

Backcountry Technical Rescue Advisory Group

[blakesports69@yahoo.com](mailto:blakesports69@yahoo.com)

New Zealand Land Search and Rescue Inc

(+64) 27 576 0202

619 Puketapu Road,

Puketapu,

RD3 Napier

New Zealand

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International Commission of Alpine Rescue (ICAR)  
Executive Board

Dear Mr Stämpfli and distinguished members of the ICAR Executive Board:

The Backcountry Technical Rescue Advisory Group (BTRAG) represents the specialist land search and rescue groups within Land Search and Rescue New Zealand (LandSAR NZ). In my role as the convenor of BTRAG, I write to you in support of the LandSAR NZ nomination for Peter Zimmer, as an assessor member of the ICAR Executive Board.

Peter was fundamental in the formation of BTRAG, some 10 years ago. As the Land Search and Rescue representative, he also fulfils the role of secretary. The contribution that Peter provides regarding governance, policy and process is invaluable to the workings of BTRAG.

As well as being a paid Land Search and Rescue staff member, Peter also volunteers in rescue operations and has done so for close on thirty years. He is also a volunteer for the Ruapehu Alpine Rescue Organisation (RARO), based in the central North Island of New Zealand. His understanding of technical rescue and search operations makes Peter a valuable member of that team.

BTRAG has supported Peter as a representative to ICAR on several occasions. We believe his close connections and ties with the European SAR community put him in a unique position to add value to both the ICAR commission, as well as fostering closer relations between the northern and southern hemisphere SAR practitioners.

Peter's communication and networking skills, along with his multicultural understanding, gives him an advantage in conveying information between a wide range of groups and cultures.

BTRAG would like to officially endorse Peter's nomination and wish him the best of luck in this endeavour.

Yours sincerely



Blake McDavitt

Convenor of Backcountry Technical Rescue Advisory Group, New Zealand