

**OCTOBER /
NOVEMBER 2022**



AREC.info is the newsletter of Amateur Radio Emergency Communications, the public service arm of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters. AREC.info is published most months (except January).



Contents:

Chief Executive Comment	3
AREC 2022 Awards	4
AREC Summit & Forum	5
Repco Rally of New Zealand	7
AREC Training	9
Health, Safety & Wellbeing	9

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

National Officers:

ZK6EX Chief Executive Officer
 Don Robertson, ZL2TYR
ceo@arec.nz, 021 654 085

ZK6EXB Regional Manager North
 Andrew Brill, ZL1COP
RMNth@arec.nz, 022 354 6451

ZK6EXC Regional Manager Central
 Don Wallace, ZL2TLL
RMCent@arec.nz, 027 444 5123

ZK6EXA Regional Manager South
 Lindsey Ross, ZL4KS
RMStH@arec.nz, 021 116 1686

ZK6EXZ Technical Advisor
 John Yaldwyn, ZL4JY
techadvice@arec.nz, 021 456 042

ZK6EXP Project Coordinator
 John Murphy, ZL2XJ
projects@arec.nz, 021 0807 5075

ZK6EXT Training Advisor
 Steve Davis, ZL2UCX
training@arec.nz, 027 436 1796

ZK6EXH Health & Safety Advisor
 Dave Wilkins, ZL1MR
hsw@arec.nz, 021 185 7903

ZK6EXR Risk Advisor
 Wilbert Goossens, ZL2WEG
riskadvisor@arec.nz, 027 451 9717

ZK6EIL Technical Innovations Leader
 Philip Sharp, ZL1PSH
techinnovator@arec.nz, 027 203 0428

ZK6EDM NZ IARU R3 EC Coordinator
 Steve Davis, ZL2UCX
nziaruecc@arec.nz, 027 436 1796

ZK6EXE Newsletter Editor
 Soren Low, ZL1SKL
newsletter@arec.nz, 021 813 541

Treasurer – Stuart Burns
treasurer@arec.nz, 021 972 535

Administration – Annalise
admin@arec.nz, 04 939 2189

Cover: Russ Watson ZL4JW was awarded the 2022 Doug Gorman award for work he has done with his business Countrynet to build out a wide-area radio network for the benefit of the community. He is seen here receiving the award from AREC Regional Manager South Lindsey Ross ZL4KS. Read more on Page 5.



The full AREC Contact List, including District Managers and Group leaders is here:
<https://arec.nz/arec-officers/>

Gareth Bradshaw ZL3VP, SK

It is with great sadness that I learned of Gareth Bradshaw ZL3VP's passing in October after a short illness. In 2020, Gareth was recognised as AREC's first Life Member for his 58-years of service with AREC, including 15 as our national treasurer.

I would like to pass on my sympathies to family and friends of Gareth; he will be missed.



Friendly Manager

We are making good progress migrating our membership into the new Friendly Manager system. However, there are still a few members who have yet to sign-up. We need to be fully across to the new system by the end of the year so can you please sign-up if you haven't yet.

Friendly Manager will be the system we use for all of our membership information, including communications, ID card printing and access to resources, training and other information.

If you need another link, or no longer wish to be a member of AREC, please e-mail admin@arec.nz

ID Cards

Our current ID cards expire at the end of the year, and we are now preparing for a re-print. We will be using the membership database in Friendly Manager (see above) and will require new passport style photos please. Note we need a good quality image so please use passport photo guidelines. As my wife reminds me, none of us are getting any younger which is why we ask for new photos at each card re-print.

NZ Police SAR Repeaters

Following a slight delay with batteries, the new NZ Police SAR repeaters built by Tait in Christchurch are now being distributed. Both stand-alone (yellow) and linking (green) repeaters have been purchased. These will initially be deployed for analogue operation and DMR capability will be added shortly.

LandSAR and AREC radio files V6.8 have been pushed out to Tait Enable Fleet, new V7.0 will follow to include DMR and other features for use with these new repeaters.



