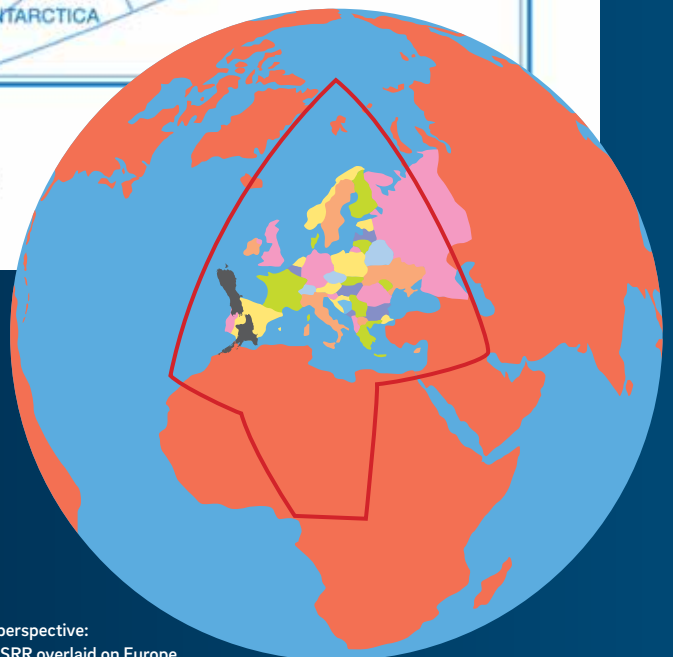


- CAA: Civil Aviation Authority
- DOC: Department of Conservation
- MNZ: Maritime New Zealand
- MoT: Ministry of Transport
- NZDF: New Zealand Defence Force
- ODESC: Officials Committee for Domestic and External Security Coordination
- RCCNZ: Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand
- SAROP: Search and Rescue Operations

NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE REGION



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



NEW ZEALAND SEARCH AND RESCUE COUNCIL
NZSAR SECRETARIAT
LEVEL 6, SAS TOWER
89 THE TERRACE
WELLINGTON
WWW.NZSAR.ORG.NZ
WWW.ADVENTURESMART.ORG.NZ

In perspective:
NZSRR overlaid on Europe.