

AREC Receives The Inaugural New Zealand National SAR Award – 2001

NZART's Emergency Communications group - Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) was awarded the Inaugural New Zealand National SAR Award - 2001, at a presentation ceremony on the 1st of February 2002.

New Zealand Land SAR Inc, the national organisation for Land Search and Rescue volunteers had nominated AREC for the National SAR Award, for their long commitment to Search and Rescue in New Zealand, not only Land SAR, but also assistance with Marine and Class III searches as well, to the National Search and Rescue Committee for the National SAR Award.

This is a recent award, and the first time it has been presented, intended for individuals or organizations involved in any aspects of Search and Rescue in New Zealand.

After a number of attempts to schedule a presentation, the date of Friday 1st February was finally selected for holding the ceremony.

Marine Safety Authority hosted the event in their building in Featherston Street in Wellington, with Russel Kilvington - CEO of the MSA making the introductions.

The Honorable Marian Hobbs MP made the presentation of the award itself on behalf of the Minister of Transport, and Brian Purdie the AREC National Director received it.

The award was both a framed certificate and an elegant brass clock and barometer combination on a wooden base.

The wording of the award certificate is:

The Award is presented to

Amateur Radio Emergency

Communications

in recognition of

their

outstanding performance and contribution to

Search and Rescue in the New Zealand

Region

particularly the skilled communications

personnel and

technical capabilities that have established

them as

the preferred provider of emergency

communications in

support of Search and Rescue in New Zealand



Most of the AREC management team were also present and went forward as part of the presentation. Gavin Smith ZL2ACT a national councilor was present as a representative from NZART, the parent body of AREC, and he presented copies of a history of Amateur Radio in New Zealand to dignitaries.

There were also representatives from MSA, CAA, Police, and NZLSAR present for the award presentation.

The Commander and representatives from the crew of HMNZS Resolution were also in attendance, as they were recipients of a Certificate of Commendation for their rescue of a shark attack victim near Minerva Reef near Tonga in July 2000.

An afternoon tea of Muffins and Scones followed the presentation speeches, and very nice they were too.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications-AREC