



Debrief

DECEMBER 2009



PO Box 720, Kerikeri
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The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue
<http://www.fnsar.org.nz>

Next Training - **Team Building Tramp - February 2010**

Where Cape Reinga region
When Tentatively scheduled for the weekend of February 13th/14th - but subject to change.
What Options open at this stage, may be west coast (Twilight Bch/Cape Maria van Diemen), or east (Spirits Bay/Tapotupotu).

Besides being a chance to burn off some of the December excesses and getting to know the other members of the team a bit better, the New Year tramp is traditionally the time when we get the annual Team Photo for the HQ wall. So please pencil this weekend in and lets get a team photo with something more scenic than a chopper in it for 2010 😊

Glenn is the organiser for this one.

More details will be released in the January Debrief.

Next Meeting **7:30pm Wednesday FEBRUARY 3rd Kerikeri**

No Meeting in January

Callouts:

All quiet on the Western Front (and the Eastern, Southern and Northern ones for that matter). Please check your listing on the callout tree, and advise Sue or Marilyn of any changes for the next revision.

Last Training **Kayak Training - Bay of Islands. 5th6th Dec.**

Four (fool)hardy souls, plus two on the support vessel, departed from Doves Bay one fine Saturday morning to make their way across the Bay of Islands in search of adventure. A scheduled meet at Roberton Island with another three (ex. Long Beach) was well timed and the full contingent had assembled within 20 minutes of the prearranged time. A quick portage across Roberton and off again heading for Moturua Island. This was the original intended campsite, but DOC had closed all access at the eleventh hour due to a political falling out with the owners...so we headed off again in search of Urupukapuka Is.

Once tents were pitched and everyone settled in, we headed out into the bay to practise self and assisted rescues. Different techniques, textbook and improvised, were tried – some worked, others sort of worked and the rest were just amusing to watch! This just about finished everyone off for the day, so we retreated to dry land – except for a brief flurry of activity as the dolphins cruised past the bay shortly after. Fish was on the menu...Thanks to a kindly neighbouring camper who had slightly better luck than the intrepid hunters.

Day 1: 25km, Total Time (incl. stops): 7Hrs.

CONTACTS Pres: Ian Ruddell 407 7932; Sec: Marilyn Buckley 407 4299; Training: Sue Field 407 8636

Thanks to our supporters: **Kerikeri Outdoor Shop**, Kerikeri & **Stirling Sports**, Waipapa - [Please support them in return](#)



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Sunday dawned fine and calm with those damn dolphins cavorting in the bay waking me up at 0500, so I went for a quick fish whilst waiting for the rest of the camp to wake up. The Russell splinter faction headed off early to meet prior appointments while the rest of us followed the seaward side of Urupukapuka up to Red Head, then a crawl across the gap to Purerua. Just for added entertainment, the forecast 20kn (we decided it was actually 17.5kn) headwind turned up early at about the halfway mark. Caffeine, chocolate (Thanks Kerry!) and a lie in the sun was lunch break once we reach land again before heading on the final stretch across the wind to the sheltered waters of home.

Day 2: 25.5km, Total Time (incl stops): 6Hrs

Thanks Becs and Kerry for organisation and support vessel.



Parting Shot

Due to time commitments, Becs can no longer support the role of Funding and Grant applications. Could someone please raise their hand to help her out? Thanks.

Christmas Party – Paul has asked that people access the venue via 35 Ness Road. Could anyone attending please advise Marilyn as soon as possible with numbers attending for catering purposes.

There are four ex-service Etrex GPS units to be raffled/auctioned/lolly scrambled this year, so if you are interested in acquiring one of these, let Marilyn know you'll be coming.

Get your nominations for the Golden Boot in to a committee member too – Nominations can be for anything worthy of such a prestigious trophy.

NZTM – A reminder that we are now operating on the new NZTM datum. If you use your personal GPS on a FNSAR exercise or operation, you will need to have changed your settings accordingly!

There are links to information on how to change your GPS to the new datum on the Links page of the FNSAR website. Hotlink : http://www.fnsar.org.nz/?page_id=54

Finally, a **BIG Thank You** to members who have submitted photos and write-ups this year.

Makes life a lot easier on my part when I'm sitting here scratching my rapidly thinning hair wondering how to write a piece about a training I wasn't at... So thanks guys, and I look forward to having *too many* submissions next year.

Remember, it doesn't have to be directly SAR related – can be a trip report, review of a new bit of kit etc.

So until we meet again, either on a search, a training, or just as a spontaneous random collective in town, have a safe and quiet festive season, keep the pack handy, the fuel tank full and the water bottles chilled.

Cheers!

Pete

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