



Behind the Log

Issue No. 29

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www.bsar.org

In this issue:

Bringing in the New Year - Lorne Search	1
Monica Chapman steps down as BSAR Convener	2
Introducing the New BSAR Convener	2
Steep Snow and Ice Training Weekend, 18-19 July	3
2009 Search Training Weekend 10-11 October	3
BSAR Annual Report 2008-09	4
Rescue of an Injured Climber on The Fortress	6
A Reminder re food for searches	6
Cold Case Search Policy	6
GPS and CB Radio Training Activities	7



BSAR appreciates the annual funding from the Department for Victorian Communities to Bushwalking Victoria, a component of which is put towards BSAR administration and training activities.

Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
Next issue October 2009 - deadline 25th Sept.

Bringing in the New Year – Lorne Search

Two walkers, Ryan Hurley and Harry Wild, were reported missing in the forest near Lorne on Tuesday 30 December 2008. Fifteen Bush Search and Rescue members joined Police Search and Rescue, the SES and Parks Victoria on the search on Wednesday 31/12/2008. Our four teams deployed on their search tasks late on Wednesday afternoon, camping out for the night. We targeted a search area near where Ryan and Harry were last seen off the Mount Sabine Road.

After an early start on Thursday morning, one of our search teams located a campsite the two men had vacated on Monday night and called the Police helicopter to the grid reference. The helicopter searched in the direction to the west indicated by Ryan and Harry's trail on the ground, and found them waving in a small clearing near their second campsite. The closest team, BSAR1 who had found the first campsite, travelled about 300 metres to reach them. They were both in remarkably good condition.

Ryan and Harry had taken the advice from local Police during an earlier mobile phone conversation and stayed in one place awaiting rescue. They had constructed a good shelter out of timber, leaves and tree fern fronds to keep warm and dry. They had



left the shelter only to get water and visit the clearing when the helicopter was in the vicinity.

After sharing some food and drink, three of our teams walked with Ryan and Harry through the bush navigating back to the Sabine Falls Road to meet their waiting parents.

Shirley McInnes was the Police Liaison Officer. The rough and difficult terrain of this search emphasised Bush Search and Rescue's skills in remote area searching. Bush Search and Rescue would like to thank Parks Victoria for their assistance with vehicle transport, the SES and CFA for the use of the search base facility, and of course the Victoria Police for providing transport, radios and search coordination.

Peter Campbell, Field Organiser

Monica Chapman steps down as BSAR Convener

Monica Chapman has concluded 11 years as Convener of BSAR and its committee. During this period she has played a key role in increasing the standards of how BSAR operates on many important searches. Monica has had an active involvement in producing the new BSAR manual, changing the organisation's name, logo and website, organising important fevents, arranging funding and allocating expenditure on the many items of new equipment, including all our stocks of radios and GPS units.

During her tenure as convener, she also had an active involvement in introducing SMS and email alerting, the newsletter, Behind The Log, and many organisational improvements that are reflected in the

policies and processes that help our organisation run smoothly.

Monica has always been hard at work on behalf of BSAR and has put a huge amount of time and energy into the role. As a volunteer organisation, we have benefited immensely from her dedicated efforts that have increased our profile and standing within the emergency services and bushwalking communities. Monica's enthusiasm and energy will remain with us as she will stay on in her role as Field Organiser and member of the BSAR committee. We thank her for the wonderful contribution all these years.

Frank Zgoznic

Introducing the New BSAR Convener, Frank Zgoznic

It seems like only yesterday that I was reading the October 1998 edition of Behind the Log with it's front page heading about our then new name. It reported that earlier in the year Committee adopted 'Bushwalkers Search and Rescue' from the logo as the name of our group. Page two of that edition went on to announce that we also had a new Convener – yours truly!

It's interesting that we have recently adopted a new name, Bush Search and Rescue Victoria, and again we have attracted a fresh face to the Convener role. Déjà vu?

Frank Zgoznic will formally be appointed as Convener at the AGM of Bushwalking Victoria in June. However, in April the Board of Management appointed Frank as Acting Convener so that I could 'skip the country' in early May to travel while leaving BSAR in Frank's very capable hands.

As a member of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, Frank joined BSAR in 1987. He was MUMC's Delegate from 1989 to 1992 and has been one of our Field Organisers since 1999.

Frank has been involved in assisting with all types training activities, most recently running GPS workshops with our new units. He was also involved on the Working Group to produce our current Manual.

