

An interesting start to the year

SARINZ staff have been extremely busy supporting operational call-outs as well as delivering training. The Christchurch earthquake on February 22 saw every member of SARINZ involved in the response and recovery efforts (including initial response in the CBD on the Tuesday night, Operation Sumner, Operation Redcliff, Operation Harbour Bays, Operation West and Operation Rubble. A number of other SARINZ staff throughout the country have also been busy operationally within their own search and rescue groups attending to various operational needs.

As a training organisation SARINZ deliver training throughout NZ and around the world, and are passionate about all that New Zealand has to offer. SARINZ are also proudly Canterbury based and we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all those organisations and personnel that responded to Christchurch in the aftermath of the devastating February earthquake. Whilst many of the Christchurch based SARINZ staff were coping with the effects on our homes, families and friends as well as watching the heart of our beautiful city be torn apart, it was gratifying to see so many of the organisations and individuals that we assist in training turn up to assist in the response effort.

SARINZ "trainees" were involved in all aspects of the response – from the Civil Defence controller, members of the EOC, Police, Fire Service, USAR and ERT teams, Rural Fire, Red Cross, Civil Defence, Coastguard and LandSAR to name just a few. Many of these organisations and individuals were not involved in the 'rescue' effort downtown or even witnessed much of the catastrophic damage, yet the staffing of welfare centres and door knocking across the city were equally important roles, carried out with humility and professionalism by many of you. On behalf of a very grateful Christchurch, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.



2011 Training - Student Feedback YTD



2011 - The year so far...

SARINZ have noticed a steady increase in the demand for short courses with record numbers attending entry-level Search and Rescue training events - 36 SAR volunteers at one course and 34 at another! We have also noted an increased requirement for continuation/refresher and/or extension training and we are working with all of our partners to meet this demand for all SAR sector groups. All up, 57 training events are scheduled to be delivered by SARINZ in May, June and July alone. SARINZ will be working to continue to offer support to all members of search and rescue agencies to meet training and operational needs wherever we can.

Our commitment continues to be to only provide quality training benchmarked against national and international best practise, and as always SARINZ training will only be delivered by professional instructors with operational experience to back them up. We believe in SAR practitioners being taught by SAR practitioners.

So far we believe we are getting it right as participant feedback on SARINZ training/courses is extremely positive – so firstly thanks for the ongoing support and secondly this is a direct credit and reflection to the passion and dedication of all involved (Volunteers, Trainees, Tutors, National bodies, and the SARINZ Staff). New Zealand is lucky to have you all. It is worth noting that most of the "disagree" feedback is not actually negative feedback when read in the context of the question and conjunction with student comments. The most common disagree is that the course was long enough - student comments from training this year include "would love to have more time", "two days is not enough" or "its a pity I have to go back to work". All of the disagree feedback is in this context.

SARINZ has moved

The SARINZ office is now located at 16 Tyne Street, Addington, just a short distance from central Christchurch and not too far from our previous office on Mandeville Street. Feel free to drop by to visit, enjoy a coffee or just have a chat.

Updated Contact details:

- Direct Phone 03 348 6654
- Free Phone 0800 4 SARINZ
- Fax 03 348 6678
- Email info@sarinz.com
- Web www.sarinz.com



So what is happening in the SARINZ world?

Support of NZSAR projects



SARINZ personal continue to be part of NZSAR driven projects and workshops. So far this year this has included;

- Assisting with the development and delivery of the new On Scene Coordinators course
- Managing the working group that developed the Avalanche pre-plan guidelines - now available on the NZSAR website
- We have also been busy working with NZSAR personal on the Incident Management project (another training gap about to be filled)
- Attendance at the NZSAR education and training workshop

SARINZ is also a member of the NZSAR Council's Consultative Committee. This recognises SARINZ as one of the prime enablers to improve the operational performance of New Zealand's SAR practitioners. As enablers, SARINZ works with all of the operational SAR agencies including Police, Maritime NZ, RCCNZ, Coastguard, LandSAR NZ, Surf Lifesaving, NZ Defence Force etc). This means SARINZ provides advice (in conjunction with the other members) to those that make the decisions.

