



Behind the Log

Issue No. 45

July 2017

A0002548Y

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

www.bsar.org

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



Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom

BSAR Members Day

Williamstown, Sunday 22 October 2017

A training and social day for BSAR members. The program will include GPS and Police radio skills development. But rather than in scrubby gullies, the historic Williamstown and Point Gellibrand foreshores will be our training ground, with coffee shops aplenty

Another session will cover the role of Police Search and Rescue and the big picture of land SAR in Victoria. The Squad are based in Williamstown.

More details will be emailed later in the year.

Duncan Brookes

2017 Steep Snow and Ice Training

Mount Buller 29-30 July 2017

BSAR is returning to Mount Buller for this year's steep snow and ice training. We will leave early on Saturday morning and return Sunday evening.

Activities will include self-arrests, route finding to minimise avalanche risk, stretcher hauling and avalanche transceiver searches. Bring skis if you have them. For further information please contact Eric Krista 0419 986 878 or Kirilee Chaplin 0422 528 778 or email alpinetraining@bsar.org

<http://www.bsar.org/steepsnowandice2017>

Welcome to New BSAR Members

We warmly welcomes the following new BSAR members:-

Anja Fuechtbauer,	MUMC
Joel Cheung,	ROC
Samuel Thompson,	MUMC
Stephanie Blake,	ROC
Reshmi Kiran,	LUMC
Nigel Holmes,	MB
Matt Jarman,	BV
Keith Longridge,	MB
Brenton Systemans,	BV
Olivia Coburn,	MUOC
Joshua Dishon,	MUOC
Christopher Edwards,	MUOC
Katie Eisenhauer,	BV
Sidonie Lowe,	MUOC
Melissa Nicholls,	MUOC
Marcus Petkovic,	MUOC
Joanna Waloszek,	MUOC
Jonathan Hillis,	BV
Robert Bicknell,	BV
Aiden Elliott,	MUMC
Kate Sanderson,	VRA
Darren Edwards,	BV
John-Paul van Rensburg,	BV

Peter Campbell, BSAR Convener

Introducing Senior Sergeant Greg Paul

My name is Greg Paul. As of February 2017 I have been promoted to Senior Sergeant at the Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad.

My appointment follows the retirement of Barry Gibson, an inspirational and very experienced leader, who was the officer in charge for many years.

I'm into my 33rd year in the police force. Whilst the Search and Rescue Squad has dominated my career path, I've also worked in a lot of other places and in different roles.

Like most police, my first few years was in the Melbourne metro area, at 24 hour police stations. I've also had a lot of time working at rural police stations, such as Sale, Mt Beauty, Omeo and for the past 5.5 years, as officer in charge at Marysville. Those smaller and remote stations presented me with a need to deal with many search and rescue related tasks – prior to escalation to the squad. Over the years I've also been deployed overseas. During 2004-05 I was attached to the marine police unit of the Solomon Islands, and for five months in 2006 I was part of the United Nations mission in Timor Leste. I've also been deployed to Norfolk Island in 2010 and to Christchurch NZ following the 2011 earthquake.

I consider myself very fortunate to have had such variety during my career, and I think that played a large part in my appointment back at the Search and Rescue Squad. It's an interesting workplace with a lot of varied specialist aspects, and I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.

In most of the areas I've worked, I've enjoyed tremendous support and cooperation from volunteer organisations. One of the strategic priorities for Victoria Police is to collaborate more closely through partnerships, such as enhanced engagement with volunteer resources. That is something I am keen on in my new role. One example that is already taking shape is an improved utilisation of CFA and SES vertical & steep angle rescue units throughout the state.

My recent observation is that there seems to be more notifications of potential SAR operations that are resolved using technology, than tasks requiring an actual search operation. However, let's not drop the guard - the next big search could happen at any time. I've seen BSAR in action on many occasions and know what a great resource it is. I have it in mind to utilise BSAR as much as possible.

Probably like many reading this, I enjoy the great outdoors and travelling. I particularly enjoy cross country skiing and stand-up paddle boarding.

In my new role, I am looking forward to the team at Police Search and Rescue having a close working relationship with Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Greg Paul,
Senior Sergeant 24592
Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad



Greg during a rescue on Eagles Peak, 2010

Obtaining Assistance during a Search

A BSAR search group may require urgent assistance, for instance if the missing person is found or a search team member is injured in the field..

