

AREC Operations Annual Report 2024

Management

The expanded management team meet many times during the year in monthly meetings and quarterly workshops to continue the progress on strategic and tactical planning and review work in progress and project progress. A number of other meetings and workshops were held to progress specific improvements, work on issues and define policy and processes.

Organisational development continues to build a robust sustainable service. The focus was switched to our members in the frontline with national training courses, online self-paced training, and increased exercises. The regional managers have been out amongst our groups and members assisting with the development and building relationships with the groups and with the local SAR and other emergency partners.

We were pleased to welcome Claire Marlow into the role of AREC Administrator joining Annalise in an expanded admin team. This additional resource has allowed not only additional administration but also the admin team to take on additional activities enabling the progress of a number of activities not possible with only one administrator.

Summary of management achievements and activities during 2024:

- Annual employee performance reviews
- AREC June Conference weekend Summit, Forum, and NZART AGM
- AREC Annual Plan and Priority Matrix Workshops
- Development of Regional and Group annual planning tool (RGAP)
- NZSAR Multi Agency SAR workshop June 2024
- NZSAR SAR Coordination workshop August 2024
- NZSAR Cost Benefit Workshop April 2024
- Identified liabilities and risks to AREC and the NZART Council resulting in a recommendation to mitigate these risks. This was presented at the NZART AGM and AREC Forum at conference, and along with a Q&A published in Break-In for NZART members consideration.
- AREC National Shakeout COMEX (Communications Exercise) July & Oct 2024
- NEMA Exercise Rū Whenua - July 2024
- NZSAR Exercise Whakarauora Tangata, Nationally Significant (NatSig) Search and Rescue (SAR) events
- Attendance at NZSAR Consultative and SAR Training Governance meetings.

Regional Highlights

Lindsey Ross ZL4KS – South Island Region

Several members training courses conducted including Top of the South Island Training Day at the Rai Valley; Westland/Reefton Buller Training Weekend; Southern District Training Weekend.

Supporting the AREC Groups participating in SAR exercises that the AREC Groups attended including Canterbury District SAREX; Southern District SAREX; Tautuku Cup; Harris Trophy.

Developed the AREC Regional Group Annual Planning tool, visiting each group to agree the group readiness status and identify future needs, plans and opportunities for future growth.

Building relationships visiting Branches and AREC Groups in the South Island to inform, support and assist in guiding them. Meeting with key Police SAR members to pave the way for the Southern AREC Groups. Meeting with partner agencies to collaborate and look for opportunities to work together.

South Island AREC Groups community activity 2024

Group	Location	Nature of the Event or Activity	Hours
Ashburton	Mt Somers	Mt Somers Marathon	12
Christchurch	Hornby High School	Dingle Foundation Stars-opoly promo event to youth	12
	Christchurch (Mairehau High)	Dingle Foundation Stars-opoly promotion event to youth	10
	Christchurch	Presentation about AREC to U3A	3
	Christchurch, Cracroft Guiding Centre	JOTA	38
East Southland	McLeans Island, Christchurch	Comms support for mountain bike event	2
	Hokonui Hills Wyndham and District	Moonshine bike/run event Wyndham Car Rally	20 100
Marlborough	Blenheim	SAR BBQ and presentation of Long Service Awards	20
North Otago	North Otago	Gravel in Paradise cycling event.	14
Otago	Wider Dunedin area	2024 Otago Car Rally	385
Southland	Mavora Lakes	The Mavora Explorer Race.	23
	Te anau	Te anau Basin Trail Bike Riders Day	83
	Te anau	Kepler Challenge 2024	240
Westland	Marsden Grey District	Gold Trail MTB ride from Shantytown to Moana.	10
	Greymouth	Setting up for public display at Ag Fest.	6
	Greymouth	Public display at Ag Fest over 2 days.	80
	Westland	South Island Ultra Marathon, 100Km, 54Km & 24Km races.	86.5
	Westland	Ride the Wilderness Trail mountain bike race.	27

1171.5 Hours

Simon Osborne ZL2TSO – Central Region

An increased focus on interagency collaboration to meet the needs of our Search, Rescue and Emergency Management (SAREM) partners, Iwi and Maraes. Reestablished operational relationship and engagement with New Zealand Police SAR Gisborne and other SAR partners.