You will read a bit in this newsletter about the recent AREC Summit and Forum, held around the NZART AGM and Conference. I'd like to say thank you to those who were able to attend – either in person or virtually – connecting with our people is an important part of my role and one I really enjoy. If you couldn't make it, and want to connect, feel free to give me a call.

Until next month, stay safe.

Don, ZL2TYR

Chief Executive Officer, AREC



AREC AWARDS 2022

“Recognising our members for their achievements is something that is very important to me” says AREC CEO Don Robertson. “Our volunteers, working together are AREC, without the generosity of their time and skills, our organisation simply would not exist.”

A highlight of the NZART Conference was the ability to recognise several our members.

Life Membership – Brian Purdie ZL2ADL



Brian Purdie ZL2ADL has been involved in AREC for over 50 years, including being our National Director for 10 years from 1996 to 2006 when Jeff Sayer took the helm.

His first involvement was when he was still in high school, however he became involved seriously after getting licensed in the late 1960's as a newly married man.

Brian, and his late wife Cathy ZL2ADK, were very heavily involved in both AREC and LandSAR, they were both awarded Life Membership of Whanganui LandSAR this year.

He speaks fondly of his time in AREC. Helping people is his passion, and he really enjoys the opportunity to apply his technical skills to help others solve their communications problems.

As the AREC Central District Manager, he doesn't show any signs of slowing down!

Above: Brian Purdie ZL2ADL (centre) receiving his AREC Life Membership from AREC CEO Don Robertson ZL2TYR (left) and AREC Regional Manager Central Don Wallace ZL2TLL (right).

Life Membership – John Yaldwyn ZL4JY

John is currently our Technical Advisor and continues to be a guiding light in AREC's technical direction. He is a key driver of the AREC ZL-TRBO DMR network and saw New Zealand as an early adopter of this platform. This network is built to the highest engineering standards to ensure reliable operation under all conditions; this is what sets it apart from more experimental Amateur Radio DMR systems.

He speaks fondly of his first involvement with AREC back in 1976 "I was instructed by then Officer Commanding AREC to provide communications support to a flooding event."

John was previously awarded NZART Amateur of the Year in 1985 jointly with Peter ZL2ARW for the development of the analog National System, New Zealand Police 2001 International Year of the Volunteer medallion for contributions to SAR and a LandSAR Excellence Award received in 2014 for contributions to SAR for more than 20 years.



Above Right: John Yaldwyn ZL4JY (left) receiving his Life Membership from AREC CEO Don Robertson ZL2TYR

2022 Doug Gorman Award

Doug Gorman ZL2IY was NZART's Communications Manager who became the AREC Commanding Officer from 1949-1980. The Doug Gorman award was created to acknowledge amateur volunteers for their contributions to all that is Amateur Radio.

The recipient of the Doug Gorman Award, shows the following traits,

- Best practice Leadership
- Innovative solutions
- Effective planning of a response activities
- Efficient use of all available resources
- Outstanding operational direction and logistics provision
- Heroic and/or professional action by an individual or team

This year's recipient is ZL4JW Russ Watson who owns the communications business Countrynet, with Wireless IP and DMR network covering the wider Wakatipu area.

They have taken the initiative to extend their network across the Otago/Southland area by adding four extra sites at Mt. St. Bathans, Rocklands Station, Saddle Hill and Bare Hill. Four more sites are planned.

Countrynet is doing this work entirely at their own expense and time as part of their commitment to the community. Being a long standing and proud AREC Member, the recipient also in the true spirit of amateur radio, has invited the amateur community to help build these sites as an opportunity for people to also gain experience. The recipient has installed a server to allow VOIP phone calls using your own smartphone.

Russ has provided Reg. 13 letters to AREC and Land SAR and is keen to see Time Slot 2 used for the benefit of the community.

Each Sunday evening at 8pm there is a sked held to test and promote the network between Dunedin, Central Otago, and Southland.

Long Service Awards

AREC CEO Don Robertson made special mention of our long serving members saying, "volunteers are the backbone of AREC, it is great to see such long tenure in our organisation and I am pleased that we are able to recognise the contribution of these members."

