



Behind the Log

Issue No. 39

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Bush Search And Rescue Victoria, P O Box 1007, Templestowe Vic 3106

www.bsar.org

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Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
Next issue October 2014 - deadline 30 Sept

South Viking Call-out, 23 March 2014.

A lone woman walker, 43 years old, was reported missing in the South Viking Area on Friday 21 March. She had set off from View Point car park on the previous Monday and her last contact was via phone to her husband on Wednesday 19 March.

Her husband raised the alarm as did another walking group who noticed her car was still in the View Point car park on Friday. Air reconnaissance on the Saturday revealed nothing. Water in the area was scarce; even the upper Wonnangatta River was dry.

Early Sunday morning 14 BSAR searchers departed Green St Northcote. At Traralgon an extra searcher was picked up. Beyond Licola progress slowed as the road became windy and then unsealed. Five minutes before arriving at search base, View Point car park, police radio announced that the missing woman had been spotted with her tent and a campfire. She was in the dry bed of the Wonnangatta River.

BSAR search groups stood by ready to assist with an evacuation in the event the woman was unable to walk. Our groups would have been helicoptered to the nearest access point in the Wonnangatta or on the Zeka Spur Track. She was successfully evacuated by helicopter, so we stood down, ate lunch and then returned to Melbourne.

An interesting aspect of the story is that the woman was encouraged to undertake the Howitt-Viking circuit by the knowledge that two other parties would be behind her on the circuit. But neither party completed the circuit. One turned back and the other was airlifted from the Viking area after succumbing to dehydration, presumably quite close to the missing woman.

Jim Grellis, Field Organizer

Welcome to New BSAR Members

BSAR warmly welcomes the following new members:-

Gleb Belov	MUMC
Tj-jang Chang	MUMC
Dan Cocker	MUMC
Andrew Elam	MB
Emma Harold	MUMC
Richard Kraus	PEN
Jo Leamon	BV
Matt Paulding	BV
Lachlan Shield	BV
Emily Warne	BV
Alex Williams	MUOC

BSAR Training Weekend, 3-4 May 2014

Forty-six BSAR members and potential members took part in BSAR's annual training weekend held last May at Korweinguboorra on the edge of the Wombat Forest. 12 clubs were represented plus a good number of BWV individual members.

The footy pavilion in the recreation reserve at Korweinguboorra on the Ballan Daylesford road was an excellent base for the weekend, especially given the cool and showery conditions; "typical search weather". Members had arrived at Green St Northcote early Saturday morning as they would for a search callout, and on arrival at the "command post" at Korweinguboorra immediately prepared for a search in the nearby Wombat State Forest. Given the numbers, three search exercises were conducted simultaneously, each incorporating feature search, line search, patient management and a stretcher carry evacuation.

A rotation of practical workshops on Sunday morning covered tracking and observation, hypothermia field treatment and helicopter extraction requirements. Sunday afternoon was a GPS rogaine. This exercise provided intensive training in the accurate use of the GPS. The dense and relatively featureless pine forests west of the base were ideal for the exercise.

Leading Senior Constable Russell Dehnert from Police Search and Rescue assisted over the course of the weekend, and LSC Mark Braun visited at the conclusion of the search exercises on Saturday. Thanks to the Police Search and Rescue Squad for organising the bus transport, radios and maps.

And finally, to the new and prospective members who attended the weekend, welcome again to BSAR and we hope to see you on a search bus.

Duncan Brookes and Merv Trease for the Organising Team



Bush Search and Rescue 2013-14 Annual Report

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria was called out twice during the period 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2014 and participated in the following searches:

Razorback. Two skiers were stranded in bad weather. A rescue team comprised of Police Search and Rescue and 7 BSAR searchers skied in and accompanied the two skiers back to Diamantina Hut.

Howitt Plains. 17 BSAR searchers participated in a search for a missing woman in the Howitt Plains region. The missing woman was located by police helicopter and winched to safety.

In summary, 24 search and 166 training person-days were recorded. Seventeen new members joined and 8 members resigned. 240 searchers are available for call-out.