Set up and assisted the operated an AREC portable HF field station on top of Te Mata Peak during the NZART Jock White Memorial Field Day. Supported the Hawke's Bay Rescue Helicopter Trust Open Day, Wellington Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust Open Day, Grassroots Trust Rescue Helicopter Trust Open Day, and the Te Papa Emergency Services Expo and combined Coastguard, St John Hawke's Bay Area Committee Expo and AREC emergency preparedness hui at the Waimārama Marae. Supported three HAM Cram courses in Whakatane, Gisborne, and Hawkes Bay and organised AREC Roadshows for Gisborne and Hawkes Bay.

Worked with Nigel Goldstone ZL2SEA and the general membership to facilitate three ShakeOut WINEXs (Winlink Global Radio Email Exercises) and was reasonable for standing up the National HF Shakeout COMEX (Communications Exercise). Attended and supported 6 SAREXs and 2 SAROPs across the Lower North Island to support our volunteers, Police SAR and other partners.

Assisted the formal merging of Napier AREC (Branch 25) and Hastings AREC (Branch 13) to form a single enlarged AREC Group for Hawkes Bay. John Newson has been appointed as the Group Leader

of Hawkes Bay AREC. A support committee was formed for the delivery and development of AREC within the District, and to provide the Group Leader with advice, feedback, and support.

Worked to transferring Gisborne AREC to the Bay of Plenty Sector of the Upper North Island and Taupo AREC to the Manawatu Whanganui sector of the Lower North Island to improve logistics and service delivery.

Assisted establishing a new AREC Group in Taupo under the leadership of Group Leader Graeme Frederick. This group is responsible for providing the communications and SARTrack function in support of Central Police District SAROPs out of the Central Plateau Emergency Management Centre, which is located in National Park Village, and surge capacity to support Police SAROPs in Taupo.

With the spotlight on preparedness and response, submitted an application which was granted for \$126,000 of external funding through the Ministry of Internal Affairs Cyclone Gabrielle Appeal Trust to procure 27 Tait DMR Multiband (Analogue, DMR Tie 2 & 3) Portable Radios, thirty spare batteries, two Portable SAR Repeaters, three IC-7300 HF Transceivers. These resources will enhance our volunteers' ability to operate seamlessly across a combination of frequency bands to support Police SAR and Council Civil Defence Emergency Management activities across the Eastern Police District. A great result.

Over the past 12 months, our volunteers from 12 Groups across the Lower North Island have responded to over 100 + SAROPs and undertaken more than 300 + hours of local training to build and maintain their skills and capabilities.

Promoting the incredible efforts of our volunteers through targeted visits, training and Ham Cram courses, our membership increased by 40 volunteers.

Lower North Island AREC Groups community activity 2024

Group	Location	Nature of the Event or Activity	Hours
Manawatu	Central North Island	NZRC Daybreaker Rally Comms Operations	54.5
	Timona Park, Feilding	Provide radio comms for sports event organisation	7
Wairarapa	Mt Holdsworth Tararua Ranges	Provide coms for annual Holdsworth Jumbo Race	65
	Castlepoint	Provide safety coms for Annual Superfish Competition	63
	Ngawi Palliser Bay	Provide Coms for Annual Ngawi Big 3 Fishing Competition	143
	Castlepoint	Provide Coms for Annual Battle of the Babes Fishing Competition	30.25
	Porirua	Assist with Annual Porirua Grand Transverse event	10
Wellington	Clareville, Carterton	Provide safety coms for Annual Shaft & Wheels Horse & Cart event	15
	Tararua and Akatarawa Forest Parks	Tararua Mountain Race comms	92.5
Wellington VHF Group	Porirua	Porirua Grand Traverse. Mountain running race	90
	Wellington Airport	Annual Westpac Life Flight Trust Emergency Services Expo	40
	Colonial Knob, Porirua	Porirua Grand Traverse	324
	Te Papa	Emergency Management Expo	36
			915.75 Hours