This year, the following members, each of whom have been actively involved for over 20 years were recognised:

ZL3QR – Geoff Gillman
ZL2UCX – Steve Davis
ZL4FZ – Richard Smart
ZL4JH – Martin Balch
ZL4OC – Bob Smith
ZL2RE – Paul Rennie
ZL4OX – Neville Checketts
ZL4SN – Neil McLeod

Right: Paul Rennie ZL2RE received this medal. The medal recognises 25 years, with a bar from each five years thereafter.



AREC Summit & Forum

Coinciding with the NZART AGM, AREC holds an annual summit (for National, Regional and District managers) and Forum (held immediately after the AGM) open to all.

This year's event was held at the Brentwood Hotel, a short walk from the Wellington airport with the Summit on Friday the 9th, and Forum on Saturday 10th of September.



Attendees at this year's AREC Summit. Included in the photo are guests Carl McOnie (LandSAR), Bridget Hesketh and Duncan Ferner (NZSAR), Kevin Bell (NZ Police) and Michael Basset-Foss (Water Safety NZ and independent member on the NZ SAR Council).



The Friday summit is an annual event which brings AREC's national, regional and district managers together for a day to reflect on what we have achieved over the last 12-month and set direction and priorities for the year ahead.

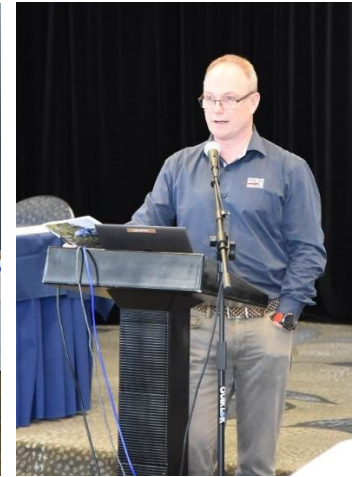
As well as AREC business, we are privileged to have guests from the SAR sector who update us on what is happening in their organisations.

The first was **Carl McOnie** from LandSAR who talked about the great work his organization does. He also talked to the relationship with AREC and how that contributes to successful search outcomes.

Duncan Ferner from NZSAR gave us a sector update and talked to the funding process that is currently underway. He talked about the high volunteer participation across the sector and how NZSAR was committed to supporting organisations to build capability to be able to respond when needed.

Duncan talked about the relationship between the SAR and Civil Defence sectors, noting that much of the capability that exists within SAR has direct value in CD. He commented that the changes within Civil Defence meant that there was new opportunity to collaborate, and he is very supportive of AREC leveraging the NZSAR investments to support CD where it makes sense.

New Zealand Police Inspector **Craig Rendel** provided a NZ Police SAR Sector Update. Craig spoke about the work going on in Police to build SAR capability and talked about the relationships with the wider sector and volunteer groups. Craig talked about the DSARAC roles and how these have allowed for greater engagement and support.



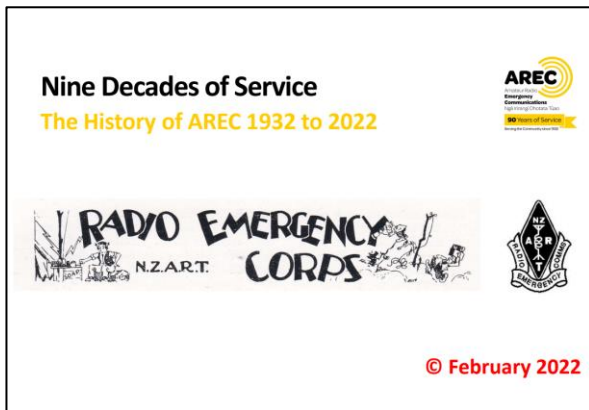
Left: Inspector Craig Rendel from New Zealand Police.
Middle: AREC Administrator Annalise Mokalei-Smith and Northland NZ Police DSARAC Kevin Bell
Right: Duncan Ferner, Director NZSAR Secretariat

Maritime NZ's Rescue Coordination Centre and Safety Services Manager, **Justin Allan** joined us virtually to provide an update. RCCNZ are the coordinating authority for Category II searches, these include missing aircraft / aircraft in distress and offshore marine operations within the 30 million square kilometre New Zealand search and rescue region.



