

Important

Remember to let Gin know if you are going to be unavailable for any period of time.

- If you are going away: Contact Gin with the dates you are unavailable.
- If you are unable to attend a training: Contact Matt Hassard
- If you are unable to attend a meeting: Contact Gin

This Months Meeting — 16th May

The AGM will be held first and then the usual meeting.

Navigation with Compass and Map/Compass - **Bring your compass**

Last Months Meeting

- Decision points exercise
- Yvonne shared her recent experiences in Tanzania.

Monthly Training - Wednesday 25th May

The venue is yet to be decided. If you would like anything specific covered at one of the trainings please let Matt know.

Please txt or call Matt to let him know whether or not you will be attending the monthly training. It is expected that all members attend these evening sessions.

AGM - 16th May ^{New}

Proposed Structure for the committee composition

- Chairman
- Training Coordinator
- Treasurer (may be from outside the organisation)
- Public Liaison and New Member coordinator
- YSAR representative
- Police representative
- Plus an Administrator. (Without voting rights if the position is paid)

If you would like to be considered for a position please get your nomination (with a seconder confirming your nomination) into one of the current committee members.

Committee Members

Virginia (Gin) Peck (Chairman)

John Twizell (Vice Chairman)

Russell Lamb
(Secretary & SARINZ training))

Amy McDonald (Treasurer/Funding)

Matt Hassard (Training)

Barry Were (YSAR coordinator)

Ralph Goudswaard

Mark Sellers

Rafael Whyte - Non-committee (Minutes)

Jake Crosby - Non-committee (Newsletter)

Callouts

During the last few weeks the Police have been very busy with call outs & have had about 12 but they have been resolved prior to a pager message being sent out.

Searchlight

The LandSAR Searchlight Newsletter is also attached. Of particular note are item 14: back country food rations and item 15: getting info on Operation West in Christchurch.

SAREX Next Month

The SAREX was postponed from March and is now on the weekend of the 18th and 19th of June.

Please let Gin know asap if you have not yet put your name down.

Alzheimer's/Dementia course replaces Suburban

The suburban search has been changed to a two day Alzheimer's/Dementia course on 25th-26th June and will be held at Wintec in the city centre, A Block. You'll need to bring your own lunch. We will put around a registration list at the meeting.

This is an important course to attend as there are a high number of operations dealing with missing people with one or other of these conditions.

Backcountry Ration Packs Updated

We have had a grant from Trust Waikato for \$5000. Some of this grant is to be used to order some more 24 hour ration packs, are there any specific ones that members prefer? See backcountrycuisine.co.nz

Search Dog Operational New

Hi All - just back from North Island LandSAR Search Dog assessment at Waiouru, had all seasons from blue sky through to hail and howling cold wind, but after 3 days of assessment we got the tick in the box and we are operational!!



Photo taken at the end of our last track with the assessment team from Police and LandSAR Search Dogs.

Thanks for your support.
Regards,
Graeme Hill

Minute Taker needed

Our minute taker at committee meetings will be leaving later this year around July or August for further study. We are looking for a volunteer to take over this role. Committee meetings are the second Monday of every month at the police station. Please talk to Gin.

For Sale

At the moment we do not have any ration packs available

- Backcountry ration packs – with breakfast, lunch, dinner and extras pack (tea, coffee, chocolate etc) they are a bargain at \$17. Remember – these are sold to our Group at this special rate on the understanding that they will only be used during SAREXs or SAR Operations.
- Hamilton designed SAR cloth badge, \$6.00 (contact Russell).
- Whistles – Bright and Loud, \$12 (contact Barry).

Pager Test Message

Reminder for all those members with pagers. The first of every month a test message is sent out to ensure your pager is operational, if you do not receive this message you should contact Matt.

Personal Details

Contact Russell if there are any changes to your contact details so the callout list is updated. Change of email address also needs to be passed on to Jake for the newsletter.

Discounts for Members

- Bivouac Outdoor – 20% discount
- Trek 'N Travel – 20% discount
- R&R Sport – 25% discount – Ask for Wayne Addison.
- Torpedo 7 – 10% discount – Email Barry for our discount code.
- Kathmandu - Free summit club membership

Hamilton Search & Rescue Group Chairman's Report for year ended 31 March 2011

This is the 12th Chairman's report for the Hamilton Search & Rescue group since its inception in October 1999. Our member numbers as at that date were 3 Advisors, 34 First Response members, 3 Base support and 6 members non-training or on leave making a total of 46 members which overall is the same as last year, although 3 members are leaving us for overseas adventures in the near future. This included 1 graduate from YSAR (Youth Search & Rescue) after successfully completing solo 4.