Steve Main ZL2RI – Northern Region

A productive year including many external meetings, exercises and presentations with Police, DSARACs, CDEMs, local councils, SAR partners, schools, polytechnics, community groups and marae.

There has been an 80% growth in AREC Northern membership, including assisting the re-establishment of Musick Point, Taupo and Rotorua AREC Groups.

Established funding for Ham Crams in – Whakatane, Gisborne, Manutuke, Waiheke Island and Ruatoria to assist growth.

Supported three community Live Days in Auckland, Gisborne & Waihi and organised AREC Roadshows for Whakatane, Waikato & Gisborne.

Assisted in organising the Volunteer Leadership Training course in Auckland as well as a 2-Day SARTrack User course in the Waikato. Organised and jointly ran an EMComm training day at Gisborne Girls High School in conjunction with the Police.

Attended and supported four SAREXs in Auckland-Waiuku & Hunua, Waikato & Whakatane which assisted building relationships with our groups and external partners.

Leading a community Pataka IoT project and a marae resilience communications project.

Upper North Island AREC Groups community activity 2024

Group	Location	Nature of the Event or Activity	Hours
Auckland	Whangarei Area	Rally of Whangarei	92
North Shore	Western Springs Auckland	Public Display at Museum of Transport and Technology	60
	North Shore CEDM base	Brief and Prep for Motat exhibition	36
	Hobsonville	Public Display	12
	Whangarei	Rally Whangarei	196
Papakura	Whitford	Provide safety comms and results for Car Club rally sprint	76
	Whangarei	To provide safety tracking comms for International Rally of Whangarei	286
			758 Hours

National Support

John Murphy ZL2XJ – National Support Manager

First year in the new role, developing the support team and putting in place governance and representation.

Submission of quarterly NZSAR Service Level Agreement (SLA) Reports on project financials and milestone progress. As well as the NZSAR SLA Annual Letter of Intent review/agreement.

Development of AREC annual planning process and templates. Annual Planning and Priority Matrix Workshops. Development of Regional and Group annual planning tool (RGAP) with Lindsey Ross.

Representation on behalf of AREC at various NZSAR sector workshops and working groups. NZSAR Multi Agency SAR workshop June 2024, NZSAR SAR Coordination workshop August 2024, NZSAR Cost Benefit Workshop April 2024, NZSAR SAR Telecommunications Working Group, and NZSAR Innovation in Tech Forum.

Definition and agreement on NZSAR Telecommunication services and the communications function in SAR with New Zealand Police SAR and Land Search and Rescue New Zealand.

Development and submission of NZSAR FED SAR Funding 2025-2028 applications.

Development and submission of Severe Weather Response, Readiness, Resilience and Recovery funding application and project plan.

The future of AREC - Break-in article drafted.

Information Communication Technology (ICT) Systems

InfoNet Hub (built on SharePoint). A review of the configuration of the information hub (the AREC Intranet) was undertaken by Wilbert Goossens ZL2WEG supported by Hazel Pope ZL2NMW and

identified a need for redesign to make it easier to access and use which has now been completed. This result in implementation delays due to the identified rework prior to launching in 2025.

Teams Hub (built on Microsoft Teams) implementation and configuration completed. This continues to be a valuable solution supporting online meetings, webinars, and team collaboration.