TPP committed to training



SARINZ and Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) have committed in writing to continue to support training for the search and rescue sector for the next 3 years, with a right-of-renewal for an additional 3 years. You can be assured both organisations are committed to the long-term provision of quality search and rescue training for at least the next 6 years!

SARINZ short courses continue to be the benchmark for many groups and we are committed (with the support of TPP) to continue to offer this training to SAR agencies throughout New Zealand. A new TPP curriculum is in its final stages of development. We wish to thank all those who have helped us get to this stage (It has taken a long time but it is good to be finally near completion).

SARINZ Trust and TPP have also reaffirmed their continued commitment to "fee free" training for all volunteer training in 2011. SARINZ continues to believe that volunteer's contribute enough without any added financial burdens. Therefore, it is our promise to you that we will do everything within our control to make it easier for you to get good quality training that meets your needs. If we can better help you - just let us know.

Supporting LandSAR training



SARINZ are proud to be working closely with LandSAR NZ and its members as we support the National LandSAR Training Programme. SARINZ and LandSAR believe in the need for quality training aimed at the needs of the sector. "SARINZ message continues to be one of support and partnership aimed at meeting LandSAR NZ training and development needs".

This training has seen, or will see, SARINZ involvement in the following LandSAR events:

- The Field Initial Training Camp (aka 'bootcamps') – delivery of the SARINZ Search Methods and TCA course components as part of the LandSAR programme
- North and South Island Tracking Camp Selection weekends (see page 4)
- SAREX support (design and instruction) and feedback
- The Managing the Initial Response (MIR) course - details on page 3
- Incident Management Team EXercises - IMTEX's
- The 5-Day Tracking Course
- The Rope Rescue refresher/forum weekends

We would like to thank SARINZ Trust and the various funding bodies for their contribution, without which we could not have funded the SARINZ Tutors to facilitate many of these activities.

First Aid Training



At this time SARINZ are busy trying to sort out First Aid delivery.

SARINZ were left a little red-faced when TPP advised at very short notice that it was temporarily unable to support First Aid training due to an internal review. Thankfully Triple One Care (the SARINZ First Aid provider) was able to step into the breach and offer Auckland LandSAR a very good deal to do this at minimal cost.

SARINZ is currently reviewing its First Aid delivery in the SAR programme to best meet the sector needs and minimise any cost to volunteers. These discussions are ongoing and we will advise you of the outcomes as soon as we confirm details. In the meantime, if your SAR organisation or group is after First Aid training, give us a call to discuss training options.

Research Projects

SARINZ currently has a number of research and development projects on the go. Current projects which we are assisting, leading or collaborating on include:

- NZSAR On Scene Coordinators (OSC) project and training course
- NZSAR Incident Management Project
- TPP Curriculum development
- Lost Person Behaviour (LPB) field guide*
- LPB Smartphone App*
- LPB/GIS technology project**
- CIMS development project
- An 'Advanced Search Planning' workshop

*occurring in conjunction with Robert Koester

If you have something you could add to these projects, please contact us at: info@sarinz.com

Thanks go to NZSAR, SARINZ Trust, TPP, the Wellington Trust, New Zealand Oil and Gas, Eagle Technologies and dbS Productions for their support of these projects. Together we are "helping others save lives" and ensuring New Zealand remains at the leading edge of search and rescue practice.

Height Safety Training



SARINZ are pleased to be partnered with PBI Height Safety to deliver height safety and confined space training throughout NZ. We believe this partnership complements our existing range of courses and enables us to better meet our mission of "helping others save lives"

PBI Height Safety commenced in the late 1990's specialising in a range of height safety equipment including, full body harnesses, lanyards and associated PPE equipment. In 2001, PBI extended into a wider area of height safety equipment which involved the supply, installation and certification of permanent Horizontal and Vertical safety life line systems and anchor points.