Our call outs for the last year totalled 16 with 7 of these being resolved prior to deployment or a pager message being sent. These searches ranged in areas from Raglan/Kawhia, Pirongia, Kaimais, Maungatautari, Coromandel to 3 Urban searches for dementia/alzheimers in Hamilton/Waihi & deployment of our members to Christchurch to provide assistance after the earthquake on 22nd February 2011.

Of the callouts sadly only 1 failed to find the missing person, with 2 searches finding the missing person deceased after 1 to 2 days of searching & all others being located within half a day. There was 1 other rescue which initially was to be a stretcher carry for some distance from the hut on top of Pirongia for a person with heart problems. Due to a brief weather clearance early in the June morning the Hamilton based rescue helicopter was able to fly in to uplift the male & transport him quickly to hospital, saving both him & our members a long physical stretcher carry.

The major event for the year not just for our group but nationally for NZ Search & Rescue was our assistance provided to Christchurch residents with Operation West after their devastating earthquake on 22 February 11. After the September 2010 quake the authorities were criticised that no one "official" had contacted residents to check on them or the state of their homes. We had 23 members who were able to go to Christchurch for a week on Monday 28 Feb as part of the Civil Defence emergency response request. Normally we are called out via NZ Police but as this was a national emergency C.D were the controlling agency. Our members were involved across all areas, management, technical and base support, medic/first aid, trained 4 wheel drivers with others being out in the field doing door knocking. We had to check on all the homes in the North, West, South, South East, Lyttelton & Banks Peninsula areas,

checking on the welfare of residents and what services they did or didn't have. Each night all the debrief forms were collated & typed into our computer system to enable reports to be printed and submitted to Civil Defence advising them of all the information collected for the day. We all stayed in our tent city at the sports grounds in the southern suburb of Hallswell for the 4 nights we were there. Many of Christchurch residents were surprised others had voluntarily come from all over the country to help them in their time of need. Hamilton members were able to be flown back to Whenuapai by the airforce on the Friday as the tasking was completed more quickly than they anticipated. Over the 9 days that SAR members were involved we visited approx 56,000 homes which was an amazing number in the short time frame we were involved. It definitely proved the value of having consistent national training courses as we were able to effectively work with others from all over the country.

Our regular monthly meetings and training sessions are invaluable in helping us all to maintain our high standard & continue to up skill our base level of core competencies being tracking, clue awareness, search methods, urban search requirements and first aid. When refresher or new courses are made available in the region we all need to ensure we attend to keep up to date with changes and build on our skill levels. If we don't regularly practice what we learn we lose that "edge" for when we really need to use these skills for the real search or rescue call out.

Hamilton SAR Group's joint project with YSAR (Youth Search & Rescue) in the building of a sturdy 7 x 20m shelter at the Kaimai's was officially opened on 04 September 2010 with a afternoon of activities followed by dinner & cutting of the cake. This facility is a great resource which can be used by groups for training purposes and is ideally situated close to the bush. A successful tracking refresher course was run from here, along with several YSAR weekend events. Thanks to Peter in allowing us access across his farm and being able to drive to the door.

