

2020 Annual Report

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria

Peter Campbell, Convener

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria contributed a total of 350 volunteer days from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 including 264 search person-days, 49 training person-days and 37 person-days on meetings and events. BSAR has 263 searchers available for call-out as at 30 March 2020.

Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria participated in the following six search and rescue operations from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020:

- **Dom Dom Saddle, May 2019.** 42 members attended a one day “cold case” search, following up on a man who went missing on a bushwalk in 2008. Nothing was found.
- **Marysville, July 2019.** 38 members were involved in a bush search over 2 days around Marysville for a young man last seen in the town. He was found deceased.
- **Dargo, July 2019.** 33 members were involved over an extended period in very difficult terrain for a missing man. He was found deceased.
- **Mount Buller, Aug 2019.** 21 members searched the sides of Mt Buller over 5 days for an elderly man who left his car on the Mt Buller road. He has not been located.
- **Merrijig, Nov 2019.** BSAR contributed 46 searcher days over 5 days on a search for a missing bushwalker covering a very wide area around Mt Howitt. He has not been found.
- **Princetown, Nov 2019.** 10 members searched for 2 days for a young man missing from a campsite at Princetown. He was found deceased.



Dom Dom Saddle



Merrijig



Princetown

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

Training

BSAR Police Liaison Officer training was conducted in May 2019.

Steep Snow and Ice training was held at Mount Bogong on 27-28 July 2019. Training included avalanche safety and rescue scenarios and patient transport.



BSAR annual training that was scheduled at Mount Stirling in August 2019 was cancelled due to an extreme weather forecast.

Events

Victorian Backcountry Ski Festival – September 2019

BSAR members participated in the second Backcountry Ski Festival at Mount Hotham in September 2019, providing sessions for participants on survival in the snow and search on skis. [\[link\]](#)



Mansfield Emergency Service Expo – October 2019

BSAR participated in the Mansfield Emergency Service Expo on Sunday 13 October 2019. BSAR members provided information about how we search and the equipment we use. We met members of other emergency services agencies including Police, SES, DELWP, CFA and SARDA. [\[link\]](#)



Equipment

The Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program provided more funds for the purchase of BSAR safety clothing for issue to members and specialist search equipment including GPS units, CB radios, thermal blankets and bothy shelters.

Summary

Actions in the 2018-22 BSAR Strategic Plan are being progressively implemented including:

- Greater involvement of members
- Continuing to improve and enhance BSAR's specialist training
- Implementing a Readiness & Response Software Solution for BSAR

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.

I thank all BSAR volunteers including searchers, Committee, Executive, Police Liaison Officers, Field Organisers, Group Leaders, Peer Supporters and Club Delegates for their ongoing contributions to Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.