In his spare time, Frank completed his BMLC, STLC and is a keen photographer, climber and bushwalker.

I take this opportunity to thank Frank for his interest in the Convener position and wish him well for the future. I have every confidence that he will rise to the challenges and find the role a very rewarding one.

During my time as Convener I have enjoyed wonderful support from so many of you, near and far. Thank you for your encouragement, for lending a helping hand or a listening ear and providing your candid opinions. I can say without hesitation that the teamwork and professionalism of this group are second to none. It has been a pleasure and privilege working with you all as Convener.

I now look forward to my continued involvement on the Committee and will no doubt catch up with many of you - perhaps at training, on a search or along a bush track.

Monica Chapman



Police S&R Squad members with Frank and Monica at the Mt Beauty Emergency Services Expo in April.

Avalanche Beacon Training Workshop

Date: Saturday 20 June 2009

Venue: 2pm, Highfield Park, Camberwell.

Theory and practice on the use of avalanche beacons. Bring warm weather proof clothes. *Contact Peter Campbell on 0409 417 504 delegate to register by 14th June*

AlpineSAR Training Weekend

The AlpineSAR club are holding their winter training event at the Jaimathangs this year from 9th to 12th July. Four members of BSAR are invited to attend. *Contact Rod Lawler at home on 03 9486 4074 or rod.lawlor@rch.org.au for further details.*

Steep Snow & Ice Training Weekend

Dates: Sat 18 and Sun 19 July 2009

Venue: Mount Hotham

Transport: Bus will be provided, departing 6am Sat 18 July from Green St Northcote.

Steep snow and ice rescue practice covering the use of avalanche beacons, overnight snow camping and a rescue scenario at Mount Loch. Skis and snow camping equipment along with personal ice climbing gear is required.

Contact your delegate to register by 8th July

2009 SEARCH TRAINING WEEKEND – 10th to 11th October 2009

This weekend provides Bush Search and Rescue Victoria members with training in the essential skills of bush searching through a series of workshops and a search scenario. The event will take place in the Wombat State Forest, North West of Melbourne.

Who should attend

Members and potential members who meet the BSAR prerequisites for searchers (*see our website for details*).

Transport & Parking

Bus provided by Police Transport Branch. Seats will be allocated on receipt of application. Pick up point and parking is at the Police Bands Compound, Green Street, Northcote at 0700 hrs Saturday morning. The bus will return to the pick up point at approximately 1800 hrs on Sunday.

What to bring

Bring normal equipment for day walking and base camp on Saturday night. Bring clothes and equipment

suitable for off track walking. Maps of the area will be supplied. Bring your copy of the Search & Rescue manual.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions about the weekend, please don't hesitate to ring or email Ross, Duncan or Frank.

Ross McKinnon Hm 9807 8744 rmk@gwsc.vic.edu.au

Duncan Brookes Hm 03 9379 6163

dbro7100@bigpond.net.au

Frank Zgoznic Hm 9350 3619 convener@bsar.org

Attendance Confirmation

Club members should register with their Club Delegate. Delegates, please email Ross with the name, email address and mobile phone number of each of the participants from your Club before Wednesday 30th September. Individual members, please notify Ross directly with the same details.

Police Liason Officer and Field Organiser Training Day, 26th April 2009

On Sunday, 26th April our Police Liaison Officers and Field Organisers met for a training session on the procedures in place for starting a search. Our homework before the day was to familiarise ourselves with the systems for SMS and email alerts. On the training day Rod Costigan led us through a session on the outcomes from the SMS and email exercise that he had carefully scripted. Duncan Brookes then tasked us with planning a full scale feature search for a missing person. Shirley McKinnon covered Press Releases for the media and Peter Campbell covered the use of the BSAR website. The training session ended with a candid discussion of the outcomes from the day's events.

We were fortunate to have four members of the Police Search and Rescue Squad attend the day.



Attendees at the PLO and FO Training Day

BUSH SEARCH AND RESCUE - ANNUAL REPORT 2008 - 2009

The 60th anniversary year for BSAR marks my last as Convener and I have thoroughly enjoyed my years in this role. Many changes have challenged our team this year. We have a new name, Bush Search and Rescue Victoria, and a new logo, new policies for rapid response/limited numbers and cold case callout for searches and our first handful of individual members.

The new name was approved in July 2008 followed by a New Name Usage Protocol adopted in September, with the new logo selected in February 2009.