PBI also deliver training in height safety and confined space work. Each course is able to be adapted to suit your specific needs so that any personnel on site are more than competent in keeping themselves safe.

All courses are available throughout New Zealand at one of their training venues, or depending on numbers, at your specific site.

Courses available include;

- Fall arrest - NZQA US 15757
- Confined Space - NZQA US 17599
- Height Safety Awareness course - NZQA US 17600

2010 - what actually happened with SARINZ?

2010 was a year of contrasts for SARINZ. Operationally it was the best on record delivering to over 2500 SAR practitioners across the sector. Financially, however, it was a different story. One that by years end saw SARINZ facing a 235K loss. We would like to take this opportunity to explain what happened - from the horses mouth so to speak...

SARINZ can trace the beginning of the "problems" back to decisions made in 2008/09. These decisions were based on an income expectation that was in over-inflated because of incorrect information and flawed accounting processes. At the end of 2009 investments were made on the reporting of a reasonable surplus. By the end of 2009 a much more modest surplus was the reality (but money had already been spent), but with course number expectations for 2010 looking strong, there was an anticipation of a good year - and training wise it was. As 2010 progressed it became increasingly apparent that there was a much bigger problem than initially thought. Further accounting errors dating back to 2008 (that were not picked up by external accountants or Auditors), poor financial oversight by staff on some activities, complex internal accounting processes and the expectation for improvement did not match the errors being continually unearthed. The costs and budget blowouts were too excessive for the income being earned. We now know that SARINZ had not had an accurate picture of its accounts for 2-3 years. We can happily report that we now know exactly the state of our accounts, where the issues were and have made bold moves to correct the errors.

Since its inception SARINZ has been tied to a steady but highly risky revenue stream. Tertiary funding to support volunteer training is an anomaly in education and in the volunteer sector. In 2010 this funding was called into question. SARINZ and TPP had to work out how much funding was actually available for volunteer training. Pressure from within the SAR sector also made us question the decisions made in 2008 - 2010. All-in-all there were mounting obstacles, and some within SARINZ were not coping well with the news, whilst others hunkered down to effect change and address & rectify the issues. Internal cost control strategies implemented in July 2010 were not aggressive enough. We knew we were in financial trouble but were blinded by growth opportunities and a training schedule that was full. In this mêlée of activity, we underestimated the impact of the economic situation and when this was combined with increased delivery and compliance costs, and the squeeze from the market caused by uncertain funding and TEC requirements - the future had a dark cloud hovering over it. Unfortunately the financial reality means that SARINZ had a substantial loss in 2010, but one that we WILL bounce back from by the end of 2011.

In the best interests of staff and the sector, the SARINZ Trustees & Board have taken decisive action to restructure SARINZ to a leaner, low-cost organisation that can withstand the vagaries of our market and these changeable conditions. SARINZ has moved away from the corporate model and no longer has a CEO role. We have refocused on providing training and development aimed purely at the SAR and Emergency Management sector needs. Financial control has been tightened and everyone within SARINZ is held accountable to insure that cost control is maintained. At the end of the day SARINZ is a charitable organisation, primarily delivering training to volunteers. We have to make every dollar go further, and be much more accountable for how we spend it. Every dollar we save is one more dollar that can be spent on delivering training. The new Auditors agreed that under this new more focussed model SARINZ will be "*a sustainable financial practise*".**

2011 ushers in a new chapter in the life of SARINZ. Our total focus for 2011 and beyond is on working in partnership with the SAR sector, in assisting with your training and participating in research and development projects that enables more effective search and rescue operations. SARINZ and TPP have formally signed up to provide another 3 years of SAR training with an option for another 3 years (see page 2 for more details). SARINZ are continuing to conduct R&D and we working with LandSAR to deliver aspects of its national training programme. Not to mention we are continuing to work with volunteers, groups and national bodies within the sector to meet your needs. For us it is an exciting time, back to grass roots support and focusing on the key SARINZ mission of "*helping others save lives*", so let us know how we can help you.