Member Hub (built on Friendly Manager). The member hub continues to be a critical solution for the onboarding, training, and management of AREC volunteers and their Groups. An increased and expanded use of the mailer and events functionality has helped communications with Volunteers around available training courses, course enrolment, and group events. A recent addition has been the bi-weekly QSO bulletin published by Claire Marlow.

Learning Hub (built on Bracken) is online live and integrated with the Member Hub. Additional self-pace training modules have been and are continuing to be added. Many members have accessed and completed the online training modules available. An addition this year was the AREC online policy learning and question bank by Andy Brill ZL1COP.

AREC Website went live during the previous calendar year. Work continues enhancing content and information made available through the public website for AREC.

AREC Volunteer user support. Our external partner The IT Team continues to be contracted to provide end user support for AREC Volunteers in accessing and using the AREC email, Teams, and SharePoint solutions. Over 130 hours of support across the year has been delivered. During the year The IT Team assisted and completed an annual Security Posture Report Remediation.

Technology Projects

Establishment of the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) under independent chairmanship of Murray Milner ZL2LB to provide governance, leadership, and oversight of AREC's key technology solutions and projects and development of our technology standards. The TAC has started work on the governance of all thing's technology in AREC.

The AREC national DMR repeater network has continued to expand with further locations identified to be implemented.

Thanks to Soren Low ZL1SKL who has again provided an excellent service for LandSAR and AREC in managing the SAR national channel list and providing the online codeplug programming using the Tait EnableFleet system. He also provides codeplugs for other radios and technical support as necessary.

Work to install the Wellington HF remote site in Otaki Forks has been completed and joins the other two sites in Auckland and Christchurch. A further enhancement has been the upgrade of the remote access VPN and the provision of software-based consoles to be rolled out to Groups in 2025.

The first Technology Innovation R&D funding project round has been completed and new projects underway looking into Starlink, Digital HF Radio, Tait AXIOM, SARTrack Emergency management enhancements, and LoRa Wan / Meshtastic. A further round of project funding will be looked into in 2025.

Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW)

David Wilkins ZL1MR – Health, Safety and Wellbeing Advisor

AREC continues to operate in a generally safe manner with very few reported incidents or matters of concern raised. Reporting of issues increased significantly to nine in the calendar year. Significant issues raised concern around working alone, trips and falls, antenna erection issues, and a couple of issues around operational process that could have led to a potential HSW matter arising.

An HSW Support Group formed in 2024 with representation from groups across the country and is intended to help promote and assist with HSW initiatives, especially carrying out proactive monitoring of AREC activities on an every now and then basis. A number of AREC members supported this initiative and joined the HSW Support Group. We thank them for their participation and support during the year.

The HSW Support Group members attend AREC SAREX, SAROP or training events and report back how well members are safely performing – ‘catching people being right’. These HSW Observations form a key proactive measure of how well AREC is implementing policies and process. The aim is to have HSW Support Group members from each Police District who can help with this work. Members who are interested in HSW matters can talk with your Regional Manager about becoming a member of the Group.

Reviewed and updated the overall HSW Policy along with the Fatigue Safety Plan & Advice guidelines. Revised and updated the AREC HSW Hazard & Risk Register and actions.

Represented AREC at the NZSAR HSW Workshop and forums.

Early in 2024 the NZ Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Secretariat funded an external review of the HSW systems for all SAR partners. As AREC is on a steep systems development curve it was not surprising that 23 Areas for Improvement were noted. The vast majority were relevant to the governance of the organisation. A plan to address any still outstanding improvement recommendations is in progress.

EAP (employee assistance programme) is continuing to be made available to all members, staff, direct family, and AREC contractors free of charge to assist with members wellbeing.

Training

Steve Davis ZL2UCX – National Training Advisor

Established the Training Advisory Group (TAG) with independent chair Philip Sharp to provide governance, leadership, and oversight of AREC Training Program.

Review of the AREC Training competencies framework and development of a training pathways model is in progress.

Development of NZSAR submission for AREC Training initiative requirements.

