

2021 BSAR Annual Report

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria

Peter Campbell, Convener

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria contributed a total of 363 volunteer days from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 including 302 search person-days, 45 training person-days (online) and 25 person-days on meetings and events. BSAR had 272 members on 31 March 2021.

Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria participated in the following 8 search and rescue operations from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021:

- **Warburton, May 2020.** 28 members attended for 1 day. The missing person was found alive.
- **Mt Disappointment, June 2020.** 55 members were involved in a bush search over 3 days. The missing person was found alive.
- **Molyullah, July 2020.** 33 members responded to attend the search that was called off when the missing person was found deceased.
- **Neilborough, July 2020.** 32 members attended the search for 1 day. The missing person was found deceased.
- **Langwarrin, August 2020.** 32 members attended for 1 day. The missing person was found deceased after the search.
- **Yarra Junction / Warburton, Sep 2020.** 31 members attended for 1 day. The missing person was found deceased.
- **Donna Buang, Nov 2020** 45 members attended over 7 days. The missing person was found deceased.
- **Inverloch, Mar 2021.** 18 members attended for 1 day. The missing person was not found.

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





Training

COVID-19 restrictions had a big impact on BSAR training activities.

The BSAR annual training weekend was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. An online training seminar was held using Zoom that was well attended.

Steep Snow and Ice training on the snow was also cancelled. An online training seminar on alpine search and rescue procedures and techniques was held using Zoom. This was also well attended.

Events

Victorian Backcountry Ski Festival – Sep 2020

BSAR members participated in the third Backcountry Ski Festival that was held online due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Equipment

The Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program provided funds for the purchase of BSAR safety clothing for members.

Strategic plan actions

Engaging members

Online committee meetings and training events were held using Zoom and well attended.

Membership management

Some progress has been made in configuring and evaluating D4H, a cloud-based Readiness & Response software solution, for BSAR for membership management and associated reports.

Summary

This was another busy year for BSAR with eight searches, some of which extended for multiple days. The contribution of BSAR members to search and rescue operations is recognised and appreciated by Victoria Police.

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.