



Debrief

AUGUST 2008



The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue

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

Next Training - **REGIONAL SAREX 12-14th September**

Where: Matakana school on right just before Matakana township, take the Matakana Rd from Warkworth

When: Rolling start from 1630Hrs Friday 12th September, Finish afternoon Sunday 14th

What: Full Search kit, teams deployed Friday will be staying out overnight. Otherwise camping is available on the school playing fields. There are toilets and showers, but due to the numbers attending don't set your hopes on getting a (hot) shower too high.
There is NO cellphone coverage at SAREX Base.

Newer members: Feel free to jump right in. This is a valuable and important opportunity to gain field experience and participate in a major search effort.

Refer to attached sheet for further details, or contact Sue.

Numbers need to be confirmed by August the 23rd at the latest

Outside Training

Foundation Rope Rescue

Northland SAR

Dates: **30 Aug 2008 to 31 Aug 2008**

Location: Whangarei

Venue: Police Station

Contact Sue for info on either of these courses

Tracking

Northland SAR

Dates: **04 Oct 2008 to 05 Oct 2008**

Location: Whangarei

Mountain Safety Northland

Abseil Training Course - 20 hour training scheme for experienced abseilers.

Learn the skills to share the sport with others safely.

Date: Part 1: 4 October 2008

Part 2: 12 October 2008

Part 3: 18 November 2008

Venue: AH Reed Memorial Park

Cost: \$130

Contact: Pauline Dainty at northland@mountainsafety.org.nz for further details

Next Meeting **7:30pm September 3rd - Proctor Library Meeting Room, Kerikeri**

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.**



Standbys and Callouts

26th July Pighunter Kawakawa

Torrential rain, Gales, Floods, and the LP with a good headstart – What more could you ask for for our first search in eight months...And what better way to shock peoples systems back into some sort of SAR configuration than running around muddy hills in winds gusting to 120km/Hr+ (167km/Hr at Cape Brett) whilst watching the floodwaters slowly (well, rapidly) inundate the road home.

Subject was a lone pighunter, missing around one and a half days (varies according to source) Just to make it interesting, he was reported overdue just as the "Storm of the Decade" descended on the Far North. All good stuff!

Fortunately Northland were already en route, saving a phonecall and boosting the much needed numbers ending up with around 22 bods in the field.

Going was tough and the wind made soundlines virtually unidirectional, water was sheeting off the ridges and tracking was difficult with our own tracks in nice deep mud being obliterated by rain in a few hours. One team had voice response to a soundline and rapidly closed in...to discover a loose cannon hunter standing on a ridge waiting for his mate who had "gone home for lunch"! Fortunately the subject self-recovered about 6 hours into the search and everyone was able to packup and bug out before they got caught by the floodwaters. LP had bivvied up overnight using his dog for warmth.



The all-important debrief!

29th July Pighunter (A different one) Waitangi Forest

Fate obviously decided our kit hadn't got wet enough at Karetu, and introduced us to hunter number two in almost as many days.

Subject had entered forest with his wife to take dogs for a run. When the dogs took off from the truck he went looking for them, twisting his ankle in a gully. When the dogs returned but he hadn't his wife raised the alarm.

Four teams spent until 0400 running sound/light lines along various tracks in the area with no response.

Timeout was called and teams headed back to base for a couple of hours kip before restarting.

At around 0700, the IMT visited the LKP and as they were returning to the vehicles discovered the LP hobbling along the track. There can't be many instances of the IMT locating the subject in the field! Interesting point that although teams could hear other soundlines and were estimated to be no more than 100m from him, LP reported he heard and saw nothing – possibly some hearing issues there).





Last Trainings - **Deployment / Mini-SAREX** - July 19th/20th Trefoil Park

The July training was a varied event attended by about 15 bods. Thanks go to those who gave up their wet weekend at home to join in and make it a muddy weekend away.

On Saturday morning, an analysis of gear deployment from the trailer was carried out and a new system devised to minimise pillaging hordes attacking Shy Ron and Timid Joy - See later in the newsletter for details on this one.

That afternoon came a small exercise to test the new deployment theory, give people a chance to practice setting up the IMT operations room leading into a small search exercise to give some a chance at sitting in the big chair. It is a big credit to our first aiders that the LP, initially pronounced 1S (due to lack of a casualty card) was resurrected and returned safe and well to the arms of the relieved father!

Sunday morning concentrated on revision of clue handling and tracking skills. Tracks were laid in the (unintentionally) very difficult conditions in a totara grove. The natural resilience of this saturated leaf litter meant that teams had to work hard to earn their popsicle stick in the final print (Minties are for beginners now guys!)

