



Behind the Log

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

www.bsar.org

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Editor of Behind the Log – Ren Millsom
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RESCUE ON MT BOGONG

12 AUGUST 2015

BSAR members from the North-east Group were requested to participate in the rescue of an injured skier on Mt Bogong on 12 August 2015, following a local call-out by Mt Beauty Police.

Bob Flower, David Panozzo, Roger Blackwell, Paddy Honey and John Hillard responded and travelled to Camp Gap in John's vehicle. At around 11am the BSAR group led a party that included Police Search and Rescue and SES personnel up Eskdale Spur and on towards Cleve Cole Hut.

Soon after 3pm, they dropped off the spur at Tadgell Point to the south in still overcast conditions. The group joined the advance party that had been sent the night before (and who had reached the patient at 3:30am that morning). By this time the patient was comfortably stabilised in the Ferno. Under Police instruction the BSAR members assisted with the long job of hauling the patient back up to the ridge. Work continued by headlamp after dark with increasing snow and wind.

The patient was brought up on to the ridge at about 9pm. A helicopter was unable to land so Police S&R decided to take the patient down to Michell Hut. With a total of 24 Police, BSAR and SES personnel, progress was rapid along the top, but slowed considerably as the patient was lowered down the exposed Eskdale Spur, using snow poles as belay points. The patient was brought to Michell Hut at about midnight.

At this point Police elected to delay any further movement of the patient until the next morning, and the BSAR members were instructed to return home in John's vehicle. Fresh SES personnel were called in to assist with the last leg of the evacuation the next day.

Bob Flower, BSAR Search Team Leader

Welcome to New BSAR Members

BSAR warmly welcomes the following new members:-

Pierre Andipatin	VMTC
Kelvin Baldwin	MUOC
Caitlin Brown	MUOC
Wendy Cartledge	STRZ
Wei Chen	ROC
Laura Coverdale	MUOC
Thomas Diprose Adams	MUOC
Lewis Dowie	BV
Charlie Eager	BV
Julia Gluchowska	MUOC
Charlotte Gordon	MUOC
Tom Green	MUOC
Gini Harris	BV
Eamon Hicks	MUOC
Braeden Hyland	BV
Rowan Jennion	BV
Grace Khong	MUOC
Jeremy Kostecki	MUOC
Terry Mattingley	BV
Caitlin McArthur	MUOC
Colin Moon	BV
Greg Passlow	EBC
Matthew Perkins	MUOC
Theo Read	VMTC
Lauren Swann	MUOC
Hakan Tarakci	MUOC
Clare Weatherly	alpineSAR
Richard Zhang	MUOC

Change to Call-out Responses.

When responding via SMS or Email to a call-out request, please respond in the following order:

- Pick-up Point,
- Your name,
- Club.

Please note that **Pick-up Point** now comes first. The call-out SMS and Email will specify that this is the order to be used.

This change has been made to enable the PLO's to process your responses and get the confirmation message back to members in a more efficient manner.

Cameron Plant, BSAR Police Liaison Officer

MT ERICA SEARCH, 26 AUGUST 2015

A 53 year old woman was missing in the location of Mt Erica. She had visited the area on Tuesday 25 August and had reported she was lost by mobile phone and Facebook calls that evening. She was not experienced, and had no gear for a night out.

The Police S&R and SES were in the field from early on Wednesday 26 August. The Police requested a Standby notice for BSAR late on Wednesday morning for a call-out departing early on Thursday morning. An additional request was that if there were BSAR members local to the search area who could arrive early Wednesday afternoon, their assistance would be appreciated in the field.

Five BSAR members responded to the 'Local member' call-out and travelled to the Search HQ at Rawson Police Station.

A group of four were briefed and, under the leadership of Peter Briggs, were tasked with searching Rum Creek from its headwaters beneath the high point 1349 down to Thomson Valley Rd. They deployed to the Mt Erica car park using SES transport arriving 15:30 pm. On arrival at high point one pair checked the old hut before searching down the tributary of Rum Creek to RV with the second Group searching down the main line of Rum Creek at 17:35 pm. The combined group then made their way down Rum Creek. The creek became increasingly rough, with many fallen trees, heavy scrub and occasional blackberries. In the dark it became increasingly dangerous with slippery logs and leg trapping holes in the forest floor, often hidden by debris and ferns. On learning that the subject had been found they exited the creek to the north to get clear of the heavy regrowth in the creek bed before heading east for the nearest logging road; the going remained very slow, difficult and dangerous in heavy regrowth and fallen trees. At 21:30 pm they happened onto an unmarked and overgrown logging road and gratefully followed its twists and turns, contouring down to the north and east, eventually joining Ezards Road and called in by mobile phone to arrange a pickup by VICPOL transport at 23:00 pm after a torrid night. The group remained positive and effective in very difficult circumstances. However, in retrospect a return to the AWT would have been prudent, rather than a night-time creek bed search in the prevailing wet conditions!

The fifth BSAR member was deployed with an SES search group and was involved with the rescue of the lost woman. She had searched ineffectively for the path. Her footprints alerted searchers who followed them to the vicinity of where she was found at about 6:00 pm on Wednesday. She responded to calls and whistle blasts although she was immobilised and hypothermic. She was stretchered off the mountain.

