



# Behind the Log

Issue No. 31

June 2010

A0002548Y

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www.bsar.org

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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 Oct 2010 - deadline 30 Sept

## NO LONG TROUSERS – THEN NO SEAT ON THE BUS AND OTHER CALLOUT ISSUES

### 1. Responding to sms callouts:

On those occasions when an sms callout is used (eg. limited numbers callout) requesting those searchers who are available to reply by sms, it is important that:-

- only those who are available reply, and
- in your reply, you provide your name and club/group.

The reason is that the PLO has to go through the computer generated responses and extract the names and details of the attendees. If there are replies to the effect that people cannot attend, it simply clogs up the system and delays the recovery of the positive responses. Unless the requested details are included in the body of the reply, they will not appear on the list. Searching for the details delays the task of the PLO.

### 2. Being available:

On callouts in the second half of 2009 it appeared that some club contacts and searchers had their phones and mobiles turned off and could not be contacted. If you are a club contact or you are on the callout list, when you are at home or at work, please **keep your phone turned on and located where it can be heard, especially at night.**

### 3. Wearing shorts into the field on searches:

This is not acceptable. **It does not portray a good image.** Our manual is very explicit – page 23. **It is expected that you will arrive at the departure point wearing your long pants.** If you arrive wearing shorts, expect to be asked by the FO, or Deputy, to show that you have long trousers. If you don't have them, unfortunately, you will be unable to attend the search.

*Merv Trease, Police Liaison Officer*

## Recognition of BSAR by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Bob Cameron, Minister for Police and Emergency Services has written to inform us that BSAR will be formally recognized with an entry in the Emergency Management Manual Victoria. The entry will include a general role statement and contact details for BSAR.

The Government had already recognized and appreciated our contribution on searches through its funding assistance and specific grants, as well as personal accident cover for members on searches. Thanks to Linda Berlharz of Alpine SAR for organizing the request from BSAR for recognition.

## Reports on Searches

### POINT NEPEAN 29 October 2010

Sixteen Bush Search and Rescue members responded to the callout to assist with the search for a 42 year old woman missing in the Point Nepean National Park, on Thursday 29 October 2009. The woman had apparently deliberately remained in the Park after closing time on Tuesday 27 October, and fears were held for her intentions and well-being.

Searching by Police and SES on Wednesday 28 October found no trace of her. On Thursday, BSAR members probe searched the very thick coastal scrub in the area to the west of Gunners Cottage, between Defence Road and the Port Phillip Bay shoreline.

Later in the day the woman was found near the London Bridge car park behind Portsea.

*Duncan Brookes, Field Organiser*



Rik Head briefing BSAR members, Davies Plain

### DAVIES PLAIN 22-23 November 2010 – search for Brumby Hunter.

A brumby hunter was reported missing and last seen on Friday 20 Nov 09 at 7pm near Davies Plain in the

high plains near the Vic NSW border close to the source of the Murray River. BSAR members were called out in the early hours of Sunday morning and, after an eight hour Police bus ride, commenced searching during the Sunday afternoon.

Twelve BSAR searchers in four search groups camped in the bush on the Sunday night. Some of the search terrain in this very remote area of Victoria was difficult due to vegetation regrowth after the 2003 alpine bushfires. In addition, the weather was very wet.

The search Forward Control was ~8 km from the search area. Travel between the two locations by 4WDs fitted with chains was difficult due to wet slippery tracks. There was Police &SR, the Maffra SES, Parks Victoria, local Police, the Air Wing, Police Communications, Police Catering, a local plane and local horse riders assisting with the search.

A second callout on Sunday for BSAR searchers resulted in an additional 23 searchers arriving on Monday morning at search base.

The missing person was found by searchers on horseback after he walked onto a track on Monday morning. He was in good condition. He had been thrown from his horse and knocked unconscious following his horse tangling with the stallion. When he regained consciousness his horse and one of his dogs were missing. He searched for them the following morning and realised he was lost so stayed put. That night he survived by sleeping in a wombat hole with his remaining dog for warmth, and making a bush shelter on the third night. He decided to find his way out on the Monday when he did not hear the helicopter that had been searching late on the Sunday afternoon.

All Bush Search and Rescue search crews returned home on Monday, with searchers from Melbourne arriving in town at 8-30pm.

