



Debrief

NOVEMBER 2009



PO Box 720, Kerikeri
Email: info@fnsar.org.nz



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

Next Training - Kayak Training Dec 5th, 6th

- Where** Basecamp on Moturua Island. **Launch points:** Opito Bay, Long Beach, Rawhiti.
- When** Depart Saturday morning, return Sunday afternoon – times to be confirmed
- What** We have several options for this paddle in terms of distance – so please RSVP to Becs ASAP if you are planning on coming and indicate your preference. Refer map.

We may end up with a few groups starting from different locations and either meeting along the way, or at Moturua. Sea kayaks are recommended for all the options. Sit on kayaks are OK but it would be preferable if they were the type with a rudder and ideally 4m in length (particularly if you are an inexperienced paddler). You do need to be confident of handling your kayak in windy conditions and some swell. Life jackets are essential, along with bailers for sit in kayaks.

Option 1: Depart from Opito Bay for an approximate 4-5 hour (or 3 hour fast paddle). This is a longish paddle (± 15 km) and you will cross some unprotected water that can rough up in windy weather. Cars would be left at Opito Bay, which seems to be a fairly safe place to leave them (alternative would be launch at Dove's Bay marina).

Option 2: Depart Long Beach (Russell) for an approximate 2 - 3 hour paddle (± 7 km). Cars would probably be left at Long Beach (unless we can organise somewhere more secure) at owner's risk. This is a shorter paddle than option 1 and more sheltered in most winds. Still a 5km open water paddle before reaching the relative shelter of the islands though, so can be a swell depending on sea conditions.

Option 3: Depart Rawhiti for approximate 1 ½ - 2 hr paddle (± 5 km). Cars would be left at the private property there that charges (\$5/night I think) for parking. This is the shortest and most sheltered of the options. Less likely to be a big swell through here, but can still chop up if windy.

Options 2 & 3 could then leave time to explore further around the islands if people were still keen for a longer paddle once out there.

Once at the island we will indulge in some kayak rescue training, both self rescue and assisted rescue – so if you have things such as paddle floats please bring them along. Be prepared to get wet. Along the way we would practice our coastal exploring/searching techniques trying to get into all the tightest nooks and crannies we can.

You need to be totally self sufficient for the weekend, including water, tent, food, cooking gear, safety gear etc. The camp site is basic with a composting toilet and no other facilities (maybe water, but this is not confirmed as yet so bring what water you need to make sure you are not caught short).

Motorised support craft are only allowed along if you can stay on board your craft overnight as this campsite is for use by non motorised crafts only (i.e. kayaks).

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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Last Trainings (continued...)

Half way through the exercise it rained just to add a little realism, and then everything was reloaded into the trailer and a short drive to our next "search"...30m away.

This one had all the comforts of home, or more precisely, a garage.

ICP was quickly set up and taskings formed in the hunt for "a one legged octagenerian missing in the forest". A good time achieved for ICP setup and initial deployment on this one.

The afternoon closed off with a debrief and general discussion over bangers 'n beer (Thanks Rog!)

SAREX – Nov 17th, 18th. Ruakaka.

Unfortunately no reports received. So here's one team's log:

Friday night caving exercise abandoned - debris in cave.

Heat Imaging Device - general opinion not particularly useful. No penetration into bush. Didn't show lit cigarette at 10m in grass.

Main exercise - Operation Virgins - NZTM projection to be used.

7 field teams.

SITREP: 2 LP, lightly clad, stayed on tracks, car perhaps at Ormiston Rd quarry. Responsive.

0800 Helo briefing then winching at school playing fields. All search teams winched up and then down from hover at 40ft. Long line about 10m apart.

1000 Teams deployed to different entry points of forest. Some by helo, some by car. T1 locate and TCA car. Footprints two persons found leading away. General tasking is to stay to tracks and whistle sound line with sign cut around any DP's. Tracks appear to be Tramping Club type tracks blazed with Venetian strips. Forest young regenerating with mainly Kanuka but some moderate sized natives. Under storey was easy to move through with little supplejack and contours easy.

1300 Coastguard dealing with a sea emergency at Peach Cove, Whangarei Heads. T3 and T6 winched out and flown to sea emergency. One patient stretchered. Looking for others. Found

1440 T7 finds item of clothing and response further up stream. Comms goes up hill to report - 2 members find one LP. Suffering Hypothermia - diabetic. 2nd LP called from 50m upstream. Hypothermic and with compound fracture of left tibia. T4 relaying messages. All Teams stop - relocate to rescue site. Decide on helo evac. Clear area 20m x 6m upstream. Patients stabilised.

1550 All teams at rescue site.

1610 Helo arrives and winches down stretcher. LP1 is able to walk to helo site. LP2 is rolled onto mat and lifted into stretcher. Carried to helo site. Helo unable to lift person in stretcher unless No-Duff, so splint removed and stretcher disassembled. Helo off picking up members from other rescue site.

1720 Patients and minders are winched for evac. About 120ft winch. Cool going up through bush. Remaining team members are also winched to base.

1845 Exercise End.



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Parting Shot

Firstly, due to other commitments I must apologise for a) No October newsletter, and b) Lateness of this one. Hopefully things are settling down and the December issue will be a little more punctual.

I have a copy of the October Air NZ inflight magazine “Kia Ora” containing the article on LandSAR will be dropped off at the HQ at the December meeting if anyone wants a read.

Plus a reminder that you can always get the latest updates on trainings via the members page of the website www.fnsar.org.nz It’s interesting seeing what people are searching for which leads them to the site. Best to date was “how to start the laundry”! Still, they had a look around before continuing in search of domestic enlightenment!

And, lastly, a new phone tree is starting to be planned – please check your numbers, particularly cellphones, and let Marilyn or Sue know of any alterations. If we don’t have your correct number, how can we wake you up at 2am to go and fight with supplejack in the rain?

To finish off, here’s some shots from the SAREX.



*Cheers!
Pete*



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