



Behind the Log

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www.bsar.org

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Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
Next issue May 2014 - deadline 30 April

Razorback Rescue, Mount Hotham, 21 July 2013.

A father and son pair on snowshoes encountered difficult weather and snow conditions on the Razorback called Police for assistance. They were intending to walk south to the Mt Hotham Road adjacent to Diamantina Hut. They were well equipped but tent bound and unable to travel out safely due to the inclement weather.

A rescue team of BSAR and Police Search and Rescue skiers headed north on the Razorback under direction from Acting Sergeant Jason Ball. Progress was slow and conditions were difficult, varying from soft fresh snow to intermittent crust. Heavy snow falls had occurred over the previous 3 days.

Navigation was straight forward but progress was slow. The missing pair were located at 1430hrs and were assisted and escorted back to the Mount Hotham by the rescue team.

The return was quicker as there were good tracks to follow. The father and son were in reasonable condition and suffered no ill effects other than fatigue.

Roger Palmer, Field Organizer

Photo on Page 2.

Welcome to New BSAR Members

BSAR warmly welcomes the following new members:-

Haydn Ball	PEN
Liam Bantock	BV
James Cristofaro	MUMC
Lorraine Hardman	PEN
Luke Hateley	BV
Sytske Hillenius	MUMC
Eugene Kozynin	MUMC
Loren Leong	MUMC
Rod McLennan	BV
David Platzer	MUMC
Peter Gamble	alpineSAR
Lewis Clarey	MUOC



The BSAR team at the Mt Hotham Road,
Razorback Rescue

Winter Training Weekend, Lake Mountain, July 2013

We had appropriate winter weather conditions for Bush Search and Rescue's main weekend training event for 2013.

This training was open to all current BSAR members, prospective members and experienced bushwalkers who are considering membership of BSAR and who meet or who are close to meeting the requirements for BSAR membership.

A pre-training evening for new and potential members was held on Monday 15 July in Melbourne to provide background information and an opportunity for participants to ask questions.

It was snowing heavily when we arrived at Lake Mountain on 21 July. Participants were split into streams to provide relevant training focus for both new and experienced members and opportunities to build on existing skills. On Saturday we covered feature searching, line searching, sound and light searching at night and setting up a sked stretcher.

On Sunday we put these skills to work in a full search scenario. The two 'missing people' were located and one was hauled back in a sked.



BSAR Steep Snow and Ice Training 2013 at Mount Buller

The 2013 steep snow and ice rescue training was conducted over two weekends - the first day on Sunday 18 August was a Dryland session at the Police SAR Williamstown compound. The second day, at Mount Buller on Sunday 1 September, was on the snow training specific for Steep Snow and Ice (SSI) skills.



For the on-snow weekend, we departed Green Street Northcote and travelled in a Police bus via Mansfield where we picked up three more members en route to Mount Buller. Resort entry permits had been previously arranged. We walked to the ski patrol base to sort equipment for the day. Snowshoes and surplus equipment were left at the patrol base. Four of the six skiers used the BSAR Bushwacker skis.



This training format has evolved over the last few years. The split of Dryland and on-snow days has proven itself to be a good combination. This year there were five BWV Individual Members new to BSAR with Technical Steep Snow and Ice skills.

Bush Search and Rescue thanks the following organisations for their support of this training:

Note: Steep Snow and Ice rescue skills are **not** required for normal winter searches.

Members travelled to Williamstown individually for the Dryland training. Roping up, stretcher setup and hauling and avalanche transceiver theory and practice were covered.



All participants arrived at the training area on the West Ridge by 11am and spent time setting up multiple snow stake belays. After lunch Z-pulleys were set up and stretcher hauling exercises conducted. We returned to the Ski Patrol Base at 2pm and departed from the mountain at 4 pm.

The on-snow conditions were predominantly clear with occasional wind gusts, allowing members to make good use of the new BSAR soft shell jackets.



Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad
Mount Buller Ski Patrol
Mount Buller & Mt Stirling Alpine Resort
Management Board
Buller Ski lifts

Peter Campbell, Field Organiser

2013 Bushwalking Victoria Distinguished Service Awards for BSAR members

Four long-serving Bush Search and Rescue members had their contributions to search and rescue, bushwalking and the wider Victorian community

acknowledged when they received Distinguished Service Awards from Bushwalking Victoria in July 2015.



John and Faye Retchford, Donna and Duncan Brookes, Stuart Brookes, John and Monica Chapman, Beverly and Merv Trease

Monica Chapman

Monica Chapman joined Maroondah Bushwalkers in 1981 and then joined the Bush Search and Rescue in 1992 after completing the BMLC in 1991. Monica has also been the club delegate for Maroondah during since 1996. Monica was president of Bushwalking Victoria from 1992 to 1995 and coordinated the Bushwalking Victoria 75th Anniversary celebration. Monica was appointed a BSAR Field Organiser in 1995 and is still active in that role.