Category I searches were up 15% (to 1,124) in the 2020-21 from the previous year. Justin talked to the challenges of having on of the largest search and rescue regions in the world, and the need to work collaboratively with neighbouring jurisdictions.

Nine Decades of Service



At the Saturday Forum, NZART Historian **Craig Crawford** ZL3TRB delivered his “Nine decades of service” presentation which details the history of AREC. This is an interesting piece of research, the link to the presentation is below.



<https://arec.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/AREC-Nine-decades-of-service-February-2022.pdf>

New Technology

On display were the new Tait NZ Police SAR repeaters (see *Chief Executive Comment*) as well as his portable Starlink terminal that Steve Davis ZL2UCX brought along.

AREC's Technical Innovations Leader, Philip Sharp ZL1PSH, talked about being crisp on what we are trying to achieve when we stand up new projects, and to be realistic in our planning so members and our partner agencies can see meaningful progress.

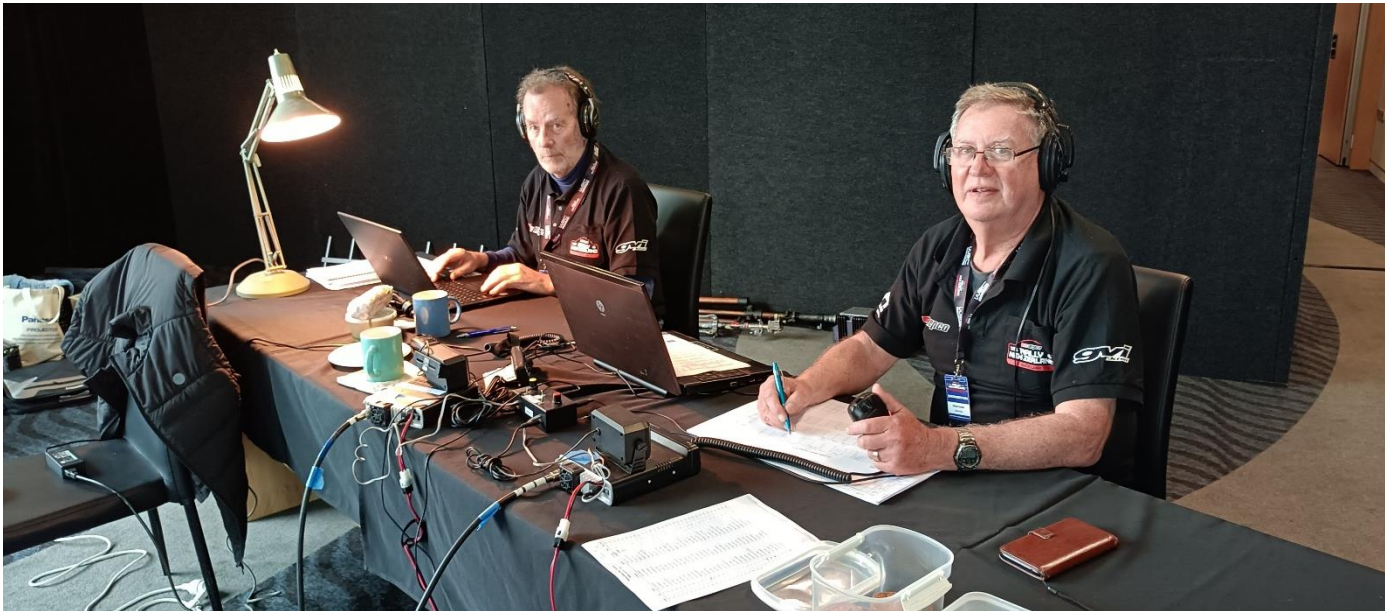




The Repco Rally New Zealand was held from the 29th of September to the 2nd of October 2022. AREC provided stage communications on the Friday and Saturday.

Friday's stages were around Raglan and the Whaanga Coast with 14 radio points, Saturday was north of Auckland with 8 radio points. Rally HQ was in Auckland City, with STSP equipment set up to link to the distant repeaters.

The Raglan and Whaanga Coast stages were covered by two fixed VHF repeaters, with HF 5MHz used as back-up. The north of Auckland stages were covered by a VHF STSP repeater (with a second STSP as back-up).