Representation on behalf of AREC at the NZSAR Training Program Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings and forum.

The year has seen the delivery of many AREC courses and workshops around the country covering radio procedures, HSW, comms planning and many other topics in our general training days/weekends, as well as more targeted training for SARTrack, and training for our Group Leaders.

We have developed a Working with Volunteers workshop in conjunction with Volunteering NZ and ran a pilot of this in the Wellington area and subsequently have combined this with a new workshop developed for Group Leaders and running the first of these combined workshops in Auckland, with more to come around the country.

Developed and published the AREC Policies Online "training and question bank".

Finalised the Marine VHF Operators Online Course Process.

Our members have also attended significant number of external training courses including multi-agency training (aimed at or members working in an IMT) offered through NZSAR, and other training offered through LandSAR.

Training statistics (person days):

- 170 Days - AREC Training weekends / days (4 x weekend and 2 x 1-day events)
- 66 Days - AREC SARTrack training events (3 x 2-day user courses and 1 x 1-day technical course)
- 54 Days - AREC Other training events (Working with Volunteers and Group Leader training)
- 104 Days - LandSAR Run Land SAR and Multi-Agency training courses

That is more than 380 person days, or more than 3000 person hours (plus other online and local training and exercises etc).

Training material has been developed for additional modules to be available through either in-person training or on our on-line Learning Hub, and we have had significant time spent by our members at their own pace doing many of these modules on-line. Online Training Statistics:

- 245 members complete at least one of the Level One module
- 126 members complete at least half of the Level One module
- 74 members complete all of the Level One module

The next six months has more training planned around the districts mostly continuing the themes of general training for members, SARTrack training and training for our Group Leaders, as well as getting our members to courses offered through LandSAR. Further training will be developed for both on-line and in-person training with plans to run specific training workshops for our Response Leaders later in the coming year.

Membership (Volunteers)

Don Wallace ZL2TLL – Volunteer Coordinator

Annual membership satisfaction survey

A satisfaction survey of AREC members was run again in 2024. Results were similar to the 2023 survey with some small variations both up and down. The information collected is used to inform the AREC Leaders on the health and satisfaction of our volunteers and identifies areas we should continue what we are doing and areas for improvement. The participation rate was down a bit this year and we thank all members who did participate.

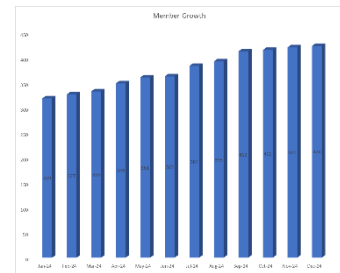
A short survey of all NZART members to determine their interest in providing communications in emergencies was also run. The following tentative conclusions have been drawn from the NZART survey:

- The participation rate of 18% was low but may well reflect the interest of NZART members in providing emergency communications – despite the fact that their GURL says this is required.
- Those who responded to the survey preferred to support Civil Defence over Search and Rescue and Community events.
- As expected, most of those surveyed were interested in operating and technical roles but there was also interest in training, administration and leadership roles.
- The survey identified over 60 potential AREC members.

Overall, the NZART survey provided some interesting information on the interests of NZART members and identified some potential recruits for AREC.

AREC Membership Growth

Growth in AREC membership increased by 105 or 33% over 2024. This is a fantastic result attributed to the volunteer recruitment campaign and the efforts of the Regional Managers supporting the running of Ham Crams and promoting AREC at various local community events around the country.