Communication options are:

1. Police radio
2. Mobile phone

However, on some occasions neither the Police radio nor a mobile phone may have reception, even after relocating to higher ground.

Option 3 is the Police-issued SPOT tracker



All BSAR search groups are issued with a Police SAR SPOT, turned on and in tracking mode.

New Wet Weather Jackets

There has been strong interest in our new Mont wet weather jackets. We have applied for funding for the first batch of 20 under the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) for 2016-17.

Earlier Search Call-Outs

Police Search and Rescue have advised that BSAR that we can now expect call-outs with as little as 2 hrs notice in the early stages of some searches. Having some of your SAR gear ready would assist a rapid response.

Using the SPOT to call for police assistance (like calling 000).

1. Position the unit with as clear sky view as possible and with the logo face up.
2. Open the protective flap and hold down the SOS button until it blinks GREEN.
3. GPS and Message lights will blink green for 15 secs in unison. (red GPS light= no position)
4. The SOS message will be re-sent every 5 minutes until cancelled. The Message light will continue to blink green. (To cancel the re-sending, hold the SOS button down until its light blinks red.)

The Police SAR office at Williamstown will shortly receive your SOS and location, and will pass it on to Search Command. Assistance will be sent to your location as quickly as possible.

Avoid using the BSAR CB radio

Contacting a nearby group by CB radio to relay a message is another option. However, the CBs are on a public channel. Transmitting any search critical or confidential information is very much a last resort; to be used only when all of the above options have failed.

These notes have been endorsed by the Police Search and Rescue Squad.

*Duncan Brookes
Field Organiser*

A tribute to Jim Grelis

14.9.1951 - 7.6.2017

Jim was BSAR stalwart. He joined in the late 70s and became a Field Organiser in the mid-80s, a position he held until his death.

Jim attended over 25 searches and was Field Organiser on over 15.

Jim was deployed with full alpine climbing kit on Mount Feathertop in 1983 when Stephen Galland fell near the summit and died. I was on that trip and greatly appreciated the efforts of Police and BSAR rescue teams.

Jim was also Field Organiser on the very demanding search for Tom Kneen on Mt Feathertop in 1985. He started at Mt St Gwinear for a search that was resolved, then went to Mt Stirling for a search already in progress and was then redirected to Mt Feathertop.

Jim assisted with the development of BSAR Steep Snow and Ice skills and training after these events.

Most recently he was Field Organiser on the South Viking search in 2014.

Over the years Jim did many jobs quietly in the background such as helping Roger with his first equipment inventory.

Jim ran special training at Highfield Park with BSAR's first GPS units and conducted GPS training sessions at numerous BSAR training events.

For many years he managed loan GPS units which members collected from his house. Jim pretty much singlehandedly introduced BSAR members to GPS use.

As recently late last year he set up our latest GPS with maps, despite his illness.

Jim also led the introduction of Rogaining into BSAR training to improve navigation skills.

About 10 years ago Jim assisted Merv and Duncan with rewriting the VRA safety procedure for lost or overdue teams at the VRA's request.

Jim was an expert bushwalker, Rogainer and rock climber and a very keen runner. His fitness was

legendary. Jim did some hard grade 19 first routes in the Grampians when 19 was the top grade.

Jim, Merv, Frank and I completed a 12 day crossing of the Denison and King William Ranges in Tasmania in 2002 and also the bushwalk from Mallacoota for Eden a couple of years later. Jim was always dependable and unflappable under duress. He was a great companion on these epic trips.

Duncan Brookes expresses great regret at not being able to be here. He thoroughly enjoyed Rogaines, bike rides and coffees with Jim and Merv in recent years, plus of course their shared experiences in BSAR. Wayne Merry and Chris Jarvis also pass on their condolences.

On behalf of Bush Search and Rescue Victoria, I thank Jim for his unwavering commitment and contribution over 4 decades with us. We have lost a great friend and companion. I will miss those words "it must be time for a cup of tea".

Jim will be greatly missed, but his quiet, capable and effective leadership and his friendship will not be forgotten.

Our thoughts are with Kathy, Francine, Georgina and Christopher.

Peter Campbell, BSAR Convener
15 June 2017



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