In September 2008 came the exciting announcement of a successful application through Emergency Management Australia for federal funding from the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund. We received \$31,087.10 for our recruitment and training project.

Since then the Committee has busied itself in utilising the funding. New GPS units, avalanche beacons and emergency shelters have been purchased, training in the use of this equipment has been undertaken and additional activities are planned, a new recruitment brochure, advertisements and banners have been obtained, and first aid subsidies have been allocated. Purchase of caps and vests are in progress.

We gratefully received a number of donations this year. From Melbourne Bushwalkers and CAEX clubs were donations of \$500 and \$260 respectively. The largest donation ever to be received came from family and friends of Warren Meyer in Australia and Canada. They generously gave over \$11,000 which allowed a major purchase of the bulk of the new GPS units and all our CB radios.

David Kneen stepped down from his Field Organiser role in December 2008 and is thanked for his contribution to BSAR in that capacity over the past few years.

From 25th-28th March 2008, members scoured the often dense, damp understorey of the tall forests in the large-scale search for 57yo Warren Meyer who went missing from a four-hour bushwalk in the Dom Dom Saddle area. A total of forty-four members, from various clubs, responded to three callouts over the four days of the BSAR commitment. Members line-searched the looking for any signs of the missing person. In the later days of the search BSAR leaders managed combined BSAR/SES or BSAR/CFA line-search groups.

On 26th-27th April, BSAR were again requested to assist to search for Mr Meyer's body. This was our first "Cold Case" callout. As it happened, Police had raised the possibility of cold case callouts earlier in the year with the BSAR committee, and there was in-principle agreement for it to occur, but procedures for cold case callouts had not yet been finalised and were fine tuned as a result of this callout. Nine members assisted with further searching, but again, no trace was found.

Most recently, on the weekend of 4th-5th October, 12 members again carried out further searching for some trace of Mr Meyer, but alas no sign. This callout was the first time our new model GPS units were used intensively. They proved their worth in the fine navigation required when line searching in difficult terrain.

Seven members from BNSC, WOA and AlpineSAR participated in the evacuation of an injured kayaker on a rugged and isolated section of the West Kiewa River on 15th September. The group left Mount Beauty early to begin the descent from Dungeys Track to the river in daylight. The kayaker was successfully evacuated by helicopter a few hours later and the group returned to Mount Beauty. Had the stronger winds forecast for later in the day come early, helicopter evacuation would not have been possible and a long stretcher carry would have been required.

There was no New Year partying for 15 members who brought in the new year with a trip to the forests near Lorne in search of two young men on 31st December 2008. Four teams were deployed late afternoon and camped out overnight. After an early start New Year's Day, one team located a campsite and found them roughly 300m away at their second campsite. The missing men were both in remarkably good condition having taken the advice from local Police during an earlier mobile phone conversation to stay in one place. They had also constructed a good shelter. After sharing some food and drink, three BSAR teams walked them though the bush navigating back to the Sabine Falls Road to meet their waiting parents and the media.

On 3rd November an alert was sent advising of two missing walkers at Wilsons Promontory. The missing pair were found shortly thereafter.

A successful Police Liaison Officer/Field Organiser training workshop was held on 10th May.

The Steep Snow and Ice Practice, held on 19th-20th July on Mt Buller's West Ridge was attended by 13 members. The group walked up the West Ridge in knee-deep snow, camped out and continued in very wet conditions next day. The dryland session on procedures

and expectations of gear and briefing from Police SAR ahead of the weekend was well worthwhile.

Margaret Maxwell and John Baillie attended parts of the Emergency Management Conference - Rescue 08, held on 29th-30th July and the Lost Persons Workshop 31st July.

The training in the Brisbane Ranges on 6th-7th September was attended by 52 people with over 20 new members coming along. It incorporated a 12-hour rogaine and VRA gave great support with our participation as did the Police SAR Squad who contributed to sessions on Sunday.

Six members updated or upgraded their first aid qualifications during the year.

The Police SAR Squad had regular representation at Committee meetings and the November meeting was held at the Squad's premises in Williamstown. Meeting attendance by a member of the Squad and their contributions to our training activities plays a valuable role in maintaining the good working relationships between the organisations. They also provided 12 pairs of scrub gloves and safety glasses for our members in the north-east as well as additional numbers for use by Melbourne-based searchers.

The Police Bands Complex in Northcote has proven to be a good departure point for searches and training activities.

Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) continued to provide funds to Bushwalking Victoria for BSAR administration and operations.

Behind the Log (BTL), our main communication means with each member, has again been ably produced by Editor, Ren Millsom. Ensuring our newsletter reaches members has continued to be a joint effort between Cheryl Walker and Jenny Sykes.

After many years in Rik Head's capable hands, the new BSAR website went "live" in September. Constructed and mainly kept updated by Peter Campbell since then, it has the capacity for others to have authorised access so as to spread the workload in future.

Membership Secretary, Cheryl Walker continued to improve the management of the membership and SMS lists. Cheryl stepped down as Minute Secretary in September and Committee agreed the task would be done on a rotation basis from November, unless another person volunteered.

Equipment Officers, Chris Jarvis and John Baillie, had a busy time with the significant amount of new equipment obtained during the year and equipment management was identified as requiring

improvement. Equipment stored at Northcote was insured for theft due to security concerns at this site.

The 279 dedicated people involved in BSAR make it a truly unique volunteer group. The support from 23 clubs and 3 individual members contributed 222 searchers and 61 club contacts to help maintain our specialised service.

The estimated number of volunteer hours contributed to BSAR operations totalled 5,314 for the year, significantly higher than last year due to the number of searches, additional training activities, new policy development and significant administration activity with respect to our new name, logo and EMA grant management. This highlights the substantial contribution made by all involved.

The first two individual members of BSAR were approved at the May 2008 meeting and the total number currently stands at three with another two applications currently in being processed. It is hoped that the new brochure and advertisements, increased visibility at searches, through banners, caps and vests, will lift our profile to increase membership.

Rik Head was approached by Bushwalking Victoria to prepare a document covering various communication systems for bushwalkers. The document entitled "Communications for Bushwalkers" was released in February 2009 on the BWV website and has been very well received.

An application was submitted to the National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund for 2009/2010 for purchase of radios, conduct of radio training and for digitising BSAR records.

I sincerely thank everyone involved in the BSAR team, especially the Committee, for their great support over the past year (and the decade before). It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have served as Convener with such a supportive group of people. I would long ago have left the role had it not been for your encouragement, understanding, shared wisdom, generous advice and friendship.

I also take this opportunity to thank Senior Sergeant Barry Gibson and members of the Squad (past and present) for their tremendous support during my time as Convener.

I leave the Convener role in the good hands of Frank Zgoznic and I wish him the very best for the remainder of our 60th year and into the future. I look forward to my continued involvement as a Field Organiser and Delegate.

As always, BSAR benefits from the efforts of many who enable the provision of this unique community service. Keep up the good work.

Monica Chapman, Convener

Rescue of an Injured Climber on The Fortress, November 2008

In November, BSAR members will have heard of the climber rescued in the Grampians on Sunday 16th. Whilst no BSAR members were involved in this rescue, members will know The Fortress and may be interested in some of the detail.

The two climbers were 60 metres up a climb known as Quincas Borba when the lead climber, well above his protection, fell about 12 metres, suffering injuries to both ankles, pelvis and lower back. His partner lowered him 6 metres onto a nearby ledge.

The fall occurred at 11.15 am and one of the climbers was able to ring triple O. Apparently the call centre alerted the ambulance service but no-one seems to have known where The Fortress is located. Once they worked out the location, a helicopter was dispatched with a paramedic but upon arrival at The Fortress they realized they could not simply winch the climber from the site of the accident.

The Police S&R Squad was notified at 1.35pm as a courtesy call from the local Police. The Arapiles Rescue Group was alerted at 2.18 pm.

The Police helicopter was at The Fortress at 3 pm but was only able to drop off Sgt Simon Brand and gear.

Four members of the Arapiles Rescue Group reached the foot of the cliff at 6.30pm and another five members of the Police S&R Squad arrived by Police helicopter shortly after.

The Rescue Group and the Police S&R combined to set up the Police stretcher and lowered the injured climber to the ground where he was fitted with a neck brace and vacuum mattress about 8 pm.

Thirty SES members were on hand and cut a path and helicopter evacuation clearing but by now the sun

was setting and daylight was too poor to bring the copter in. The SES, Police and Rescue Group then had a 3½ stretcher carry in the dark to a 4WD on a rough track on the Victoria Range and thence to a waiting ambulance.

