



Behind the Log

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www.bsar.org

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Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
Next issue October 2016 - deadline 30 Sept

LERDERBERG SEARCH, 18 FEBRUARY 2016

Twenty four BSAR members responded to the call-out for a person who was last seen at Bacchus Marsh on 15/2 and whose clothes were found in the Lerderberg area on 17/2. The missing person had had some experience with camping and bushwalking

Peter Campbell was the BSAR Field Organiser at the Police search centre whilst it was necessary to have a second FO, Peter Briggs, to organize the deployment from the SES 4WDs in the BSAR search area.

BSAR teams conducted feature searches along areas adjacent to the Sugarloaf Track to the northeast of the Antimony Mine Track junction. The missing person was located on a side track off Antimony Mine track when he walked out of the bush in front of a Parks Victoria vehicle en route to a search location. Upon advice that the person had been found, all BSAR teams walked back to the Sugarloaf Track and were picked up by the SES vehicles and taken to the Police bus.

The BSAR contingent returned to Melbourne after lunch and a debrief at the search base in Bacchus Marsh.

Mobile phones were useful for backup communications during this search.

From Peter Campbell's report (Ren Millsom)



Welcome to New BSAR Members

BSAR warmly welcomes the following new members:-

David Heng	MUMC
Hadi Hezaveh	IBV
Gina Snelling	MUMC
Clare Weatherly	alpineSAR

SAWMILL SETTLEMENT SEARCH, 26-28 APRIL 2016

ANZAC Weekend saw the initiation of a search in the small holiday town of Sawmill Settlement, not far from Merrijig. A mountain biker, Taddeo Haigh, went missing after planning to go out for a brief late evening walk after a day of mountain biking with his wife and two friends. He did not return that evening, whereupon his wife initiated a call to police.

Initial searches by locals the next day found no sign of Taddeo and BSAR was then called upon to provide resources for the search. A total of 33 BSAR searchers participated over the next 3 days in the search.

BSAR searchers undertook feature and line searching during the search, often in thick bush, in and around the Delatite River. BSAR searchers were required to search the more rugged locations and also to provide group leadership and navigation skills when working alongside other agencies.

Taddeo's body was found 4 days after being reported missing, within one km of the holiday house where he had been staying.

Frank Zgoznic, Rod Costigan, Field Organisers



Searching the Delatite. Photo: Eric Krista



Police Briefing at Merrijig. Photo: Eric Krista

New Search Equipment Storage Arrangements for BSAR

Often change is forced on an organisation and we have no choice but to work our way through it and hopefully benefit from it. BSAR volunteers have now successfully moved the search equipment from Northcote to Essendon.

The outcome of this enforced move has been a more efficient way of storing, accessing and maintaining our ever increasing stock of essential and valuable search equipment. The move was also a great opportunity to rationalise our equipment and much redundant and unused gear was disposed of.

Following the move to the new storage centre, BSAR purchased industrial shelving to fit along one side of the storage unit and retained two of the original stationary cabinets minus doors for easy access. The storage unit is two metres square and about three metres high, is fully lit, and once inside, the secured compound has easy and sheltered access to our locked unit. The BSAR unit is on the first floor and there is a goods lift to allow for easy moving of our equipment. The attached photos show search kits, winter search equipment and radio cases (red), GPS cases (green),

defibrillator case (white) and avalanche transceivers (silver).



All FO's and PLO's have now visited the store and have gained a good understanding of the logistics of accessing the equipment at the store. Prior to a search, FO's are required to nominate a searcher to access the store and organise appropriate equipment relevant to

the type of search. This equipment will be readied for pick up by the Police transport prior to, or en-route to the search depending on the location of the search. The inside of the storage door has simple guidance to help field organisers decide on the number of search kits and equipment to take on a particular type of search. i.e. if the search is likely to be on snow or not.

As searchers will know, BSAR obtains funding for essential equipment through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). This is an ongoing program funded by the Victorian Government, which provides local emergency services volunteer groups access to grants for operational equipment. Over the past few years BSAR has used this funding along with donations to purchase BSAR clothing, update GPS's, radios and other equipment.

BSAR, with funding from VESEP, aims to provide six complete search kits, each containing sufficient equipment for eight searchers and a Field Organiser. In addition to this we have kits of snow shoes and walking poles, along with avalanche kits containing avalanche transceivers, snow shovels and avalanche probes. Electronic items such as radios, GPS's,

avalanche transceivers and a defibrillator are now stored in appropriately colour coded protective cases.