Reward & Recognition

The following awards under this policy were presented during 2024:

- AREC Wairarapa - for their efforts during the rescue of two tamperers from the Tararua Rangers
- ZL2IMM Ian McLachlan – Long service award
- ZL1BPC Brent Martin – Long Service award
- ZL2KOM Luke Burton - Supporting the Tiniroto Police SAROP
- ZL2XL Gerry Hughes - Supporting the Tiniroto Police SAROP
- AREC Hawkes Bay - Supporting the Tiniroto Police SAROP
- ZL2DBO Jill O'Donnell – Long service award
- ZL3BN Bruce Bellini – Long service award
- ZL2GO Len Blackley – Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL2JG Jeff Graham – Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL2BJV Ken Menzies - Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL2KHZ Ken Hynds - Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL2BGL Ian Conway - Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL3DN Don Laing - Recognition of service to AREC and related activities
- ZL2AZK Bernie Lankshear - Recognition of service to AREC and related activities.
- Southland District Council - Generous funding support of the Southland AREC Group who provide emergency response and communications support across the Southland District
- Invercargill City Council - Generous funding support of the Southland AREC Group, who provide emergency response and communications support in Invercargill, & across the Southland Region
- H. W. Richardson - generous support of the Southland AREC Group, who provide emergency response and communications support across Southland

Heartfelt thanks and our appreciation to all these worthy recipients of awards. Without our volunteers we would not be able to deliver our services to assist in finding the missing, assist the injured and saving lives.

NZSAR Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Joint Service Level Agreement (SLA)

We are 18 months into the SLA 2023-2025 2-year. This funding has enabled significant progress on a number of fronts as can be seen by the Regional Managers engagement with groups and members, increased training events, growth in membership. Currently we are tracking close to meeting the milestone achievements to date. During the year we delivered the Quarterly NZSAR Service Level Agreement (SLA) Reports on project financials and milestone progress, NZSAR SLA Annual Letter of Intent agreement and prior year performance review. Meetings and agreements with NZSAR Telecommunication services and Communications function in SAR agreement Police SAR, LandSAR, and AREC

NZSAR FED SAR Funding 2025-2028 submission

The current Government fiscal restraints are likely to limit potential growth in funding covering the 3-year SLA 2025-2028. Limited funding will have an impact on AREC strategic Plan and reduce the ability for ARECs growth. Applications are in the process of being submitted and the results of the applications will determine how this will play out.

Severe weather response, readiness and recovery funding

As a result of the Cyclone Gabrielle AREC was invited to apply for severe weather response, readiness and recovery funding. I am pleased to report that this application was approved resulting in a 4-year funding stream that will enable AREC to employ some dedicated personnel to focus on developing the AREC response to civil emergencies in support of the SAR sector. This includes further funding for management, development and delivering training courses focused on the civil emergency sector and to procure equipment necessary to support appropriate responses to events. An implementation and development, project plan was created and approved by NZSAR, which will be led by a new role of Emergency Communications Leader in 2025. This funding has now been incorporated into the current Joint Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the NZ SAR Council.

Thanks go to John Murphy ZL2XJ for his valuable assistance in SLA reporting, project planning and funding applications.

AREC Activities Report

Based on the submitted AREC activity reports the following three tables show a summary over the last 6 calendar years to 2024. The first table below shows the total annual SAR activities over the last 6-years. The second table shows all activities by active Branch for the 2024 year and the third table provides a 5-year summary.

AREC Annual Search and Rescue Operations (SAR) Activity Summary reported for 2024:

Event Type	Summary Category	12 Months 2024	12 Months 2023	12 Months 2022	12 Month 2021	12 Month 2020	12 Month 2019
1	Category 1 (Land) SAROPS	94	83	46	50	44	52
1	Category 2 (Marine) SAROPS						

	Volunteers used during SAROPs	251	170	100	110	91	108
	Volunteer hours during SAROPs	1685	1393	805	883	854	1288
	People at Risk	37	308	55	57	45	59
	Lives Saved	13	15	19	11	4	9
	Lives Rescued	20	237	23	26	13	21
	Lives Assisted	17	58	25	24	10	15
	Perished	5	10	4	4	1	14
	Not Located	12	15	9	5	17	13
2	SAR Training	88	68	37	49	39	52
5	SAR WanderSearch	97	27	18	20	21	
10	SAR Non-Op Support	29	10	10	11	9	3
8	SAR Meetings & Forums	48	37	15	20	12	23
Total	# All SAR Activities	356	225	126	150	125	130