More detailed articles on the rescue and issues arising were published in the Wimmera Mail-Times and can be viewed on [//wimmera.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/fourth-rescue-for-adventurer](http://wimmera.yourguide.com.au/news/local/news/general/fourth-rescue-for-adventurer).

This article is a summary from Police Media reports and the articles in the Wimmera Mail-Times, with comments from Sgt Victor Velhuis, Police S&R. The photo was kindly supplied by Police Media.

Prepared by Ren Millsom



Sgt Simon Brand guides the stretcher down

Two Day / Three Day Search Requirements – A Reminder

Members are reminded that whilst there has been a change to BSAR policy to allow members to attend a call-out for just two days, the original requirement of bringing three days' food still applies. This is to cover for unexpected developments during the search.

Upcoming GPS Training Session

Another session on GPS training will occur on Sunday 5th July 2009 from 10:00am to 12:30pm at Powlett Reserve, East Melbourne.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Frank Zgoznic at convener@bsar.org or mobile 0418 544 800 at least one week before the event.

Cold Case Search Call-out Policy Refined

A relative new aspect for BSAR, call-out for Cold Case searching has been established and guidelines developed.

It is expected that Bush Search And Rescue involvement in so-called Cold Cases will be on a weekend. If the search is close to Melbourne and Police transport is available, it may be possible for members to attend for a single day, either the Saturday or the Sunday of the search rather than both days of the weekend.

Loans of the GPS and CB radios

A number of GPS units and radios are available for loan from Jim Grelis till the end of July for the purpose of becoming familiar with the new units. To borrow the units for a period of one to two weeks, please contact Jim Grelis on 0400 999 445.

GPS and CB Radio Training Activities

GPS and CB Radio Training sessions have been held this year at Mt Beauty and East Melbourne. The sessions covered the use of the new high sensitivity GPS units and CB radios recently acquired.

Attendees were given the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to operate the units as required on searches. Topics covered included selection of appropriate Map Datums, various location formats used on searches, navigating to specific waypoints and communicating with the new CB Radios. The sessions to date were well received with many participants expressing their thanks for the opportunity to participate and learn some key skills. Another training session will be held in July this year, followed by another opportunity at the October search training event. All BSAR members are encouraged to attend.



GPS and CB Radio Training at Mt Beauty

The training workshop at Mt Beauty coincided with a local expo for emergency services personnel held at the same location. The expo brought together several emergency services groups including the SES, CFA, DSE, The Police Air Wing, the Police Search and Rescue Squad and the Berkebeiner Nordic Ski Club. Members of the various organisations were given the opportunity to display their equipment, demonstrate various skills and encourage new members to join. The Police helicopter and the DSE helicopters also flew in for the occasion. It was a great opportunity for those attending to find out about all the emergency services available for the region.

Interested in purchasing a GPS?

BSAR members interested in purchasing their own GPS units may be interested in a bulk purchase of the units. This will give BSAR members a discount

off the normal retail price, that is dependent on the size of the bulk purchase. The bulk purchase covers the Garmin Etrex HCx units preloaded with the latest OzTopo 10m contours and roads. This is the same equipment and software as what is currently used by BSAR. Contact Frank Zgoznic at convener@bsar.org if you are interested by 30th May 2009.



Training at Powlett Reserve, East Melbourne

Use of Grid References on Searches

Recent searches have highlighted the need to clarify what is expected of searchers when communicating their ground position on searches via radio. For general location requests by radio, searchers are requested to use the common 6 figure grid reference format, along with a nearby feature where possible. Eg "Base, this is BSAR 1, we are at a creek junction, Grid Ref 283 189". It is assumed that the Map Datum in use has been agreed for the duration of the search or is displayed on the map distributed to searchers on the search. This is typically either the Australian Geodetic Datum 1966 (Aus Geod '66) used on older maps or the Geodetic Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA or WGS84) for newer maps.

In the event of an important find, it is important to give the full Grid Reference as displayed on a GPS unit, along with the map datum in use. This avoids any confusion for all parties. Eg "Base, this is BSAR 3, we have found a green jumper at location WGS84 55 H 0328315, UTM 5818948".

For further details on the choice of Map Datums and Position Formats, refer to the GPS competency document available on the BSAR website. This document is the basis for the GPS training at recent sessions.

Frank Zgoznic

If undeliverable, please return to:
Bush Search and Rescue Victoria
Bushwalking Victoria
P O Box 1007
Templestowe Vic 3106

Behind the Log