



Debrief

JULY 2009



PO Box 720. Kerikeri
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The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue

Next Training - Night Navigation and Search Methods

- Where** Opua Forest, HQ and meet at Gerans Place
When Saturday July 25th from 1300Hrs to late evening
What NEED TO BRING :
 SAR daypack & Hi-viz vest as per search.
 Compass, Headtorch & good hand torch.
 Clothing & footwear to suit weather & conditions.
 (Bush will be wet & slippery even in the unlikely event it doesn't rain.)
 Pre-prepared/Dehydrated or similar food for dinner + snacks + water.
Compasses & Hi-viz vests available from trailer to new members.

PROGRAM:

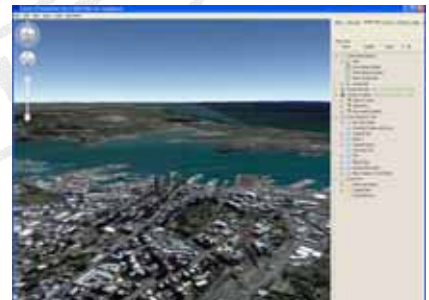
The afternoon will be spent practicing some Search Method techniques with a little navigation.
 After dinner we will be doing night navigation with a little search methods.
 All teams should be out well before midnight.
 Space for tents will be available for those who don't want to travel home on the night.
 If heavy rain is forecast it is likely event will be cancelled due to safety and sense-of-humour-loss issues.

IT WILL MAKE THE DAY RUN A LOT SMOOTHER IF I HAVE AN IDEA OF NUMBERS.

SO PLEASE PLEASE EMAIL A YES/NO FOR ATTENDANCE TO gbbuilding@vodafone.co.nz
SORRY, NO "MAYBE'S".

TUMONZ

Scheduled for 8th/9th August, Please contact Sue if you would like to do this SARINZ course.
 This course is designed to give participants skills in the use of electronic mapping techniques in SAR using the TUMONZ mapping software. You don't have to be IMT to do this one, and its open to new members too.



Next Meeting **7:30pm** **August 5th** **Kerikeri**

All meetings other than AGM and Specials are now held at Proctor Library, Kerikeri.

CONTACTS Pres: Glenn Fountain 407 7839; Sec: Marilyn Buckley 407 4299; Training: Sue Field 407 8636
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Callouts

July 12th - Omahuta - 3LP Male 40, Female 13, Male 6

Well, you've probably all read/heard about this one in the media, so I'll just give a quick run down... An "impossible scenario" was the cause for our latest callout. Three persons; a 40yo anaphylactic male, 13yo deaf girl and a 6yo asthmatic without meds in gale force winds and single digit windchill lightly clad, little food and with a 36Hr head start. Sounds like something the lads from SARINZ would dream up as an exercise doesn't it!

Party entered Omahuta Forest on the Friday morning, apparently for a pighunt. Weather wasn't forecast to close in until late that night, however having become disoriented, the party were caught out and spent two nights out. They sheltered in a bivvy the first night and a hollow tree for the second.

Their vehicle was located at around 2100Hrs on the Saturday evening with FNSAR, NLSAR called out shortly after. Auckland SAR were readied to provide second shift as a precaution.

Comms were a challenge with a 500m wall of rock between SAR base and the teams working on the plateau, but utilising a DOC repeater as well gave a second line of comms where the SAR repeater couldn't quite reach.

"Helpful" locals were in abundance, who for the most part played the game, listened and behaved as instructed - although there were several loose cannons and subsequently frequent false voice responses to sound lines, each of which took time to check and confirm identity.

At the height of the search, we had 7 SAR teams in the field, along with a few made up of locals, some tactfully directed to lower POA areas. A good lead was provided by the parties pig dog, which when spotted on the track headed off to the NE, this was where the six year old was subsequently located, separated from the others who were apparently a couple of hundred metres away on the other side of the track.

One of our biggest searches for a long time, and tested the systems right the way through .

Big thanks to all who attended, or put their hand up for second shift.

Thirsty Work! (Submitted by Grant)



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Last Training

42nd Traverse - Owango, 42°S - 13th June

Submitted by Sue (thanks!)



Ten FNSAR adventure seekers, willing to step out of their comfort zones, headed south to the volcanic plateau aboard the fun bus towing a trailer crammed like a can of sardines with mountain bikes. There were plenty of rest stops on route as Trev ensured he was well hydrated for the weekend. After a 9 hr journey we arrived in time for a hearty meal at the local pub of O-wang-o. and off to bed early in preparation for ride of our lives the next day. Being the tough folk from the winterless north a little rain and mud didn't deter us and we set off for an early start (once we managed to wake up the local taxi driver). We were a motley looking crew on bikes dug out from the depths of garages covered in spider webs with very little lycra to be seen on the riders. It was more a tramp on wheels with folk decked out in Swazi gear carrying packs loaded with cookers and the works. To justify it as a navigation training exercise we took a wrong turn near the start then took great care at each intersection thereafter to check GPS and signs. Ian proved to be a dab hand at bike mechanics modifying Becs bike to almost a single speed after she lost a gear lever. Jo kept us singing as she cruised along on her bike with all the bells and whistles. Rog demonstrated his never give up attitude – riding the course with shredded bulging tyres, walking out the bush, then riding home on a borrowed bike with no brakes! Tom showed how with youth on your side you can do anything and made the ride look easy, Trev showed how important fuel is – getting his second wind after cooking up a big feed on the side of the track. Andy showed the benefit of fitness as he cruised back and forth from lead to tail checking group all ok. Sue showed how a flash bike makes the hills a whole lot easier. Al was a daredevil on a bike with no brakes and Oli surprisingly refrained from his usual entertainment of chasing wild life. Almost every body landed in the mud at some stage and those that didn't got splattered as they rode through it anyway. So it was straight for the showers at the homely lodge of Owango. Then on with the fancy hats for a night watching rugby with the locals at the pub. The journey home seemed a lot quicker - maybe cos Trev had run out of beer or maybe it was the quizzes that made the time fly. So all in all an excellent team building training weekend. I did hear someone mention it was the best thing they had ever done!!! So don't miss out on the next FNSAR adventure

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Parting Shot

SAR Research in New Zealand

The Search and Rescue Institute of New Zealand Trust (SARINZ) is sponsoring research for Robert Koester to develop a testing methodology and experimental protocol for determining the detection index (sweep width) for sound search and light search in New Zealand conditions. Development of these sweep width tables will support future search operations of missing/lost person(s) hopefully around the world by more accurately determining how well a search resource has searched an area or segment. This data will then enhance planning efforts by determining the optimal allocation (or reallocation) of available search assets as well as providing a scientific base for areas that should be re-searched. (Reprinted from SARNews)

Far North SAR is Back on The Air!

Following an unavoidable closedown of the last server that was hosting our newsletters (I would like to extend our thanks to Tasman SAR and particularly Karen King for their time and assistance in getting us into the 21st century) we have now registered our own domain names – fnsar.org.nz and fnsar.co.nz. We will be using the .org address as the principle one, with the .co.nz as a secondary to help redirect people looking for us. The new webpage should be up and running shortly and will initially be for newsletter archives and training info, but will hopefully expand to have a background about us, what we do, and how to get in contact or join the group. Please have a look, and let Pete know if you find any tipografikal eras etc. I haven't advised the website here as I'd be interested in hearing how easily people can find it, and how they got there (other than typing in the URL above) Thanks.



That's it for now,
Until Next Month,
stay safe...

Cheers!

Pete