** See the 2010 SARINZ Annual Report for more information @ www.sarinz.com

AOTL - just what are we talking about?

AOTL is the Action Orientated Team Leadership skills course - the updated and improved SAR Team Leadership Skills course. The original course underwent a review in 2009 with industry reps from most of the SAR sector organisations. All of these organisations have had input into the current course content and format.

The key component of the course is on the practical skill of leading a team in an action orientated environment - it is a hands-on learning experience, and the best courses are where personnel from various agencies all mix in together. Afterall, we all come with different life and leadership experiences. This course provides an opportunity to get real time feedback and explore what your "natural" leadership style is, and why that may work well in some situations and not others.

Courses delivered in 2011 have involved members of Coastguard, LandSAR, Rural Fire, Civil Defence and St Johns as well as many other organisations. The feedback has been outstanding and this course is likely to be adopted by some of these organisations as their default leadership course rather than develop or support their own 'in-house' course.

The course has a small pre-course assignment and the instructor facilitated days can be delivered in two formats; a 3-day format including all of the course requirements (which is our recommended and preferred option), or a two day format which has a post course assignment.

Contact the SARINZ office for more information or see the course list on page 4 for options.

Customised Training

- Do you have a specific training need that is not being met?
- Do you have an idea for training but not sure how or who can deliver it?
- Do you want something "*sort of like you did before*" but tailored for your group?

LET US HELP YOU

Whilst the core SARINZ business is delivering its "standard" courses, we can also deliver and assess approximately 140 NZQA Unit Standards across the emergency management, rescue and outdoor sector.

Want something more specific?

We can design and deliver one-off trainings like the Tracking Selection weekends, specific modules for SAREX's or assist in the design of a SAREX or mini IMTEX or PaperEx for your group. The list is endless.

It could be any duration from a few hours to several days - we can even help you fundraise to pay for it!

Just give us a call to discuss your needs

Managing the Initial Response

Statistically more than 90% of land based operations will be concluded within 12 hours. The first few hours of a SAR operation are critical. The actions (or lack of action) taken here can dramatically influence the outcome - both in subject survivability and the duration of the operation. Thankfully there are a number of well researched practises that can be quickly and efficiently implemented during this initial response phase to try to bring about a quick and resolute outcome.

The Managing the Initial Response (MIR) course is one half of the former 5-day Managing Land Search Operations (MLSO) course. The second part is Formal Search Planning - also run as a 3-day course. The separation of the MIR component allows the focus to be placed on the greater statistical likelihood of a shorter operation, and allows more persons to attend without the need to understand or implement "all that maths". That said, SARINZ still has the ability to deliver these two modules back to back - similar to the MLSO format.

The MIR course is targeted at those looking at becoming involved in land search management and/or for suitably experienced Field Team Leaders to expand their knowledge, assist in tasking during the critical period and to improve their abilities in the field by better understanding the process "back at base".

Upcoming MIR course options are:

- 7-10 July, Burnham, Canterbury
- 23-25 September, SEHOPC, Turangi
- 18-20 November, Roxburgh (venue TBC)
- 9-11 March 2012, SEHOPC, Turangi
- 27-29 July 2012, Woodbourne, Blenheim

Training News

It is no surprise that the Christchurch earthquake interrupted a lot of SARINZ training in the first quarter. Up until the February 22 earthquake, SARINZ had delivered 6 training events.

Only two courses occurred post Feb 22 until the 1st of April – which was fortunate with so many SARINZ staff and contractors tied up in the earthquake response.

April was the busiest on record with 13 training events occurring – unheard of as traditionally both Easter and ANZAC mean April is quiet training wise – though this year they occurred on the same weekend, minimising the effect this has on training and maximising the weekends available to volunteers.

Listed in the adjacent table are many of the upcoming training events – though some do have entry criteria, some are privately funded or ‘closed’ events and some are already near capacity. Many of the events listed are multi-agency events catering for a wide range of SAR agencies.

