

2017-2018 Annual Report

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria

Peter Campbell, Convener



Bush Search and Rescue Victoria contributed a total of 440 volunteer days during the year from 1 May 2017 to 30 April 2018 including 254 searcher person-days, 114 training person-days and committee meetings. BSAR has 248 searchers available for call-out as at 30 April 2018.

Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria was well utilised, participating in eleven search and rescue operations during the reporting period. The period from August to November was one of the busiest in our history. Several searches were more than one day with multiple call-outs. Locations included Tamboritha Saddle, Willung South, Kancoona, Mount Bogong, McLoughlins Beach, Aireys Inlet, Sugarloaf Dam, Tyers Junction, Mount Stirling, Werribee Gorge and Wonyip. Police SAR is making greater use of BSAR during earlier stages of searches.

BSAR provided a very good response and contribution throughout. I thank all our volunteers involved including Police Liaison Officers, Field Organisers, Group Leaders, searchers, peer supporters and club delegates.



For more details see: <http://www.bsar.org/searches/>

Training

The [Steep Snow and Ice training](#) was held at Mount Buller 29-30 July 2017. Exercises over the two days included roping up, self-arresting, searching using avalanche transceivers, stretcher hauling and a search scenario. Mount Buller Ski Patrol extended a kind invitation to visit them at Ski Patrol Base. Our thanks to Mount Buller CFA who invited us to use their facility and dodge the gale force winds that came in on Saturday night.



The [BSAR Ski Skills Training](#) on Mount Stirling on 26 August 2017 provided an opportunity for members to develop and hone ski skills and techniques. Participants toured to the summit via King Saddle and did runs down Stanley Bowl and off the summit.



The [BSAR training day in Williamstown](#) on 18 March 2018 included a tour of the Police Search and Rescue facility, a GPS and Police radio field exercise around the Williamstown waterfront and a search group leader workshop.



BSAR purchased a first round of twenty [waterproof rain shell jackets](#) for bush and alpine use and additional search equipment with funds provided by Bushwalking Victoria and a grant from Emergency Management Victoria.



Our new mobile-friendly [BSAR website](#) went live in September 2017 and includes a [news feed](#) with updates on searches, training and other items.



BSAR received a [Police Divisional Commendation](#) in November 2017 presented by Divisional Commander Paul Hargreaves for outstanding service, collaboration, commitment and tenacity in support of Victoria Police and the community, during a number of Victoria's highest profile, challenging and confronting search and rescue responses in Eastern Region.



Future activities

We are close to finalising our BSAR Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2022 which will provide guidance to the organisation over the next four years.

We are continuing our focus on training, skills development and providing members with good quality safety clothing and equipment for searching.

The BSAR Committee continues its important work developing and running the organisation and sharing information, observations and our learnings about search operations.

I thank Bushwalking Victoria, Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad and Emergency Management Victoria for their ongoing and much-valued support for Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.