

The following article on Ted Sapsford was  
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## TED SAPSFORD

Ted Sapsford has said that the Smedley Long O on Sunday is the last one he will organise and the Club would like to thank him for running it for the last three years. The committee has asked me to say a few words on what else he has done for the club.

It's a bit difficult to limit to a few words as the Sapsfords joined the club in 1980 (I think) when Rowan was five and Fiona seven, and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then. To start with there has been 16 Badge Events and Ted has helped with all of them. I have lost track of how many he was co-ordinator for, but those of you who helped at APOC will have realised that he dots all the I's and crosses all the Ts and leaves nothing to chance, nothing at all. When Ted runs an event it runs like clockwork. I had better skip the OY's and ordinary club events and get on to the Mountain Marathons. Ted competed with Colin Tait at the very first one on Tongariro in 1983 and after that he was hooked. In 1984 Wairarapa ran a warm up on Tea Creek which turned out much tougher than the real thing but Ted and Colin were determined to finish. They did - at 7.00pm that evening. Next year Wairarapa repeated the warm up but Colin wasn't available so I went with Ted on a 20km course. After 19 1/2kms and 8 of the 15 controls I had had enough and Ted sportingly agreed to DNF - at least we got back in time for tea that time.

In the early 80's I had suggested to Ted running an event from Turangi to Puketitiri using Kaimanawa and Kaweka National Parks. While this never got off the ground, Ted worked on the idea and in 1986 started exploring the Ruahines. It took him 18 months and many trips into the ranges from both sides, but in February 1988 HB ran the Ruahine Mountain Marathon, one of the most successful ever - mind you there were problems - like when Ted and Colin went to put out the control above "Ikawetea" Forks Hut. The tops were clouded in and search as they could they never found the marked peg. So they had to put the control on another feature and then change all the maps when they got back.

In 1990 the club that had been allocated the Mountain Marathon pulled out and in order to keep the Macpac sponsorship, Ted turned on the Kaweka Challenge. With the help of the Heretaunga Tramping Club and the Search & Rescue radio boys he organised it, including the route marking, in under six months which was quite amazing. It must say a lot for Anne that they are still married.

I always have a bit of a laugh when I hear people get lost coming down Mackintosh Spur because when Ted and Colin were putting out the markers they hit the track at the foot of the spur and Colin wanted to go right but Ted said left. So left they went - and on and on - till they hit the Donald River. Colin had been right about that one.

But Mountain Marathons aren't all hard work. There was the day they went into Middle Hill hut and took the families to the Te Puia hot springs in both cars. Colin crossed the ford first but Ted got stuck. Before Colin could get a rope to him, Rowan had to see what was going on and opened the car door on the upstream side - how long did it take to get the car dried out Ted?

I could go on all night but I must stop somewhere so may I finish on a very simple story. When my daughter Fiona was 10 or 11 she took a couple of friends out in the Ruahine bush - the old Rowe Road map - to show them how to orienteer. She got bushed and admitted it to her mates. Looking up from her map she said "heres a nice man, I'll ask him." The nice man showed her where she was and set her on the way to the next control as he has done for many others before and since.

For this, and for everything else you have done, on behalf of the club may we say Thank you Ted.

Brian C