Rik Head and Frank Zgoznic led the **Winter Training weekend at Lake Mountain** on 20-21 July 2013 with 45 members and prospective members attending. Heavy snow falls during the weekend provided us with realistic winter search conditions. Victoria Police and the Lake Mountain Resort Management and Ski Patrol provided excellent support for the planning and execution of our training. **Note:** Steep Snow and Ice rescue skills are **not** required for normal winter searches.



Eric Krista and Peter Campbell led the **Steep Snow and Ice training at Mount Buller** on 1 September 2013. 14 members carried rescue equipment along the West Ridge then conducted stretcher hauling exercises on its steep slopes. Victoria Police and the Mount Buller Resort Management and Ski Patrol again provided us with excellent support.

Eric Krista organised an Applied First Aid Training course on 29-30 March 2013. Andy Elam provided 15 attendees with the skills and knowledge required to provide first aid response, life support, and the management of casualty(s), the incident and other first aiders until the arrival of medical or other assistance.



Cameron Plant and Rod Costigan completed the successful implementation of our new integrated call-out system that includes phone, SMS and email. The system is a significant improvement over our previous call-out systems. Craig Lapsley, Victoria's Fire Service Commissioner, and the State Control Centre were instrumental in providing us with this excellent facility.

Duncan Brookes managed the purchase and distribution of more safety high-visibility clothing including:

- 60 more safety shirts to cover the balance of active members, generously funded by Bushwalking Victoria.
- Soft shell safety jackets to all active members. These jackets have already proven to be very effective in both in alpine and scrub environments.

This has completed our project of providing safety clothing to members. We have spent \$24,700 on over 600 items of safety clothing for 180 active BSAR members over an 18 month period.

We thank each of these organisations for their generous support:

- Department of Justice, Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grant: \$9,700
- JJ Gardiner Trust donation: \$8,500
- Bushwalking Victoria: \$4,500
- BSAR funds: \$2,000

Rod Costigan scanned available BSAR search reports right back to the earliest days in 1949 – this was a significant effort and will help preserve and archive our rich history.

I thank all members of the Bush Search and Rescue Committee and Executive for their ongoing contributions to the operations and governance of the organisation.

I also thank Bushwalking Victoria Board, the Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad and the Victorian Department of Justice for the continued and much valued

support they provide to Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Implementation of priority actions from our Strategic Plan include:

- Provision of safety clothing to all active members
- Support for new members via a new member welcome pack and information evening

- Letter for Understanding with Victoria Police is nearing completion.
- Confidentiality of search information policy now in place and included in new membership applications.

For the coming year we will continue to focus on increasing the number of searchers we provide to call-outs, refreshing some of equipment including GPS and radios and further improving member skills and training.

Peter Campbell, Convener

PRELIMINARY TRAINING ADVICE: 2014 BSAR Steep Snow and Ice

Sun 31 Aug (Williamstown) & Friday 5,6,7 Sep (The Razorback, Mt. Hotham)

For BSAR members with Steep Snow and Ice rating, and those seeking it.

There are two related Steep Snow and Ice training events this year:

- **31 Aug 2014. Williamstown.** Dryland training day covering stretcher, z- pulley, avalanche transceiver theory and some exercises, which is a pre-requisite for the on snow component.
- **5, 6 & 7 Sep 2014. The Razorback.** Steep snow and ice rescue skills in alpine environment, snow cave making, route selection, steep terrain travel and basic avalanche assessment. Departing Green St 1900 hrs Friday, returning late Sunday.

Who should attend?

- BSAR members with SSI rating "T" (technical) or "C" (competent).
- Full BSAR members interested in acquiring SSI "C" rating.

Enquiries

- Eric Krista, treasurer@bsar.org or on 0419 986 878 (e-mail for registration)
- Peter Campbell 0409 417 504

Note: Registrations close 24th Aug 2014. Late registrations will not be accepted. A detailed program will be provided to all registered participants.

If undeliverable, please return to:
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Templestowe Vic 3106

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