



AREC info

Monthly newsletter of
Amateur Radio Emergency
Communications

JUNE 2020

Membership Database

Darren ZL2DAZ and Lindsey ZL4KS have been working through updating the National Membership Database.

This involves contacting each Group leader and confirming current members details (e-mail address, mobile phone number and passport style photo for each member.)

Because AREC is a sub Group of NZART it is important that all AREC Members are financial with NZART, so Debby at HQ has also been checking this and I would like to personally thank those of you who have renewed their membership with NZART during this process.

The project is nearly completed and we will be producing a membership card for all members in the coming months.

AREC Clothing, Protective Equipment and Branding Project

As you probably already know, AREC received a significant funding boost in the latest budget. This money is to allow AREC to implement a number of projects to assist us operate at a more professional level within the SAR sector. One of these projects is to provide our members with suitable Personal Protection Equipment and operational clothing.

Before we rush out and spend any money it is important that we have a clear view of what we need and how it will be issued and used.

I have been tasked with convening a working group to answer the key What, Why, Who and How questions so that we can compile an appropriate shopping list.

We will need input from a range of perspectives so I am looking to form a small but eminent group to answer all the questions and come up with a plan.

I would like to get views from all levels in AREC, from individual members, group leaders and members of the management team. It's important that those who will have to wear this gear have a say in the process.

So, if you would like to help and are willing to be part of the team please drop me an email, with a quick intro and a summary of your AREC role and experience.

I would like to get this process underway soon so please get expressions of interest in to me ASAP so I can select the team and get going.

You can contact me on 0223546451 or at abrill0653@gmail.com

Andy Brill, ZL1COP/ZK6EXB
AREC Deputy Director (North)

NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Hi everyone, and welcome to another newsletter.

Things are starting to move along at a faster pace within AREC, mainly as a consequence of the funding from NZ SAR which was announced as part of the recent budget.

AREC has had a long and proud history, this funding represents a major milestone in that history that recognises the important role we play and provides us the ability to invest as we continue to build our organisation.

Of course there is no such thing as a free lunch. In return for their significant investment, NZ SAR are expecting us build a capable membership, who are ready, willing and able to support partner agencies and the community in times of need.

To make this happen, we need to engage with our members and understand what you need from AREC so you can volunteer your time and energy to help us. And the great news is that we are now in a position to invest in training at all levels, to ensure that we meet the needs of both our people and our current and future users of our services.

This is an exciting new chapter for AREC. I am very keen to hear from you, our members, with your ideas of how together we build AREC for the future.



Don Robertson ZL2TYR, AREC National Director

AREC Update & Funding

Following on from AREC National Director Don Robertson's introduction, we would like to share with you details of the NZ SAR funding, what it means for AREC, and how it will be spent to build a capable forward-looking organisation.

Background

The background to this was a number of discussions held by Don Robertson with members of the SAR sector and other organisations we work with. "There was overwhelming support for what we do and genuine surprise that we were 100% volunteer with only small levels of income" explained Don. "The need to provide stability for the future was a key driver behind the submission".

With full support of NZSAR, Don enlisted the help of a business analyst to build a business case to submit to Government. This was "quite an exercise" admits Don, "however it is clear that we need to think and act differently if we are going to step-up and deliver what I know we are capable of" he says.

Funding

Don was successful in securing \$1.67m over three years for AREC. "The basis of the submission was simply that we need a better way to run the organization" says Don. This will include some paid staff as well as investment into systems to help run AREC. "However, the most important investment needs to be in our people" he explains.

Engaging with our Volunteers

"Like many groups, AREC relies on its volunteers to deliver our services to the community" says Don. "Therefore, this funding means we can invest in our people through training, as well as ensuring we have the processes in place to support them when they are out in the field".

Steve Davis, AREC's Training Manager says "developing and delivering training is a big cost item for any organisation, especially one as geographically dispersed as we are. For the first time, we will be able to engage the right resources to ensure we can create meaningful material that will develop our members". The training investment will be across all levels. "We need to build capability in our Group Leaders as well as developing our front-line" adds Don.

Volunteer Strategy

AREC Deputy Director Lindsey Ross has been leading work around building a volunteer strategy for AREC, which has included working with Volunteering New Zealand. "When I think back over my time in AREC, we have really been a technical group of like-minded Amateurs joined by a desire to help others. And while this may still be true today, what we need to consider is how do we encourage new members to join us, and how do we help all of our members think of AREC as a good use of their time". Don Robertson comments that "Lindsey has done a great job of helping us think differently about how NZART, AREC, Groups and members interact. And it is clear that we haven't got this right everywhere, and we need to".

AREC Priorities

- Build a committed, competent and engaged membership across AREC
- Work with Group Leaders to support them to meet the needs of their members and community
- Build core IT systems that means people can get what they need, when they need it
- Invest in marketing and fundraising to get our message out there and encourage new people to join us
- Invest in training and volunteer management
- Develop policies and procedures that look after the Health, Safety and Wellbeing of our people
- Work to build an AREC brand, including clothing and PPE that clearly identifies us
- Constantly innovate in our delivery to ensure we remain relevant into the future

"This funding represents a turning point for AREC" concludes Don, "it is up to all of us to build an organisation we want to be part of and one that will endure into the future".