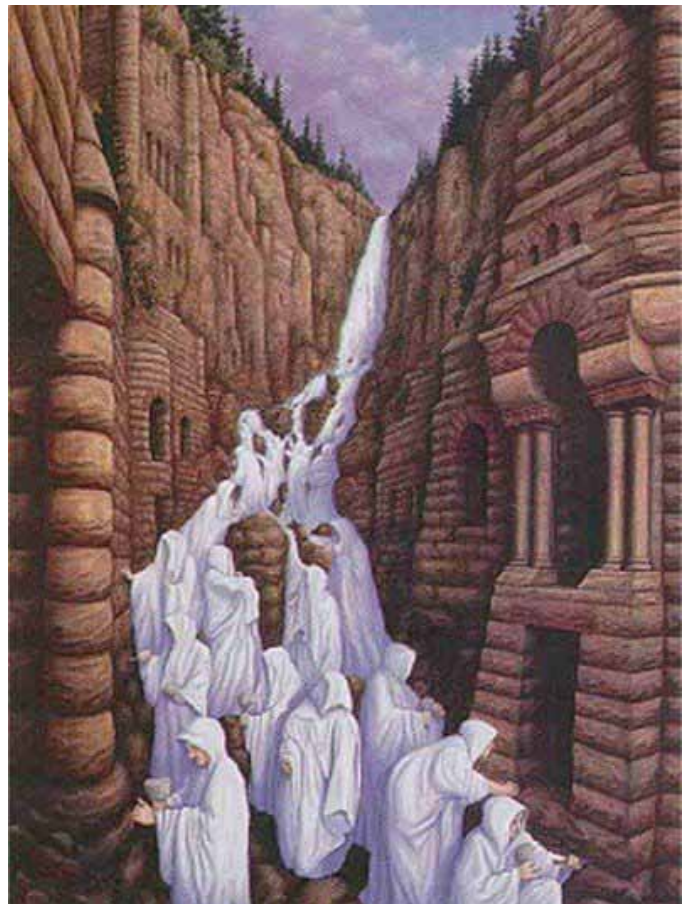
Another first for LandSAR was participating in a National LandSAR awareness week which had National advertising. With the support of Bunning's around the country we were able to use their shop entrances on the Saturday to promote search & rescue and collect donations from members of the public. On the Sunday we had our trailer based at the entrance to Downtown plaza & were able to use our raincoats due to the weather conditions and have our donation buckets at the ready. We raised

approximately \$1000 from this venture along with lifting our profile to the wider community. The group also had the opportunity to further increase our profile with a stall at the Tamahere markets, cooking & selling sausages, bacon, onions etc and some South African meats and being able to use our awareness week buckets for collecting further donations.

Thanks to the committee and all our members for the numerous hours they have put in during the year to ensure our Hamilton SAR Group continues to head in the right direction. Our recorded official group hours was 3975 hours for the Hamilton group only & this does not include any time spent on actual call outs or getting organised prior to going. Our funding is often reliant on proving how many hours we put in to benefit the wider community and therefore we all need to ensure we keep accurate records of the time we contribute to SAR related activities. Without us the NZ Police would not be able to effectively provide a search & rescue service to the New Zealand public so it is important our profile is nationally recognised and ensure we can help those when in need.

Thank you all for making yourselves available to be part of a valuable community function in contributing to saving lives. Well done everyone. I look forward to working with you in the future and being part of an organisation we can all be proud of.

Regards
Virginia Peck
Chairman
Hamilton Search & Rescue Group



May			
16 th	Meeting	Navigation with Compass and Map/Compass	Hamilton
21 st -22 nd	Training	Search Methods	Ohakune
25 th	Training	Monthly Training (Wednesday)	Hamilton
June			
18 th -19 th	Event	District SAREX	Pirongia
18 th -19 th	Training	Search Methods	New Plymouth
20 th	Meeting	Probability of Area and Team Initiative	Hamilton
25 th -26 th	Training	Alzheimer's/Dementia	Hamilton Updated
30 th	Training	Monthly Training (Thursday)	Hamilton
July			
2nd-3rd	Training	Track & Clue Awareness	Tauranga
2nd-3rd	Training	Clue Processing	Tauranga
9 th -10 th	Training	Track & Clue Awareness	Hamilton
9 th -10 th	Training	Tracking	Hamilton
9 th -10 th	Training	Clue Processing	Hamilton
9 th -10 th	Training	Search Methods	Taranaki
18 th	Meeting	Search planning scenarios	Hamilton
27 th	Training	Monthly Training (Wednesday)	Hamilton
August			
13 th -14 th	Training	Search Methods	Tauranga
15 th	Meeting	Guest Speaker - Leadership and Initiative	Hamilton
20 th -21 st	Training	Search Methods	Hamilton
20 th -21 st	Training	Team Leader	Hamilton
20 th -21 st	Training	First Aid (SARINZ)	Hamilton
25 th	Training	Monthly Training (Thursday)	Hamilton
September			
3 rd -4 th	Training	MLSO Refresher	Hamilton
19 th	Meeting	Decision Points Part 2 and Search Methods	Hamilton
28 th	Training	Monthly Training (Wednesday)	Hamilton
October			
9 th -10 th	Training	Foundation Rope Rescue	Whitianga
18 th	Meeting	Rogaine practice	Hamilton
27 th	Training	Monthly Training (Thursday)	Hamilton
November			
11th-13th	Training	First Aid (MSC)	Tauranga
30 th	Training	Monthly Training (Wednesday)	Hamilton
February			
	Meeting	Pack Float on Waikato River	Hamilton