AREC Annual Active Branch Activity Summary reported for 2024 (All Activities)

Branch #	Branch Name	# Activities	# Operators	Person Hours
1	Ashburton	9	9	52
2	Auckland	24	30	202
3	Western Suburbs	33	57	133
5	Christchurch	113	411	1314
8	East Southland	14	24	290
10	Franklin	17	42	201
11	Gisborne	22	146	1013
12	Hamilton	1	3	24
13	Hawkes Bay 13 & 25	91	362	1706
16	Regional Manager Central	1	2	4
20	Manawatu	61	247	1011
22	Marlborough	41	118	343
26	Nelson	33	36	62
27	New Plymouth	54	62	107
29	North Shore	84	489	2326
30	Otago	61	208	1157
33	Rotorua	2	4	20

34	South Canterbury	10	18	147
35	Balclutha	23	57	190
37	Southland	55	154	1129
41	Thames	6	18	260
46	Wairarapa	22	36	526
49	Westland	79	170	567
51	Eastern BOP	14	37	173
61	Central Otago	1	1	19
62	Reefton/Buller	11	25	119
63	Upper Hutt	1	9	23
64	North Otago-Oamaru	23	38	170
65	Papakura	43	132	670
66	Auckland VHF Group	5	37	108
69	Kapiti	75	157	264
74	Wellington Combined 42/50/74	67	395	2110
78	Northland	2	2	23
80	Hibiscus Coast	1	1	1
87	South Taranaki	25	38	56
88	Tauranga ECG	37	141	950
89	Waikato REG	11	38	100
TOTALS:	Active Branches 40	1172	3754	17566

Note the combined groups reported as one group.

There was a significant increase in activities, operators, and person hours during 2024 compared to 2023. The increases can be attributed to increased level of activities and more of the activities being reported. Thank you to all those who have been logging their activities. We are starting to show the huge effort put in by our AREC volunteers.

Year	Active Branches	# Activities	# Operators	Person Hours
2019	22	323	902	5,772
2020	20	306	943	4,129
2021	20	376	1,136	5,799
2022	19	264	1,007	6,826
2023	21	555	1,920	11,836
2024	40	1172	3754	17,566

Congratulations to the following Groups:

- Christchurch: activities at 113
- North Shore: operators used 489
- North Shore: person hour of effort provided 2326.

Looking at the above branch numbers, there is a great improvement of Groups recording of AREC activities. 40 Groups have logged activities out of a total of 47 Groups nationwide. Thanks to Lindsey Ross ZL4KS for again promoting the recording of activities during the year. Thanks also to Ross Pedder ZL2UAC for the ongoing compiling of the statistics.

Wrap up

A big thank you to the AREC Trust Board (Trustees) for the excellent governance, guidance, and advice during the year. Thanks also to the National Managers team, many of whom are unpaid volunteers, for their many hours dedicated to AREC. Thanks go to Soren Low ZL1SKL Editor of the AREC.INFO Newsletter and his efforts managing the radio channel plans and codeplugs again during the year. Thanks to Annalise Mokalei-Smith ZL2MAE and Claire Marlow for their excellent work not just in administration but the many additional projects and assignments they have taken on. Finally, thanks go to dedicated and committed Group and Deputy Group Leaders and AREC members without whom AREC would not be able to provide the services for SAR, CD and public events.

I have resigned my position as AREC CEO as I have decided to finally retire and therefore this will be my last annual report. It has been challenging and fulfilling to guide the development of AREC since 2019. I will leave the organisation in pretty good shape with a great team to welcome the new CEO when appointed.

73

Don Robertson
AREC Chief Executive Officer
ZL2TYR/ZK6EX