AREC Auckland Happenings

By Deputy Director Andy Brill ZL1COP

Karekare – 2 May 2020

AREC provided communications support to Police and LandSAR during the recent searches for French teenager Eloi Rolland missing for several months in the Waitakere ranges. The final phase of the search was completed at Karekare on 2nd May. The mission was to search all tracks in the Karekare area for signs of the missing boy.

The search base was established in the public carpark at Karekare and teams were transported to various locations to commence the track searches. Karekare is a particularly rugged area with no cellphone coverage. Comms used two strategically located portable repeaters, and in some areas a mobile relay was used on repeater reverse to maintain contact with teams who were unable to access either repeater.

Late in the day some of the teams were diverted to another search after a person was heard yelling for help in bush at nearby Huia. This turned out to be a false alarm, (the person was calling his dog which had a name that sounded like "Help"). Comms for this operation were handled on the Auckland Regional Parks Manukau Heads repeater.

Sadly the day ended with no sign of Eloi who remains missing.



The comms base was set up in the relative luxury of a tramping club bus



Comfy seats and plenty of room!



The search included members of NZ Response teams NZRT3 and NZRT5 from Waitakere and North Shore.

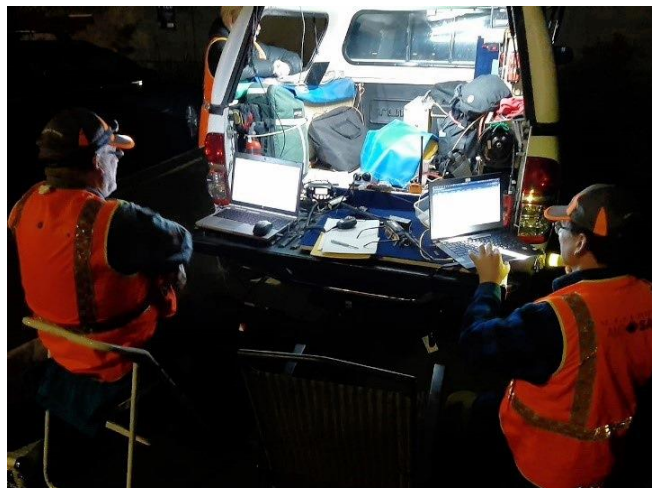
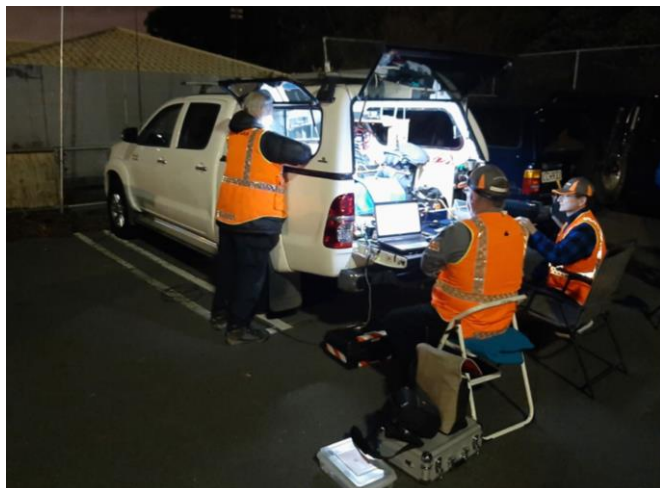
LandSAR training – Blockhouse Bay 10 June

Auckland LandSAR training for June was a night tracking exercise held at Blockhouse Bay.

Dave ZL1MR and Ian ZL1IRC (Br. 65) Malcolm ZL1MIT, and Andy ZL1COP (Br. 29) and Soren ZL1SKL (Br. 02) provided the AREC support. Comms were on simplex and SARTrack was used to track and record team activity.

SAR Base was set up on the tailgate of Dave ZL1MRs ute in the Countdown Supermarket carpark at Blockhouse Bay and the teams searched for footprints etc in a nearby bit of bush.

Soren used the opportunity to a bit of field maintenance by upgrading the firmware on the teams TP9300 radios using the Tait Fleet Enable radio management software.



Improvised SARBASE. L-R Ian ZL1IRC, Malcolm ZL1MIT, Soren ZL1SKL at Blockhouse Bay.

National Asset Register Audit

Deputy National Director Lindsey Ross ZL4KS reports that we are about to conduct an audit of the National Asset Register of equipment that held by Groups. This equipment has been purchased with funds we have received from NZSAR and we will be contacting each Group Leader and verifying that the Group still has the equipment and in some cases checking the serial numbers. Lindsey will be assisted by Darren ZL2DAZ who will be starting to contact groups shortly, your prompt assistance would be appreciated.

Health and Safety is the responsibility of us all

Remember to:

STOP – In your mind you need to be constantly pausing and evaluating no matter the task or the location.

THINK – You need to think about what you see. Identify Hazards and associated Risk (the chance of it going wrong)

PLAN – Talk to others, compare notes, make a plan

COMMUNICATE – Brief the plan and plan to brief others as they arrive.

ACT – Execute the plan, monitor and review progress.

As required – STOP again and then re-Think, re-Plan, Communicate & re-Act.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

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Further information about AREC, including regional contacts, can be found online at arec.info