

Search & Rescue Annual Report 2015

It has been a busy year for the search and rescue team with members participating in searches both in the locally area and away. We have received a number of thankyou cards from victims and their families. Thankyou to everyone that has helped out over the year. Below is a copy of the search reports from BSAR that we have been involved in.

Ian Franzke

Missing boy found near Lake Eildon after five day search

Tuesday 7 April 2015

The search for Luke Shambrook in Fraser National Park near Eildon resulted in him being found alive after a five day search.

A total of 63 BSAR members contributed to the search effort including 55 searchers, 2 Police Liaison Officers and 6 Peer Supporters. A BSAR searcher found the boy's hat in dense bush during a line search on day four. He was spotted by helicopter on day 5 then carried out to safety. *Frank Zgoznik, BSAR Field Organiser*

BSAR search for missing snowboarders on Mount Bogong

Mt Bogong callout 13-15 July 2014

Two snowboarders failed to return home as expected from a trip to Mt Bogong on Saturday evening 12 July. Police initiated a full BSAR callout of both north east and Melbourne members early Sunday morning. Three BSAR members from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club at Mt Beauty quickly responded, climbing to Michell Hut where the men's tent was situated, and commenced searching the debris below a recent avalanche site that had been located off the east side of the upper Eskdale Spur.

On Sunday evening a large team of Police Search and Rescue and additional BSAR members from Melbourne climbed to Michell hut and prepared for a large scale search effort. Searching the avalanche debris located one victim on Monday morning. As the fate the two men was now tragically clear, on Monday evening all BSAR searchers were flown off Mt Bogong by Police helicopter.

The following day, Tuesday 15 July Polices SAR located the second victim. Another call was made on BSAR members from the Birkies Club, with eight members returning to Michell Hut to assist in the recovery operation down to Camp Creek Gap.

Bush Search and Rescue Victoria extends its sympathies to the family and friends of Martie Buckland and Daniel Kerr.

Mt Bogong callout 5-6 July 2014

Police received a triple 0 call from two men lost on Mt Bogong on Saturday 5 July, who had become separated from the rest of their party in bad weather. Police requested BSAR assistance. Five BSAR members from the Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club at Mt Beauty responded at short notice to the BSAR local call-out and ascended the Staircase Spur during the night. In the early hours of Sunday morning they located the two men in their collapsed tent near the top of the Staircase Spur. Both were thoroughly soaked, severely hypothermic and dehydrated. The men were moved into tents and carefully warmed over the next few hours.

Once sufficiently re-warmed, each man was moved down to Bivouac Hut for further treatment, now assisted by members of Police Search and Rescue Squad. At Bivouac Hut additional BSAR members from Melbourne and Mt Beauty, as well as local SES personnel, assisted in getting the men off Mt Bogong. This was successfully achieved by the end of the day. Both men made a full recovery.



Campsite, Staircase spur. Photo: Bob Flower



Bogong Rescue 1st call-out - Birkie BSAR team (Ambulance Officer not in photo)