For more information on any of these, talk to your group, regional or national training officer in the first instance. If you have no luck, or require further information go to the SARINZ website or contact the SARINZ office.

LandSAR Instructors

As many of you are aware LandSAR have called for instructors to support its training needs. We thank many of you for drawing this to our attention and contacting us to ask what is going on. Every organisation has the right to have its own trainers and deliver its own in-house training. Many organisations that SARINZ delivers training to have their own trainers, with SARINZ providing specialist training as and where required.

SARINZ have also tendered for the delivery of this training. The SARINZ pool of contractors has the right to apply as individuals, but most have confirmed they prefer to operate with the full support and resources of SARINZ and their peers, rather than as an individual.

SARINZ remains committed to delivering quality training by suitably experienced practitioners for any organisation or group that wishes to engage our services.

Start Date	End Date	Event	Location
4 June	6 June	Rope Rescue Forum	Sir Edmond Hillary Outdoor Pursuits Centre (SEHOPC)
10 June	12 June	Track and Clue Awareness	SEHOPC “bootcamp” pt 2
11 June	12 June	Track and Clue Awareness	Puketi Forest HQ, Kerikeri
11 June	12 June	TCA/Tracking Refresher	Puketi Forest HQ, Kerikeri
11 June	12 June	Search Methods	Glentui, Canterbury
11 June	12 June	Iman/Gman	Gisborne
18 June	19 June	CIMS4	Christchurch
19 June	20 June	SAREX	Waikato/Pirongia
25 June	25 June	LPB Alzheimer’s	Hamilton
26 June	26 June	LPB Despondent/Suicides	Hamilton
25 June	26 June	Search Methods	Roxburgh
2 July	3 July	Track and Clue Awareness	Tauranga
2 July	3 July	Clue Site Processing	Tauranga
8 July	10 July	Managing Initial Response	Burnham, Canterbury
9 July	10 July	Track and Clue Awareness	Te Kauri, Waikato
9 July	10 July	Tracking	Te Kauri, Waikato
9 July	10 July	Clue Site Processing	Te Kauri, Waikato
9 July	10 July	Search Methods	TOPEC, Taranaki
16 July	17 July	Track and Clue Awareness	Roxburgh
19 July	20 July	CIMS4	Christchurch
TBC	TBC	IMTEX	Canterbury
30 July	31 July	Track and Clue Awareness	Reefton
6 Aug	7 Aug	Suburban Search	Canterbury
6 Aug	7 Aug	IMTEX	Westport
8 Aug	12 Aug	5-Day Tracking Course	North Island, venue TBC
13 Aug	14 Aug	Search Methods	Tauranga
13 Aug	14 Aug	Tracking	Tauranga
13 Aug	14 Aug	Tracking	Kerikeri
20 Aug	21 Aug	Search Methods	Te Kauri, Waikato
20 Aug	21 Aug	SAR First Aid	Te Kauri, Waikato
20 Aug	21 Aug	AOTL skills	Te Kauri, Waikato
20 Aug	21 Aug	CIMS 4	Canterbury
20 Aug	21 Aug	Suburban Search	Roxburgh
3 Sept	4 Sept	IMTEX	Hamilton, Waikato
10 Sept	11 Sept	Tracking	Reefton
10 Sept	13 Sept	AOTL skills	Motutapu Camp - Auckland

All training delivery subject to confirmation, minimum numbers and the standard SARINZ Terms and Conditions

Do you want training, but not sure where to start?

1 Ask

Quiz your local, regional or national training coordinator about what you can do, and what is available.

2 Visit

Go to www.sarinz.com and use the search by course function to see what, where and when booked training is being delivered.

3 Enquire

Email info@sarinz.com to enquire about attending course(s) that interest you. (NB just because it isn't in your area doesn't mean you can't attend it)

5 Read, listen, watch

You will receive information about the course – if you don't receive any information or have questions contact the course coordinator and SARINZ.