As always, it is the responsibility of FO's to return equipment in a condition ready for immediate use. This may require searchers to help with tasks such as the drying or cleaning of items such as high visibility vests or other equipment prior to returning to the store. As always items used for searches, training or on loan should be signed in and out of the "equipment loan book". Any equipment concerns such as loss, damage or malfunction should be recorded and the equipment officers notified.

Roger Palmer & Lachlan Shield, Equipment Officers.



BSAR Equipment Store Door Notice

EMERGENCY SERVICES FOUNDATION VOLUNTEER LEADERS FORUM

Four members of BSAR were invited to attend the recent Emergency Services Foundation Volunteer Leaders Forum held in Melbourne. It was an excellent opportunity to learn more about the various emergency agencies that come into action when there is a crisis.

Emergency Management Victoria Commissioner Craig Lapsley gave us an admirable presentation with the theme, "We work as one". That is, all agencies work together as one, rather than competing with each other. Perhaps the high light was a heartfelt account given by Assistant Police Commissioner Rick Nugent regarding finding Luke, the little boy that was lost last year near Lake Eildon. Rick was particularly grateful for the

help and assistance provided by BSAR in that successful search.

Whilst the weekends focus was on leadership, we also had the opportunity to visit the State Control Centre, Police Air Wing, Air services Australia and the MFB training centre in Burnley. This gave us an opportunity to see and feel what goes on behind the scenes when an emergency is in progress. Finally the weekend provided a chance to discuss and talk with the personal (paid and volunteer) of the various emergency agencies to understand their function and the roles played by the various personal.

Bob Peterson, BSAR

STEEP SNOW AND ICE TRAINING 29-31 JULY 2016

To all BSAR members, including those without SSI rating ('trainees') and those with a Steep Snow and Ice rating, especially NE members.

We are combining the dryland and on-snow training to be on one weekend in the NE this year with off snow skills preparation at the Bogong Village, then moving to Pretty Valley Hut to complete the on snow training - on snow/ice safety and moving skills, rescue skills, using crampons and sled haulage.

Who should attend?

- NE Members keen to acquire SSI skills.

- BSAR members who wish to acquire a SSI rating "T" (technical) or "C" (competent).
- BSAR members who wish to refresh/improve SSI "C" rating.

Members will receive an email with details on how to register. Registrations close on Friday 22 July 2016.

Late registrations will not be accepted.

A detailed program will be provided to all registered participants.

For enquiries contact alpinetraining@bsar.org

BSAR ANNUAL TRAINING WEEKEND 15-17 JULY 2016

This year's BSAR Annual Training weekend will be on July 15-17 at JB Plain, near Mount Hotham.

The weekend will provide BSAR members and other interested experienced bushwalkers with training in skills for bush search and rescue. The program is designed to be active and hands-on for all participants and includes workshops and night navigation on Saturday, and participation in a search exercise on Sunday.

Who should attend? Current BSAR members! Please register by Friday July 8th. Please also inform your Club BSAR Delegate that you are attending.

Prospective members are also welcome. If you know any experienced bushwalkers interesting in joining BSAR and meet or are close to meeting the requirements for BSAR membership [\[link\]](#) you know any potential and/or prospective members who would like to attend please advise your Club BSAR Delegate or ask them to send an email to training@bsar.org

Transport, departure and return times

A bus will be provided by Police Transport Branch and will depart from Melbourne early evening Friday 15 July.

Return to Melbourne: 1800 hrs Sunday July 17th.

If you are coming from Gippsland please advise the organisers on training@bsar.org and we will make alternative arrangements to avoid you having to travel via Melbourne. Some sessions will be conducted in Bright on Saturday morning.

Please bring:-

- A day pack, packed ready for exercises off track in scrub and in snow, commencing on arrival Saturday morning
- A pair of snowshoes and poles. If you are unable to obtain snowshoes/poles, please advise the organisers as soon as possible. Do not bring skis.
- Full water bottles
- Your copy of the BSAR manual, notebook, folder, pens and paper
- Garmin GPS and a handheld CB radio if you have them.
- Equipment for camping in snow on Saturday night.
- Food for the weekend, including snacks.
- A folding chair or foam mat may be handy for the workshop sessions and in camp.
- Maps of the area will be supplied.
- A reminder of BSAR Policy: no shorts please.

Members will receive an email with details on how to register. Registrations close on Friday 8 July 2016.

If you have any questions about the weekend, please don't hesitate to email training@bsar.org or ring one of the organisers:

- Lachlan Shield: 0409 165 170
- Kirilee Chaplin: 0422 528 778

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

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