The Standby was upgraded to a Call-out at 3.45 pm on Wednesday afternoon, for early departure Thursday morning. At the time of the Call-out Cancellation, 6:30 pm, 25 BSAR members had registered their availability to join the search on Thursday morning.

Thanks to all 30 Members who responded to this Call-out.

Merv Trease, BSAR Police Liaison Officer

Call-out for Missing Bushwalker on Mt Burrowa, 6 October 2015

Fifteen BSAR searchers travelled to Corryong on Tuesday 6 October to participate in the search for a missing bushwalker in the vicinity of Mt Burrowa in the Burrowa-Pine National Park.

The missing person was spotted by helicopter just as we arrived in Corryong.

Over 100 people were involved in the search including Police, Parks Victoria, DEWLP and State Emergency Service and BSAR crews.

We returned to Melbourne after a short stop in Corryong.

Peter Campbell BSAR Field Organiser



STEEP SNOW AND ICE TRAINING, 19 AND 24-26 JULY 2015

Report by participant Pierre Andipatin

I participated in my first steep snow and ice training (SSI) held within the Mt Hotham resort. This is a specialist function within Bush Search and Rescue for members who have mountaineering experience and equipment.

As someone new to BSAR, I had attended the main BSAR training weekend, held near Castlemaine. The SSI training was broken up into a “dry land” and an “on-snow” component, held over two consecutive weekends.

The objective of the dry land training is to introduce the skills necessary for safely undertaking search and rescue in steep snow and ice conditions. The dry land training was held at Police Search and Rescue Headquarters in Williamstown and instruction was led by Police SAR member "LSC Jimmy" with input from Peter Briggs, Peter Campbell and Eric Krista. It included theory, basic rope work, avalanche transceiver and probe use and 3-1 rescue pulley systems.

The on snow weekend was scheduled to be held on the Razorback, however consideration of prevailing conditions (including lots of snow and high winds) by BSAR organisers resulted in a change to the location to ensure a safe training environment that was conducive to learning.

The on snow training commenced with self-arrest training, where proper technique was emphasised over brute strength. After a few hours of self-arresting, it was time to set up camp.

Our training base camp for the weekend was established at JB Plain out the back of Mt Hotham resort. This afforded a good opportunity to build a snow kitchen, which was promptly constructed by the more experienced members of the group.

Over the remainder of the weekend, we practised travelling roped up in a snow environment, arresting a fall while roped up (including use of the boot belay). The training went into greater detail on avalanche awareness and included a simulated avalanche transceiver search, probing (in a line), and safety while conducting a rescue and digging up a buried person. The near constant falling of fresh snow added to the experience.

The weekend finished off with a simulated search and rescue of a person injured or lost. The simulation focussed on a communication, line search and teamwork while providing initial first aid and care then transferring of the patient to a sked. The search and rescue simulation ended with a ‘hot’ debrief. Principles for constructing soft snow anchors were also covered through an animated demonstration using a set of skis.

BSAR is an ‘agile’ and reliable state resource for search and rescue. The high level of professionalism and strong organisation is matched with the dedication of individual members to improving their skills and capability and keeping their gear up to scratch. Thanks to fellow members, mentors, leaders and Victoria Police Search and Rescue for your investment in the training.

Pierre Andipatin, SSI participant

For more information see: <http://www.bsar.org/steepsnowandice2015>



BSAR Members involved in the Kangaroo Hoppet

Many BSAR members are active cross country skiers and make the annual pilgrimage to Falls Creek to participate in the largest ski event in the Southern Hemisphere. This is an International Event and is part of the World Loppet Race Series. In addition, many members of the Mt Beauty based Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club are involved in planning, organising and ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. This year was the 25th event.

The three races, the 42km Kangaroo Hoppet, the 21 km Birkebeiner and the 7 km Joey Hoppet attract in excess of 1000 skiers, including many from overseas. This year, due to seriously thick whiteout, the race excluded the track across Heathy Spur and was restricted to lower areas. The actual distances were 34km, 17 km and 7km.

name	time - 34 km Hoppet	place overall	age group & place
winner	1.31.10	1	
Ian Franzke	1.52.35	33	2nd MU40
Roland Baltutis	2.14.26	79	9th MU55
Michelle Forrer	2.16.17	84	1st WU45
Merv Trease	2.17.03	89	1st MU70
Callum Brown	2.20.08	100	11th MU45
Greg Paul, ex Pol SAR	2.22.12	107	15th MU55
Ronice Goebel	2.28.37	132	1st WU65
Sandra Bucovaz	2.35.20	154	4th WU60
Bob Flower	2.37.45	162	12th MU65
Ken Farrow	2.45.24	172	8th MU70
Ray Malins	2.53.15	197	15th MU65
Malcolm McKinnon	2.53.34	199	16th MU65
Tony Keeble	3.01.44	218	26th MU50
Matt Alexander	3.11.19	229	27th MU60
Ross McKinnon	3.29.33	251	37th MU55
last finisher	5.27.11	302	

My apologies to any BSAR members who completed the Hoppet and who have been omitted from the list. There were many more members who completed the two shorter distances.

Congratulations to all BSAR members who competed in or were involved in the organisation of this event.

Merv Trease BSAR Police Liaison Officer

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

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