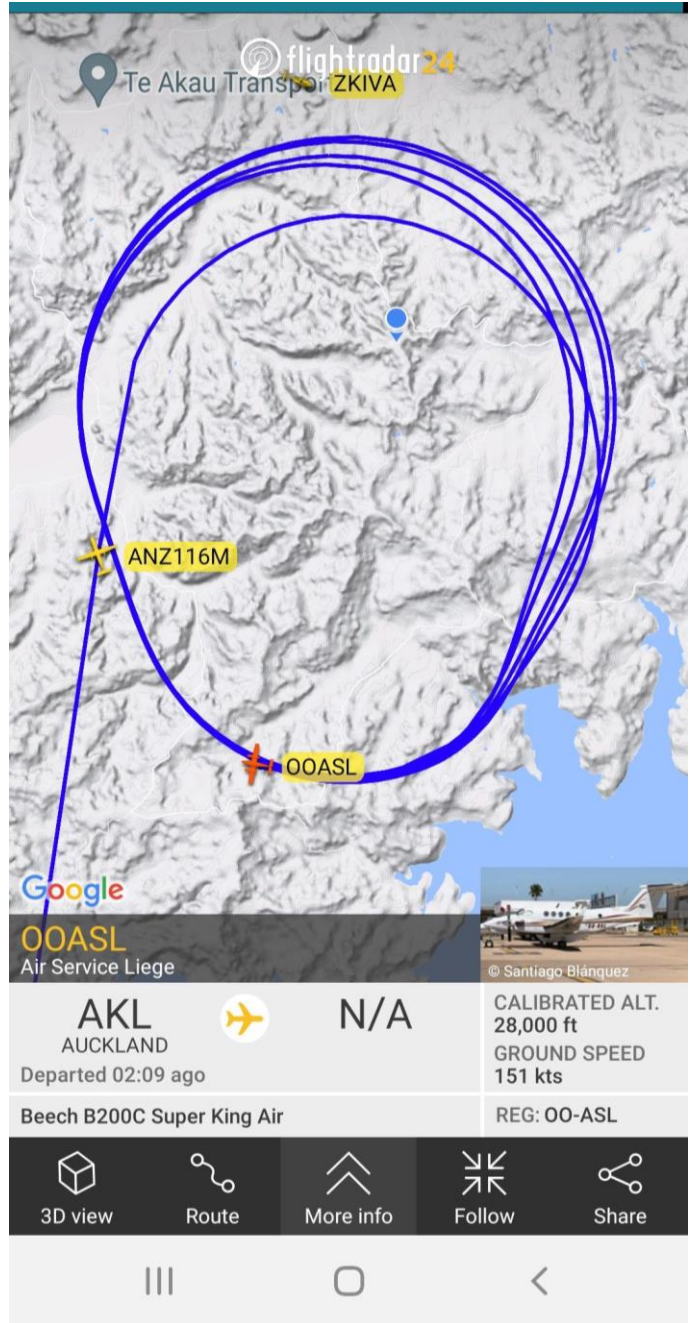
Above: David Karrash ZL1DK and Richard Gamble ZL1BNQ operating Rally Base from the Auckland Waterfront. Photo courtesy David Karrash.



Above: Andy Brill ZL1COP and Graham Barton ZL1GMB were in position at SS3/6 near Raglan, with Graham logging. Photo: Andy Brill



Above: Alec Lilley ZL1HAZ spend his Saturday under a gazebo sheltering from the heavy rain that was present for much of the day. He is seen here with the frame he built to hold his Tait mobile radio and battery for events such as this – he uses a 2m Flower Pot antenna he also built.



Right: Andy Brill ZL1COP captured this Flight Radar 24 screenshot showing the Beech Kingair circling at 28,000ft over the rally relaying video from the cars. The blue dot is their location (SS3A) and ZKIVA is the media helicopter doing the aerial shots.



Above: Bruce ZL1ATV taking a moment to chat with ambulance staff near Puhoi on Saturday.

