



Debrief

NOVEMBER 2008



The Monthly Newsletter of
Far North Search & Rescue

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

Next Training - Kayak / Tramp December 6th Lanes Cove

One group will kayak out to the DOC hut at Lane Cove, whilst the terrestrial contingent will tramp in from Totara North (About 2Hrs tramp, 1Hr by yak)

A boat will be also heading out for those who don't want to walk/paddle.

Once established at base camp, various activities will be underway including kayak training for novices (and maybe not so novice), abseiling, maybe a scenario or two... This is BYO food, although there will in all likelihood be kaimoana on the menu as well.

On Sunday teams will swap over with the newly inducted kayakers who wish to do so returning by sea, and the rest heading out overland.

Can you please advise Max (laarse@ihug.co.nz) if:

- a) You will or will not be attending
- b) You have a yak, or,
- c) You have a spare yak available

There may be opportunities for non-SAR to attend, however due to limited bunks in the hut SAR will have priority.

Next Meeting 7:30pm December 3rd - Kaikohe HQ

Final meeting for the year.

Standbys and Callouts

Stand By 04/11 **Logger** Ngawha

Brief standby for a logger reported missing after he was observed to take a different turning by the work vehicles leaving the forest the previous Friday (4 days). Was located safe and well at a different address before the team were mobilised.

Last Training Ropes/Stretcher - Puketi Forest 19/10

Sunday turned out to be a nice warm day for our Ropes Refresher at the Puketi Forest HQ. Geran had set it up as a full lost party scenario so with HQ established (Ron as Search Manager) we were quickly put into two teams with the fit young 'bucks' sent out in advance to find the two trampers. The LP details were comprehensive so the Hasty Team made the 'find' quickly. The other team had the job of carrying in the stretcher and the rest of the gear.

off the mark.com by Mark Parisi





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Going downhill was easy enough but when we left the track, crossed the Waipapa Stream, and then started the steep climb up the other side the signs were all there for a challenging scenario. The advanced party had done a great job of stabilising the injured party with his broken leg well splinted and he was in high spirits (isn't Skudds always so?). A quick break for lunch and then the crew was split into two Rescue Teams and roles appointed. Team 1 set up the first anchor while Team 2 went further down to prepare the anchor and redirects for the next stage of the lower. Bit of guesswork to judge the 50m for the length of the mainline but it worked out OK. Soon Skudds

came whistling safely down well supported and Team 1 struck on the idea of pulling their mainline down so the length was accurately set for the next anchor point. Efficiency was certainly building and thereafter there became no delay in the transfer from one belay to the next. The other lost person (Geran) had recovered sufficiently to become Safety Officer!! The set ups were very good and everyone worked well in their teams with changes about in role. Knots revision was well worth the effort. A bit of a breather at the stream and then Team 2 went to setup a raise up the fairly steep bank on the other side. The distance was again judged by the rope length. A 3:1 system was set up on the mainline but the distance made good on each haul was a bit short at the start because of the length of rope spare and the need to reach a small plateau for a safe stretcher transfer. It worked fine once it got going but perhaps a separate tackle would have worked better. Team 1 joined in and soon Skudds was deposited on the plateau. We then packed up and started on the hour climb back up to the HQ. Ron (bless his old socks) had the soup on with bread rolls. Amazing that even though you are hot and sweaty how refreshing a cup of hot soup can be - it soon all disappeared. We all sat round for a chat (a FNSAR debrief) then packed up. A great day with the consensus being that we should do it more often. Thanks to Geran for the great organisation and to Ron for his unwavering enthusiasm back at base.

Can whoever has the orange helmet please return it to the trailer.

Thanks go to Grant for the article, and to Geran for the Pics..

Parting Shot

- Christmas party (14 Dec) 4pm at Marty's Golf Range, Kerikeri. Salads will be provided so BYO meat for a BBQ, drinks and \$5pp for a bucket of golf balls. Partners and new members welcome.
- Training for next year:
More ropes practice
Tracking weekend with day & night tracking
Team building weekend tramp on Waima Ridge
Night navigation
....Any other ideas???



If I have to wait 24 hours to report my wife missing, what am I supposed to do for dinner tonight?