4 Talk

Let your training coordinator know about the courses that interest you – there may be others in your area also interested in attending this course.

6 Confirm and attend

A lot of people – not least the lost person – depend on your attendance. So do the right thing and let us know if you can't make it, someone else can use that spot.

7 Practice and refresh

The only way to improve is to keep practising. The best way to do this is with your SAR group or on SARINZ courses.

8 Feedback

Let us know (info@sarinz.com) what works or doesn't. Your feedback makes training better and helps to save lives.

Tracking Selection Camps - Dirt time!

SARINZ provided facilitators for the recent North & South Island Tracking Selection camps. These camps allowed LandSAR practitioners to turn up and be judged on their currency and suitability to attend the joint LandSAR/SARINZ 5-Day Tracking Course in August.

The selection weekend focussed on the practical application of skills, both as a team leader and team member. For many this was their first time to gain formal feedback on their skills since attending their original training a few years ago.

Overall the standard of skills demonstrated was pleasing and SARINZ have made recommendations to LandSAR of those persons deemed suitable for the 5-Day course.

LandSAR will finalise the list and be in contact with you all about the 5-Day Tracking course. If you didn't make it through this time - our recommendation is to keep practising and applying the skills and we certainly think you will make it through next year. If you attended one of these weekends but have not heard from LandSAR and want to know how you went, please get in contact with the LandSAR office.

If you are keen on tracking, keep an eye out for these occurring mid next year - come along and be evaluated to gain a place on the 5-Day Tracking Course.

Photos from these events can be viewed on the SARINZ Facebook page



LandSAR members demonstrate their skills at the recent SARINZ facilitated Selection Camp

SARINZ training - even the Aussies can do it...

So we might have joked for a while that many of the search skills and methodologies, whilst founded in modern search theory, were broken down into such simple practices that even Australians could do it - turns out we were right!

A small number of these persons had been to the Dunedin LandSAR conference in 2006 and been exposed to the amount of training that was available in New Zealand. Discussions around the delivery of this training have been occurring ever since.

On two consecutive weekends in May, SARINZ delivered a "standard" Track and Clue Awareness course and a Search Methods course to members of Victoria Police SAR squad, Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) and Victoria Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) which is the over-arching volunteer body in Victoria (similar to LandSAR in NZ). BSAR includes members of Victoria Alpine SAR (alpineSAR) who made up the majority of attendees.

For many this was their first exposure to what we would term "modern" search practice including LPB, night searching and tracking. Many of the participants had a vast amount of search and rescue experience, with many well over 10+ years of operational time. It was great to be able to share stories and experiences of actual operations and have their input into the contextualisation of the material to the Victorian conditions and search processes.

A fantastic time was had by the instructors, and the feedback from the participants was overwhelmingly positive with many looking forward to advancing their skills in the future. The following comment posted on the SARINZ Facebook page is indicative of the feedback:

Thanks for a great course @ Lake Mountain, Victoria last weekend. It was the best training course on Search Methods I have attended in my 22yrs as a VICSES volunteer / Trainer. Any search courses I attend in the future will be measured against this one. The course was a huge leap forward in search techniques and methodologies. An absolute must for anyone involved with search and rescue or related fields. Cheers

Sometimes it is difficult to remember how lucky we are in New Zealand to have ready access to search and rescue training, by skilled facilitators backed up by years of operational experience. The availability of training has become so common that we expect it as the 'norm'; however, those that can recall pre-SARINZ days will testify how infrequent and difficult 'speciality' training was to access.

Photos from the Victoria training are available on the SARINZ Facebook page.



Ross Gordon and members of Victoria alpineSAR, Victoria Police Search and Rescue and BSAR - Lake Mountain, Victoria, Australia



SARINZ Heads Up

distributed by:



Helping others save lives

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Heads Up is published 3-4 times a year to keep the sector up to date with news and events in the SARINZ world.

If you would like to receive an automatic copy, submit news or notices email headsup@sarinz.com.