Photo: Andy Brill

Upcoming Training Course information is available to Group Leaders, Deputies and District Managers on the AREC Training Academy SharePoint Hub – see

<https://arecnz.sharepoint.com/sites/Academy>

and also in the Training Calendar group Calendar in their Outlook. These will have the most current information, so Group Leaders should check these and pass on relevant information to their Groups.

Contact your Group Leader or District Manager for details.

Courses are winding down as we come closer to the end of the year, and planning is starting for the next calendar year. If you have specific needs for large numbers of members in your area for a specific LandSAR course, then contact training@arec.nz ASAP.

TPP courses are aimed at members that are working as a Comms Unit leader or above, so preference will be given to Deputy Group Leaders and above, or those specifically nominated by Group Leaders or District Managers.

Due to funding systems AREC places may be limited on some of the LandSAR courses.

Note that you cannot take a course a second time, and you need to have done the original course to be eligible for a Refresher course.

We have a limited budget for travel etc, so preference will be given to those that are local to the courses, but there is provision for some support for travel, and accommodation if needed.

For all applications for external courses, please apply via your Group Leader or District Manager, and they need to pass on applications to training@arec.nz

Note that normally course enrolments close 3 weeks before course date, these are closely adhered to, and lack of numbers at the 3 week before mark will result in course being cancelled, so get in early.

If you have any queries, please contact training@arec.nz

Health, Safety & Wellbeing

David Wilkins ZL1MR

SAREX HSW Visits

The HSW observational visit to the Taupo SAREX was a success. The overall impression from both Jodi (LandSAR HSW) and I, was that the HSW issues were generally well managed during the SAREX.

One area that could have been improved was how generators were used in a scrub environment. As a result, the final report included a copy of the AREC Generator SOP that was released earlier this year. Have you and your group seen that SOP? If not chase up your Group Leader and they can get you a copy.

Unfortunately, there is no AREC section in Taupo. Having said that multiple Police and LandSAR attended the SAREX from Whakatane, Tauranga, Rotorua, and Turangi. Maybe next year some of the surrounding AREC Groups could make contact, if possible, attend, and if possible, advise that they will be available to help if ever an extended search went ahead out of Taupo.

LandSAR HSW Advisor

Jodi has now left LandSAR and has moved to St John. Her replacement is Nicky Hansen, who strangely enough has moved from St John to LandSAR. Nicky is based in Christchurch so you may see her when you are at a LandSAR organised event, especially in the South Island. If so say Hi.

I am anticipating that Nicky and I will continue to operate our HSW roles in a bit of an overlap manner as either of us can do an observational visit to a SAREX or a SAROP and check out how the HSW side of things is running.

EAP Rollout

Nearly there! Just a few questions have been raised that require clarification. After that our CEO Don should be able to sign the contract. At that point we will likely send out a 'Special Bulletin' to advise how to use the service.

Covid-19

I know everyone is heartily sick of this topic. However, there is a resurgence underway with a couple of new variants. Once again, a prior infection does not appear to offer much protection, so some people are on to their second or third infection in as many months.

Current predictions are that the resurgence will peak late December or early January. The ambulance service is amping up for the inevitable surge in cases.

Best advice is simple. When going into a confined area with people you don't know, wear a mask. If you have a well-fitting N-95 or P2 mask, then that is the best option. If not, a surgical mask modified to fit tightly around your face is second best. For example, if the mask is baggy round the sides fold, then staple. If you have a sewing machine, mark up an example then sew the sides to get a better fit. A loose-fitting mask may help prevent you handing on your bugs, but it won't prevent the aerosol bugs getting around the side of your face as you breath in.

Also, don't forget the hand hygiene. I have made a habit of washing my hands on a regular basis. If there is no ready water-based hand washing facility I use an alcohol hand cleaner.

I have been fully vaccinated with two boosters, wear an N95 mask in the supermarket, on public transport and whenever else I am concerned that people may be harbouring a respiratory infection. As a part-time ambulance officer, I have transported several active Covid 19 cases to hospital and 'so far' have not been afflicted with the Vid! Here's hoping it stays that way.

So keep safe and remember, if anything crops up in regard to Health,, Safety or Welfare drop me a line at HSW@arec.nz.

David Wilkins ZL1MR
AREC Health & Safety Advisor



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.