

FRANKLIN ROUNDUP

of kiwis nearby, the presence of the wild donkeys, and the truly amazing scenery, what else would one rather be doing than searching for a missing party?

0800hrs: Proceeding up the ridge line to complete the initial tasking, and meeting with another team that was tasked to the same end grid reference with no positive outcomes so far, both teams are keen to move onto their next task, the longer the missing party has been out, the less chance there is of finding them alive.

Then comes the anticipated radio call . . .

0930hrs: "SAR base, SAR base this is team 2 1, more to follow." "SAR base

receiving", "Base, we have located the missing party and are undertaking a preliminary medical assessment now". With this announcement comes the decision from SAR base for all other teams to make their way to grid reference 037786, the location of the team and missing party, to assist in the care and evacuation of the two women. Results of the medical assessment inform the rest of the searchers that the first patient has short shallow breathing, is in shock, and looks to have fallen down the bank, resulting in a broken lower leg with exposed bones. The second patient is dazed and confused, but otherwise fine. With teams arriving en masse,

both patients are then stabilized, and taken to the nearest evacuation point suitable for pickup by boat, one via foot, and the other via stretcher. Training exercise over, mission completed.

It is essential training such as this that allows Search and Rescue teams nationwide to progress their skills for the real thing. Search and Rescue is for emergencies and unfortunately not all outcomes are favourable, but the time and effort put in by police, SAR and volunteers, knowing that there is always a glimmer of hope even in the most challenging circumstances, makes it all worth while. ■

Hawkins Theatre – Papakura Show Me Shorts Film Festival

Hawkins Theatre was graced with the best of Kiwi and Australian short film-making talent. Show Me Shorts opened on the 19th of November to showcase the seven award winning short films announced for 2009, one of the many extraordinary events Hawkins Theatre has staged over the past year. Hawkins Theatre moves into 2010 with the introduction of two new staff members. Planned renovations are scheduled to be completed around the middle of April, in time to host Auckland's premier of Monty Python's Spamalat. ■



Graeme Bennett & Cr Carolynn Convoy



Raynor Simich



Robin & Jill Korvang



Joan & Colin Thomson



Rebecca Glover & Raynor Capper