Monica served as the BSAR Convener from 1998 to 2009. During this period she played key roles in improving BSAR's search capabilities, producing an updated version of the BSAR manual, changing the organisation's name, logo and website and securing funding for many items of new search equipment. Monica coordinated the BSAR 50th year anniversary celebration held in 2000.

Monica has provided peer support services within BSAR since 2001 and is also currently managing the induction of BWV Individual members who join BSAR.

Monica Chapman's service and contributions to bushwalking and the Victorian community as a member of BSAR cover 21 years to the present day.

Merv Trease

Merv Trease joined the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) Bushwalking Group in 1972 while studying at university. He joined the Bush Search and Rescue in 1974 and became the YHA club delegate on the BSAR Committee.

Merv served as BSAR Convener from 1981 to 1984 during which he worked to improve committee processes, annual programs and forward planning. He was elected as a BSAR Field Organiser in 1984 and served in that position for four years until 1988. Merv served as the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Leadership (BMLC) Search and Rescue Group Coordinator for several years in the mid 1990's.

Merv then became a BSAR Police Liaison Officer and has served in that position from 1995 to the current day, a period of 18 years. Merv has

initiated numerous searches as a PLO, including several large-scale searches that have required multiple call-outs.

Merv has trained, assisted and mentored several new BSAR Police Liaison Officers and been regularly involved with numerous BSAR training weekends in several roles, including training organiser and instructor.

Merv has been a key contributor to several BSAR Committee working groups including the development of the BSAR Field Organiser and Police Liaison Officer Manual. Merv was also a lead author for the Victorian Rogaining Association Search and Rescue Procedures.

Merv Trease's total service to the bushwalking community as a member of BSAR is 39 years. He has made a very significant and ongoing contribution to the development and operation of Bush Search and Rescue and been directly involved in providing search and rescue services to the bushwalking and wider community in Victoria.

John Retchford

John Retchford was a member of Melbourne University Mountaineering Club. John's first search was in early 1961 and he was an active searcher and Group Leader until his appointment in March 1973 as Field Organiser. He was a Field Organiser for 28-years, then continued his involvement with BSAR as a Police Liaison Officer until 2006. John returned to BSAR in November 2011 as one of its Peer Supporters.

John was Convener from 1976 to 1979 and remained a leading figure and mentor within the organisation until his retirement from the PLO position. As Convenor, John made presentations to a large number of groups on search and rescue and outdoor safety. He also assisted in organising numerous training weekends. He was chair of the sub-committee that prepared the first edition of the Search and Rescue Manual in 1993 and was one of the reviewers of the second edition in 2003.

The 1998 coronial inquest into the Wilsons Promontory search for Paddy Hildebrand saw John giving evidence on BSAR's role earning considerable praise from the Police and Coroner alike.

In 1978 he became BWV's representative on the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Training Advisory Board and holds the record for length of service as a Board member contributing to many different projects. He was Director of Final Assessment Week from 1978 to 1980 and taught steep snow and ice techniques to the Ski Tour Leaders Course members. John assisted in updating the second edition of the BMTAB Handbook and was a contributor to the completely revised third edition. John is currently one of BSAR's peer supporters.

John was also active within his club and instrumental in selecting the site of the MUMC Hut in the mid-1960s. John Retchford's service and contributions to bushwalking and the Victorian community have been substantial for a period of over 46 years to date.

Duncan Brookes

Duncan Brookes, a member of the a Victorian Mountain Tramping Club (VMTC), joined Bush Search and Rescue in 1972 at the age of 18 and attended his first search in 1974.

Duncan served as the VMTC Delegate on the Bush Search and Rescue Committee for several years and was appointed a Field Organiser in 1978, a position he holds to this day. Duncan has led BSAR on over 20 searches during his 35 years of service as a Field Organiser. Duncan served as the BSAR Convener for 10 years from 1984 to 1994.

Duncan has been a key and regular contributor to improving BSAR's procedures, including development of the BSAR Manual and the BSAR Field Organiser and Police Liaison Officer Manual. Duncan has also been a key training organiser, leader and instructor on numerous BSAR training events over four decades.

Duncan's total service to the bushwalking and Victorian community as a member and leader of BSAR spans 41 years, during which time he has been a driving force and major influence on improving BSAR's search capabilities.

About Bushwalking Victoria's Awards Scheme.

Bushwalking Victoria's Awards Scheme recognises outstanding contributions made by individuals or clubs to the development of

recreational walking in Victoria, and/or furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and/or adding value to the wider Victorian community. These awards acknowledge the dedication of those whose special efforts have made a difference. The

scheme was instituted in 2009 as part of Bushwalking Victoria's 75th Anniversary celebrations with nominations being sought every three or four years.

Peter Campbell, BSAR Convener

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