

Rik Head awarded the Emergency Services Medal for a lifetime commitment to search, rescue and safety in the bush and mountains

Press Release 26Jan11

“This award is national recognition of Bush Search and Rescue and Ski Patrol as specialist components of the emergency services as much as it is about acknowledgement of my contribution” says Rik Head. “For more than 60 years these organisations have provided skilled search, rescue and safety services but it is only now that they are being formally recognised within the wider emergency services community and by Government”.



As a Field Organiser in Bush Search and Rescue Victoria (BSAR), Rik Head has been instrumental in implementing the most up-to-date search, management and training practices as well as the initiative use of the latest technology to provide effective search and rescue.

Rik Head has ski patrolled since 1965 and has represented ski patrol in Australia both nationally and internationally. In the mid 70's he joined BSAR. In 1979 he established what is now Alpine Search and Rescue Victoria. In turn, AlpineSAR founded the now independent cross-country ski patrols in Victoria. Since its inception, alpineSAR has maintained a specialist S&R group that operates within BSAR to search for persons lost in the bush or mountainous areas of Victoria, working under the direction of the Victoria Police Search & Rescue Squad.

Over the years Rik Head has lead a number of notable searches including the four snowboarders lost in the Snowy Mountains in 1999 and the multi-day search for Warren Meyer at Mt Dom Dom in 2008. In 2009 Rik coordinated the BSAR search team at Mt Feathertop for the then Minister for Tourism, Water, etc, Tim Holding,.

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Relevant Links

www.bsar.org

www.aplineSAR.org.au

www.skipatrol.org.au

www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=174