

2022 BSAR Annual Report

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria



Bush Search and Rescue Victoria members contributed a total of 140 search and training days from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 including 57 search person-days and 83 training person-days. BSAR had 209 members available for callout on 31 March 2022.

Searches

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria participated in the following three search and rescue operations from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022:

- **Bendoc, April 2021.** 9 members attended for 2 days. 53yo man subsequently found deceased.
- **Goongerah, July 2021.** 8 members attended 2 days. 33yo man was not found.
- **Scarsdale, October 2021.** 20 members responded to attend a search that was called off when the 45yo man was found deceased.

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

Training

COVID-19 restrictions continued to have an impact on BSAR training activities.

The BSAR annual training weekend happened to be scheduled in a break between COVID lockdowns in May and was conducted successfully at Lyonville with 42 members attending.



Steep Snow and Ice training and Snow Skills were cancelled again this year

Equipment

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

Other equipment is operating routinely with VESEP funding one replacement avalanche transceiver in 2021.

COVID-19

This has been an especially disrupted year because of COVID-19.

Considerable effort has been put into COVID-19 compliance: maintaining a COVIDSafe Plan as CHO/Ministerial Orders evolved, informing members of the compliance required of an emergency service, establishing and maintaining a register of compliance requirements as they have evolved. Despite concerted efforts in this regard, the number of members available for callout has notionally fallen substantially due to non-compliance. We are yet to ascertain whether these are simply members whose active involvement has lapsed for other reasons.

Membership Systems

It was reported in the previous annual report that BSAR was looking at an alternative membership system, D4H. This has been adopted. The Membership Secretary, Chris Jarvis, has begun the substantial project of adapting D4H with an MS Access utility to carry on the functions that are outside D4H capabilities.

Summary

Operationally, this was a quiet year for BSAR with only three searches, although the contributions of those who were able to attend those searches should not be discounted, nor the considerable continuous contributions of those who maintain BSAR's readiness, not knowing whether or not BSAR will be called out in the days, weeks or months ahead.

We 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.

We thank Bushwalking Victoria, Victoria Police Search and Rescue Squad and Emergency Management Victoria for their much-valued support of Bush Search and Rescue Victoria.

Monica Chapman and Rod Costigan
Conveners: BSAR