It was very good to see one team stick to their guns, and by following the one-step method, with a huge dose of diligence and honesty, manage to nab their (hidden) popsicle stick - especially as there was a decoy stick in full view a couple of metres to the side of their track. Congratulations to Murray & Ian on this one! Special thanks to Glenn and Trev for picking up the reins on this one.

SARINZ Lost Person Behaviour – Alzheimer's/Suicides - Aug 9th/10th Lonsdale Park

An interesting and really cheerful two days. Saturday was spent learning about the effects of Alzheimer's and how the profiling affects the management of a search and how implementation of relevant search methods improves the hit-rate. I think all concerned came away on the first day subdued by the debilitating effects of this disease.

Day two continued the theme and we spent a sunny day evaluating suicides. Again, how the profiling and data can be applied to maximise the search effort. We finished the day off with three local case studies and how they fitted the suicide behavioural traits.

Parting Shot

New Gear Issuing System

Following on from discussion at last months training, Team gear will be issued as follows (some of it is current practice, but is included here for completeness.

On arrival, members are to actively seek out the Dynamic Duo of Ron and Joy (or their delegate) to sign in and at this point request any additional PERSONAL kit if required from the trailer (eg Vest, Raingear etc)

Please make yourself available to carry/setup etc in the early stages of setup whilst waiting for teams to be formed.

If you're not required, please keep trailer and Base areas clear.

TL's (or their delegate) are the only ones to approach the trailer for gear.

Each team will be issued with a team kit, including radio, GPS and batteries.

Example: T1 will receive Kit #1, Radio #1 GPS #1 etc.

TL retains overall responsibility for items issued to their team.

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First team has dibs on kit contents and items taken are signed off with the team number on the enclosed sheet.

The remaining kit is then returned to the trailer for further item issue to other teams if required.

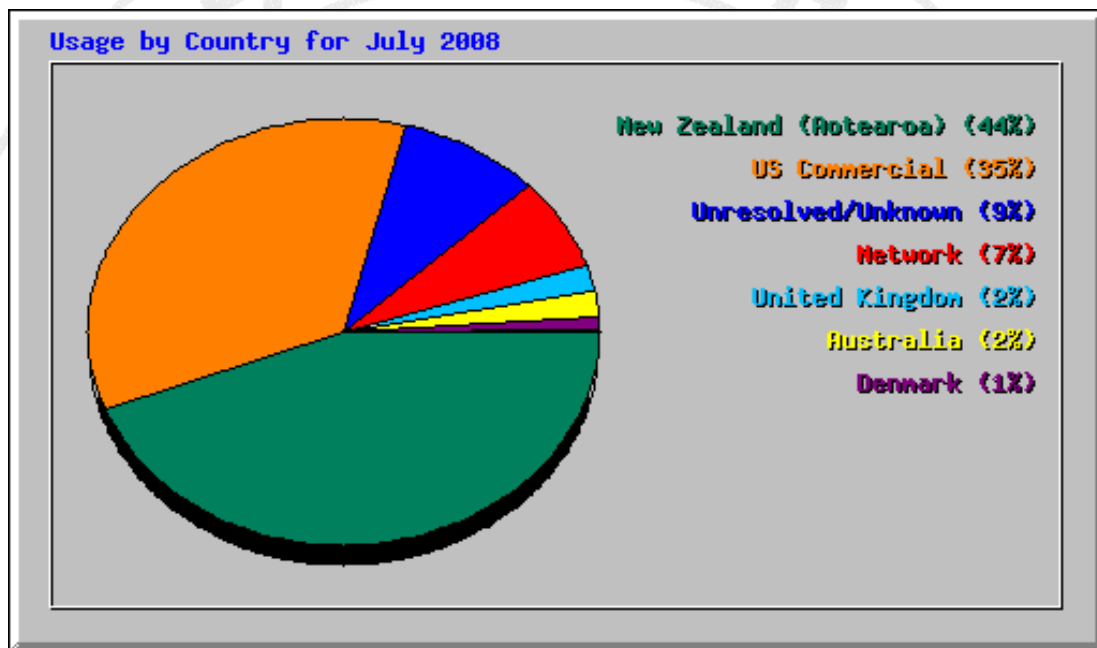
Other points are:

Non SAR vollies (ie public) are to demonstrate they are suitably equipped before being allowed into the field.

Raingear and other big-ticket items are to be issued to SAR personnel only.

And in other news (to fill an embarrassing space):

Here is the breakdown of visits to the newsletter website for last month (US Commercial is generally search engines doing their thing)



Far North SAR – World Famous in Denmark!

That's it for this month.
See you at the SAREX

Cheers
Pete.