



Debrief

JANUARY 2010



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The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue
<http://www.fnsar.org.nz>

Next Training - **Team-Building Tramp Feb 20th, 21st ****NEW DATE******

Where Meet at Ians at 0630 for carpool on Saturday 20th
When ETD Kerikeri 0630Hrs 20/2/10, ETR Kerikeri late afternoon Sunday 21st
What Car pool to the cape 2hrs drive (if you worked there for six months say 2.5hrs).

Regroup at Waitiki landing where breakfast will be served (user pays) required to offset car service.
Car shuttle to Kapowairua camp ground (cars to be left at Waitiki landing) Joyce (Waitiki Landing) to drop last driver off at camp ground.
2hr 45min tramp from Kapowairua to Western end of spirits bay via 4wheel driver track keeping a look out for Oystercatchers, Godwits, and Dotterel. After lunch, a swim at the beach. A short 1hr 15min tramp to Pandora for the night.

Then, after a night of merry making, sorry..."Team Building".

Back to Waitiki Landing via the upgraded Pandora track followed by a road trip to the Cape (which has changed a lot in the last year) then home to Ian's for tea.

Contact Glenn for specific details, complaints, or questions about the huge mossies at Pandora (Leave the Bug Spray at home, and take a cricket bat!).

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

At Proctor Library on Cobham Rd. Meeting room to left of main library doors.

Callouts:

Callout - 07/01/10 Puketi Forest

65 year old male and three children reported overdue from daytrip in Puketi. Located while being mobilised and team stood down.

Last Trainings

No Training in January.

MSC Training coming up

Abseil Training Course

20,27 February, 6 March

Basic Bushcraft

27/28 February

Abseil Training Course

17, 24 April, 1 May

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

Many thanks to our supporters: **Kerikeri Outdoor Shop, Kerikeri & Stirling Sports, Waipapa**



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Parting Shot

A big pat on the back for Becs and Kerry who swung into action when they arrived at the scene of a drowning at Mangonui Bluff at the end of last year. Becs tells the story...

Kerry and I formed an unofficial SAR team when we happened upon the drowning at Mangonui Bluff on 90 mile beach yesterday. We happened along and were flagged down by bystanders. At that time they had just got the two grandchildren on the beach but had lost sight of the grandfather who was still in the water. They needed us to call 111 (as their cellphone was flat). As we were about to do so, we spotted the man floating in the surf and five of us ran in and pulled him to shore. Kerry started CPR whilst I made the 111 call. Kerry then continued with CPR and eventually handed over to team of bystanders (including a medical student) who undertook CPR very competently under Kerry's supervision for 30 minutes, before we made the call to cease as there were no signs of life. We then asked a local to go and find a kaumatua and he arrived from nearby to take over the appropriate karakia and handling of the deceased until police arrived. It took about 45 minutes for a police officer to arrive, one hour before two St Johns volunteer staff arrived with proper resus gear and then a helicopter paramedic also arrived another 30 minutes after that.

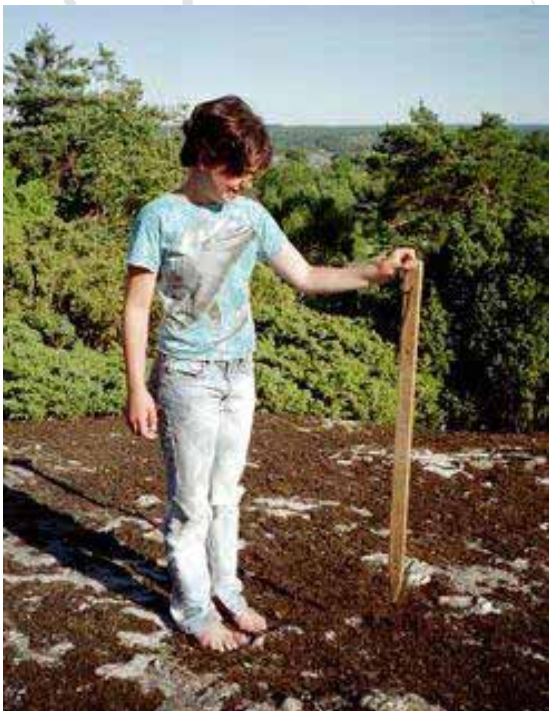
Don't know if this counts as an unofficial call out – unfortunately we forgot to plug that fact we were in SAR to the police who arrived on scene. First police on scene was Chris from Houhora who was up at the Iron maiden search; also had Kevin, who I think is a senior sergeant from Kaitaia and another guy from Kaitaia who looked familiar.

Hope if we get any official call outs we have better luck than this, as unfortunately it was very obvious to both Kerry and I when we brought the man out that CPR was not likely to produce a survival - but we had to try for the sake of the whanau.

I am really thankful to have had all our SAR training as I think Kerry did a good job of coordinating a spontaneous team of bystanders and I could really see how having team leadership skills and current first aid gave the bystanders confidence in what they were doing. There was no feeling of chaos or not knowing what to do.

You never know...!

Finally, to end on a lighter note, with GPS units getting more complex every year, there's still a market for a basic GPS. Here's one you can make cheaply, and you can even fabricate one in the bush in case you get misplaced.



Hold one end of the stick between thumb and index finger and let the other end hang freely.

The GPS (General Purpose Stick) will then accurately show your position with unbeatable precision and has a margin of error of one arms length. Better than some commercial units!

And unlike expensive electronic GPS units, it needs no batteries and only requires one satellite (ie. the one we are all standing on).

Cheers!

Pete

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