*Rik Head, Field Organiser*

### CAMBARVILLE SEARCH 2003 – Skeleton found

The remains of the person missing on the 2003 Cambarville search have recently been found. A pair of wilderness photographers camped in the Armstrong Creek valley found the skeleton.

The Police S&R has reported that at the time of the search, the vegetation in the area was very dense and a body would be easily missed.

Thirty three members attended this search over two days and searching was of a general nature over a wide and difficult area.

The Field Officer was Duncan Brookes assisted by Rik Head and Jim Grellis.

## The PLO role in BSAR - who, how and why? Merv Trease tells all.

*The BTL editor put some questions to Merv.*

*What was your path into bushwalking generally?*

I joined Youth Hostel's Bushwalking Group in 1972 while at University. I grew up in the country and had visited mountainous areas fishing during my teenage years. Bushwalking seemed the obvious activity.

*How did you come to sign up with BSAR?*

A year after joining, some older YHA members were organizing a search practice and I was invited to go. Also around this time, I started the BMLC. In 1974 I joined the search call out list and became the YHA Search and Rescue Delegate.

*Before being appointed as a PLO, what other roles have you had in BSAR?*

In 1981 I returned from a year in England. The then current S&R Chairperson was looking to relinquish the task. As I had no 'committee commitments' due to my year away, I took on the role for the next three years. In 1982 I acted as the FO for the search practice and was elected to the FO list later that year.

In the mid 1990's I took on the role of Delegate for the BMLC S&R Group for several years.

About 1995 or 1996, having recently purchased my own business which curtailed my availability and freedom somewhat, I moved on to be a PLO.

*What would be your most notable search?*

As a searcher, the Paddy Hildebrand search at Wilson's Prom in 1987 for its size and duration.

As a PLO, the Lake Mountain/Koala Creek search for Sundar Bharadwaj in 2002 for the fact that there were callouts on three successive nights.

*What is your reaction upon receiving a call out from the Police after midnight?*

Bugger! Here we go again.....glasses .....to the study.....pen, paper.....you are now awake enough to talk to the Police and comprehend their requests. The Police realise it takes a couple of minutes to wake up and they are really good at providing that time without bombarding you with details.

Then the nasty bit arrives.....it is your turn to phone and wake up others. You don't like doing it, but you know that it has to be done.

If I was unhappy being called at all hours, I would not continue in the role. It goes with the territory.

*What is the PLO role in organizing the call-out?*

The first thing is to ensure that you write down all the necessary details provided by the Police and ask for



**Merv Trease**

any details relevant to BSAR. The Police search requirements and the time of day dictate what next.

The tasks that may need to be done, but not necessarily in this order, are

- call in another PLO
- find an FO
- send out sms and email messages
- phone the Club Contacts
- record details of searchers available and pass these on to the FO
- ensure transport is available for the searchers
- update the Police with details of the FO and searcher numbers.
- send out media releases
- find a PEER support coordinator

*Having got the call-out organized and dispatched, what is the ongoing role of the PLO?*

The most important issue is to remain contactable by the FO and/or the Police. A second callout may be required, some searchers may need to return home. An issue may arise that can be handled better from Melbourne than from out in the field.

The PLO may also be contacted by media so it is important to have up to date information about what is happening in the field.

*Any dramas or humorous things as the PLO?*

I think that the biggest drama as a PLO was a number of years ago where I called through the FO list and did not have an FO readily available.

*What is involved in handling the media?*

The media always want 'scoops', controversial comments and criticism of people's actions. It is essential to maintain your composure and not be 'dragged in'. You must keep to the facts, not speculate about outcomes and develop a sense of when to say 'that is a question for the Police to answer'.

# WINTER SEARCH TRAINING

24-25 July 2010

## Notification

### Venue

Mt Hotham on 23-25 July 2010

### Who should attend

- Club members interested in joining BSAR and experienced BSAR members
- BSAR members with Steep Snow and Ice skills

### Prerequisite Skills

New & bushwalking participants - a good standard of bushwalking with snow camping skills

Steep Snow and Ice participants – alpine skills and mountaineering experience – participants for SSI must also attend the Dryland Training Day at South Surrey Hills Scout Halls, Riversdale Rd on Saturday July 10 between 0930 and 1600

### Transport

The bus will depart from Green St Northcote on Friday night at 1900hrs and should return to Northcote at about 2000hrs Sunday. Pickups en route can be arranged with the organisers.

