



TRAMPERS: Jaden Kaempfe, 14, and Jost Siegfried, 69, before they set out on a six-day tramp on Sunday that ended with a rescue helicopter flight.

Photo supplied

Te Urewera tramp cut short

Haylee King
Staff reporter

HOURS into a six-day tramp at Te Urewera National Park, an experienced trumper became injured and needed rescuing.

Jost Siegfried, 69, and Jaden Kaempfe, 14, planned to tramp from Maungapohatu to the Waimana River over six-days, beginning on Sunday.

"After four hours we came to an easy-looking crossing at a rocky river. It was very, very slippery – like ice – and I slipped in the river and dislocated my shoulder."

It was 4pm and Jaden helped Mr Siegfried out of the river.

"I realised something was seriously wrong because I couldn't move my arm anymore."

The pair found a location to camp and Mr Siegfried made himself warm by putting himself into his pack liner.

Jaden fixed them up a cup of tea and Mr Siegfried decided to use the distress beacon because he felt he could not get out of the bush on his own.

"If rescuers could come and get us that would be better."

The distress beacon was activated at 5pm.

"We spent the night in the bush. It was a long night."

Mr Siegfried and Jaden first heard search and rescuers at 3am and knew they would be located at some stage.

"We thought that if they didn't find us by 9am we would have to make our way down to Maungapohatu."

At 5am, four search and rescuers located Mr Siegfried and Jaden.

"It was an incredible feeling of relief. The rescuers and helicopter did a tremendous job."

Mr Siegfried was prepared to walk to a hut with the help of the rescuers but the helicopter pilot felt they could be lifted out.

They were transported to the hospital where Mr Siegfried's shoulder was put back into place.

He said his shoulder would take up to six weeks to heal.

Mr Siegfried has been tramping for 25-years and has completed 60 tramps, some being up to 10-days long.

He said the incident was his first while tramping and the first time he had needed to activate a beacon.

"I was glad I had a locator beacon ... I was also glad to have a tramping buddy. He could help with the gas cooker because my right arm was just useless."