



Debrief

APRIL 2008



The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue

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<http://farnorth.sar.org.nz>

Next Trainings - Track & Clue Awareness

Where: Auckland [Note Date/Venue Change](#)

When: 19th, 20th April - contact shanec@wdc.govt.nz to put name on list and Ian Ruddell to car pool.

What: Bring along your white SARINZ folder if you have one, a **photocopy** of your passport or birth certificate if you have not enrolled for the Search and Rescue programme with the Tai Poutini Polytechnic, if you have an NZQA number bring that as well.

Who: Anyone who is likely to be in a search team

Why: TCA is an awesome course, you'll come away feeling like Daniel Boone! TCA is a prerequisite for all other tracking courses, so grab it while you can.

Please contact Sue if you need further details

MAY Training - Team Building Tramp

Where: Puketi Forest

When: 3rd, 4th May [Note Date Change](#)

What: Standard tramping kit

Who: Anyone welcome.

Why: Experience some of the lesser known parts of Puketi, these tramps include some informal training and are highly entertaining

Please contact Sue ASAP with attendance status at otassue@hotmail.com

Next Meeting 7:30pm May 7th Kerikeri

Public meeting room.

Side door round to left of Proctor Library main door, Cobham road.

Standbys and Callouts

Nothing to report



'Okay, Phil. Give me the other half of the stretcher...'

CONTACTS: Pres: Roger Ladd 407 9559; Sec: Sue Field 407 7622; Newsletter: Pete McGhee 401 6660

Many thanks to our supporters: Kerikeri Outdoor Shop & Glengarry Hancocks Wines, Auckland.



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Last Training – SAREX, Bland Bay (Exercises Daydream, Cape Brett & Another one)

A full-on day and before I get started with the gory details, I must pass thanks onto the Kerikeri Scouts for their enthusiastic involvement as LP's. Hopefully some SAR recruits in the making there.

Initial SITREP consisted of the good ship "Daydream", laden with Scouts, being holed by a whale. The passengers taking to two dinghies which both mysteriously sank close to shore. The group landed then dispersed in all directions as LPs tend to do at SAREX's!

Not being used to having access to air transport very quickly put the pressure on at the reflex stage, with the Iroquois doing the round trips for team deployment rather quicker than expected. Almost before we got the "Commencing Task" call from the team just deployed, we heard the Iroquois coming back for next team... and here comes Scenario 2!



Two trampers had failed to return from their trip out along the peninsula...just finish getting the Intel on this one and the chopper is back again... Some stressed faces pointing at maps in base at this stage!

There's a lot to be said for the long periods of peace & quiet you get when deploying by 4WD.

At least we were starting to pull in the LPs and clues and intel were starting to trickle in.

During a deployment, the helo spotted our two trampers at Cape Brett, (1x broken leg, and requiring Cliff Rescue) about the same time as another wildcard was thrown in consisting of a team bumping into yet another party, lost but not yet reported overdue...



The final group of wayward Scouts were heard in a valley near the IPP, and in a classic move, the Iroquois arrives overhead and sits on top of the soundlines...A quick call to base and the teams are left in peace to find and evac the remaining bods. ☺

Eventually, the Iroquois shuts down, the radios go off and a big sigh of relief went up from the IMT – Well done to you guys for excellent work on a scenario that had all the hallmarks of being formulated in the twisted mind of our Leader!



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Pats on the back for the teams too, on some excellent clues spotted and a quick recovery of the LP's.

Day two was the competition with the usual stations, Observation, First Aid, Ropes, Comms and Navigation. Very close placings and a high standard achieved with Team 2 taking line honours.

Buddy System Reminder

No feedback so far, so just to recap:

A buddy system has been suggested to give new members a chance to pick up some of the basic skills without having to wait for a year or so for the next course to come around again. This is envisaged to be an informal couple of hours for an experienced member to team up with a novice at the convenience of both – **New members**, if you would like to be in on this, please contact Pete, and likewise;

Experienced members if you can let me know what skill(s) you would like to pass on and we'll see where we go from there...

Puketi Open Day

Our stand at the recent Puketi Open Day drew in a fair few interested parties, and we received several enquiries from potential members – One ten year old lad takes the prize for intelligent questions, and within minutes was asking about LP Behaviour!

The display itself consisted of various photos of the team in action, a radio base set, general LandSAR info and an overview of the operations we've done in Puketi, as well as a static display of stretcher rigging.

Thanks go to those who were able to assist on the day...



Parting Shot

The only thing two Team Leaders can agree on, is that the third Team Leader is doing it wrong.

Cheers!

Pete

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