### What to bring

Bring winter equipment and food for snow camping at JB Plain. A number of bushwhacker skis and snowshoes will be available. Bring your copy of the Search & Rescue manual. Maps will be supplied. Bring your skis or snowshoes if you have them. Please note that that no gear can be left on the bus and therefore all gear will need to be carried to the eventual camp site.

Steep Snow & Ice participant will also need to bring their full mountaineering equipment including helmet, crampons, ice axe, harness, etc.

### Activities

New & bushwalking participants and SSI participants will train in separate areas on Mt Hotham on the Saturday while on the Sunday training will be common. It will cater for those on cross country skis or snow walkers using snowshoes and will provide an opportunity to build on existing skills for both new and experienced members. A detailed program will be provided to registered participants.

### Attendance Confirmation

A registration form is available on the BSAR website – see the link to the training event. The last day for registration will be Friday 2nd July. Keep your delegate informed of your intention to attend.

### Inquiries

[training@bsar.org](mailto:training@bsar.org)

General queries - Rik Head W 9885 8423 M 0419 888 254

SSI queries - Peter Campbell H 9836 5824 M 0409 417 504

## SETOPRESS BANDAGES FOR SNAKEBITE AND SPRAINS

As Australian snake venom is carried in the lymphatic system the first aid treatment is to use a pressure bandage to wrap the bitten limb from fingers to armpit or toes to groin. Immobilise the limb, and transport the patient to care. Do not allow them to walk out.

Many of us carry a crepe bandage, or even better, an elastic Ace bandage to do this. However on the Training Weekend, many members were a little surprised when they attempted to use these to apply first aid. The crepe bandages were essentially useless. Even with two of the heavier elastic bandages, it was impossible to wrap higher than just above the knee.

The bandage sometimes started to slip off straight away, and if it stayed up there was no way to tell if it was firm enough or too tight. (Blue toes or decreased venous return indicate that it is too tight, but it is then necessary to unwrap the bandage and start again, allowing a surge of venom into the body.)

A bandage that is designed to regulate venous drainage was much more effective. The Setopress Bandage which was demonstrated has a number of advantages. Primarily it is wider (10cm) and longer (3.5M) than most crepe or elastic bandages. This will allow a single bandage to reach the knee or armpit, and two to reach the groin.

To regulate the tightness (and therefore effective pressure) the bandage has a continuous series of green and brown rectangles printed along its length. As the bandage is stretched, the green rectangles become squares. Increase the tension, and the brown rectangles become squares. At this tension lymphatic return is minimised, controlling flow of venom to the body.

The squares are printed off centre to assist in providing a controlled wrap of half width overlap at each turn by covering the visible squares at each wrap. This half width overlap is required to provide correct pressure, and also to prevent the bandage causing a tourniquet effect. Finally the bandage is textured, which helps to prevent it slipping down a conical thigh or calf, which would immediately reduce the pressure and effectiveness of the bandage.

For gram counters, the weight is 59g.

This technology doesn't come cheap, at around \$19.00 each. However they are designed to be washed and reused. They are at least as effective for

other injuries such as a sprained ankle or twisted knee and can be used over a pad to control bleeding or alleviate something like a cracked rib, so they can replace crepe and elastic bandages in your first aid kit.

My rationale is that if someone is bandaging ME for a snakebite, I'll consider it money well spent. (And if I'm bandaging someone else who only has a crepe bandage with them, I'll send them the bill!!) They are often difficult and/or more expensive to get at your local pharmacy, so there are two online suppliers who I have purchased from.

Independence Australia have a website at <http://www.independenciaustralia.com>. Or phone 1300788855. Their product code is 23290110 and service and supply has been consistently excellent. Shipping is included in the price.

Home Pharmacy have a website at <http://www.homepharmacy.com.au/home/> or phone 1800 333 878. Their product code is 387959. Their prices are lower, but don't include postage unless ordering over \$150 which may be viable for a club. Supply has been a little inconsistent, but service is good and they have backordered in the past.

*Rod Lawlor  
alpineSAR Victoria*



The Setopress bandage demonstrated at the October practice weekend.

## First Aid Training

A \$40.00 subsidy is given to each Bushwalking Victoria member undertaking a First Aid course.

BSAR members are eligible for additional reimbursement as follows:

- \$80 subsidy for courses of minimum 14 hours.
- \$160 subsidy for advanced courses of minimum 24 hours.
- Subsidies must not exceed costs.

Claim form is on BSAR website members page.



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

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