

# 2018-2019 Annual Report

## Bush Search and Rescue Victoria

Peter Campbell, Convener



Bush Search and Rescue Victoria contributed a total of 529 volunteer days during the year from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019 including 157 searcher person-days, 257 training person-days and committee meetings. BSAR has 261 searchers available for call-out as at 30 April 2019.

### Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria participated in four search and rescue operations from 1 May 2018 to 30 April 2019 at Sheeppark Flat, Toorong, Bright and a large search at Mount Buffalo for a missing couple who were located alive and well after four nights out in the bush.

I thank all our volunteers involved including searchers, Police Liaison Officers, Field Organisers, Group Leaders, Peer Supporters and Club Delegates.



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

### Training

BSAR annual training was held at Chewton in June 2018.



Workshops included introduction and search walkthrough for new attendees and hypothermia, stretcher carry and helicopters on searches for experienced attendees and GPS and bush and night navigation exercises. BSAR members completed the Victorian Rogaining Association 6-hour Rogaine on the Sunday.

**Steep Snow and Ice training** was held at The Razorback in July 2018. Skills training included roping up, self-arrest, police stretcher hauling, night searching and avalanche rescue scenarios.



BSAR provided the following training using a grant from the Department of Environment, Lands, Water and Planning:

- Avalanche Awareness AST1
- First aid
- Subsidy for BSAR members to enter VRA Rogaine events to improve bush navigation.

Training events for Field Organisers and GPS navigation were also conducted.



BSAR members participated in the first Backcountry Ski Festival at Falls Creek in September 2018.

## Equipment

Funding provided by a Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program grant were used to acquire safety clothing and equipment for search operations including Bothy shelters and an upgrade for equipment storage in North East Victoria.

The main BSAR equipment store was relocated from Essendon to a more central and convenient location in Box Hill North.

The BSAR Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2022 was finalised and is providing guidance to the organisation over the next four years.

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 much-valued support of Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.