

BLOODY SUNDAY



Just back from two weeks climbing in the Dolomites, I was looking forward to a day out in the Waitakeres. Russell had a good trip organised for Huia Ridge and the weather blessed us with a glorious day. I looked at my medical kit which had been religiously carried everywhere in Europe....."no need to take that on a gentle day in the Waitakeres."

Well, we set off from Huia up the hill towards Tom Thumb when, after fully ten minutes, I walked straight into the sharp end of a fallen tree branch. Bloody hell, you've never seen anything like it. Blood flowing everywhere, through the hair, into the eyes, down the face, on to the shirt, splashing to the ground.

"Are you all right?" asked Fred.

"Not really", I replied, removing my bloody hand from my head and sitting down in the middle of the muddy track.

Fred's quick inspection elicited the succinct comment, " That will need stitches"

Well yes, but how do you stop the blood? With large gauze pads was Mark Abela's practical response. He had a full medical kit which was immediately put to good use. Mark applied numerous pads while Fred wound metres of tape round and round the head.

Then the ladies of the slower party arrived on the bloody scene. Their startled faces were a sight to behold, even with blurred vision. Marie- Anne set to work cleaning up the face. She didn't even stop to put on her rubber gloves.

Stacey kindly offered to take the injured tramper to Henderson for the stitching stage of the saga. The doctor complimented Fred on his skills..."I could give him a job in the Medical Centre!"

Later in the day my daughter helped to clean up the bloody hair but only after sitting down rather suddenly and needing a cup of tea.

My four year old grandson accurately summed up the situation "I know what you did. You were **stupid!**"

(Mmmm! If you haven't checked your First Aid yet maybe time to do it! Check dates on antiseptic cream etc. Outdoor First Aid courses are run each year by Mountain Safety Council. Their new schedule will be in a newsletter early next year.)