



Distinguished Service Awards

Duncan Brookes

Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

Presented to Duncan Brookes in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Duncan joined Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) in 1972 at the age of 18 and attended his first search in 1974. He was appointed a Field Organiser in 1978, a position he holds to this day. He has been BSAR Field Organiser on over 20 searches during his 35 years in the role.

Duncan served as the BSAR Convener for 10 years from 1984 to 1994 and has been a key contributor to improving BSAR's procedures, including the development of the BSAR Manual and the BSAR Field Organiser and Police Liaison Officer Manual. Duncan has also been an organiser, leader and instructor on numerous BSAR training events.

Duncan's service to the bushwalking and Victorian community with BSAR spans 41 years. Through his leadership Duncan has been a driving force and major influence on improving BSAR's search capabilities.

Monica Chapman

Life Member, Maroondah Bushwalking Club

Presented to Monica Chapman in recognition of her contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV) and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Monica joined Maroondah Bushwalking Club in 1981, Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) in 1992 and has been the club BSAR delegate since 1996.

Monica was appointed a BSAR Field Organiser in 1995 and is still active in that role. Monica was BSAR Convener from 1998 to 2009 the first and only woman to have held the position, and played key roles in improving BSAR's search capabilities, producing an updated version of the BSAR manual, changing the organisation's name, logo and website and securing funding for many items of new search equipment.

Monica coordinated the BSAR 50th year anniversary celebration held in 2000, has provided peer support services within BSAR since 2001 and is managing the induction of BWV Individual members who join BSAR.

Monica was Federation President from 1992 to 1995, from 2007 to 2010 was a General Member on the Board of BWV and in 2008-09 chaired the committee that organised the BWV 75th Anniversary celebrations. From 1994 to 2000 Monica was BWV representative on the Bushwalking and Mountaincraft Training Advisory Board (BMTAB) during which time she was a member of the editorial committee for the third edition of the BMTAB Handbook.

Richard Piesse

Great Dividing Trail Association

Presented to Richard Piesse in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Since joining the Great Dividing Trail Association (GDTA) in 1995 Richard has been a passionate, skilled and hard working contributor whose efforts have directly contributed to improving the range and number of bushwalking experiences in the Central Highlands region of Victoria. His vision, energy and tenacity seems boundless.

Richard has made significant contributions to the development of the Great Dividing Trail network, including the Wallaby, Leanganook and Lerderderg Tracks that stretch for a total distance of 230kms. He has played an important role in planning, constructing and promoting the trail network, including working with the work crews who built these tracks, doing manual labour and overseeing the work.

An enthusiastic bushwalker, Richard is a strong and determined advocate for walker-only tracks. He also walks with other walking clubs and groups including Friends of the Box Ironbark Forest, Old Scotch Walkers, Taradale Walkers and the Sunshine Stompers.

David Reid

Waverley Bushwalking Club

Presented to David Reid in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

David has combined his passion and experience for bushwalking with his outstanding leadership and administrative skills and worked tirelessly as a committed volunteer to create and implement a new vision for both Bushwalking Victoria and Bushwalking Australia.

On being elected Vice-President of the Federation of Victorian Walking Clubs in 2004, David instigated and led as President the process that in 2006 resulted in the transformation of the Federation to Bushwalking Victoria (BWV). Thanks to his vision and leadership as President from 2006 to 2010 BWV was transformed into an outward looking, strategically focussed organisation that is now significantly more effective at representing people who bushwalk.

From 2006 to 2012 David was an active contributor to Bushwalking Australia, including serving as President for three years. During his time as President David used his considerable leadership and administrative skills to raise the national profile of bushwalking, promote greater cooperation between states and assist each state peak body to better represent bushwalkers in their state.

John Retchford

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club

Presented to John Retchford in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

John's service to bushwalking and the Victorian community has spanned more than 46 years since he participated in his first search with Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) in 1961. He became a Field Organiser in 1973 and performed this role on 17 searches over a period of 28 years.

John was BSAR Convener from 1976 to 1979 and remained a leading figure and mentor within the organisation for a further 30 years. John retired from BSAR in 2006 as a Police Liaison Officer, returning in November 2011 as one of its Peer Supporters.

In 1998 John earned considerable praise from the Police and Coroner alike on giving evidence on BSAR's role at the coronial inquest into the Wilsons Promontory search for Paddy Hildebrand.

In 1978 he became Federation representative on the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Training Advisory Board and holds the record for length of service as a Board member. He was Director of Final Assessment Week from 1978 to 1980, taught steep snow and ice techniques to the Ski Tour Leaders Course members and assisted with the writing of the BMTAB Handbook.

Dave Rimmer

Victorian Mountain Tramping Club

Presented to Dave Rimmer in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

For almost 40 years Dave has been an active and involved member of the Victorian Mountain Tramping Club (VMTC), serving a total of 19 years in various VMTC committee and executive positions, including president, walks secretary and membership secretary and has been a Bushwalking Search and Rescue volunteer.

Dave's contributions to bushwalking in Victoria include three years as Federation President from 1997 to 2000, Bushwalking Victoria Board Member from 2007 to 2012 and Manager of the Bushwalking Environment Committee (BEC) from 1991 to 2003 and again from 2008 to 2013. Under Dave's leadership BEC has undertaken many projects that have directly benefitted Victoria's bushwalking community.

Dave's passion for conserving and protecting the natural environment, his encyclopaedic knowledge of bushwalking tracks across Victoria and his long years of service on behalf of all bushwalkers have significantly enhanced the development of recreational walking in Victoria.

Merv Trease

YHA Bushwalking Group

Presented to Merv Trease in recognition of his contribution to the enhancement and development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria, furthering the objectives of Bushwalking Victoria and adding value to the wider Victorian community.

Merv joined the Youth Hostels Association (YHA) Bushwalking Group in

1972 while studying at university. He joined Bush Search and Rescue (BSAR) in 1974 and over more than 39 years has made a significant and lasting contribution to the development and operation of BSAR and has been directly involved in providing search and rescue services to the bushwalking and wider community in Victoria.

Merv served as BSAR Convener from 1981 to 1984 and became a BSAR Field Organiser in 1984, serving in that role until 1988.

Since 1995 Merv has been a BSAR Police Liaison Officer, initiating numerous searches including several large-scale searches that required multiple call-outs. He has trained and mentored several new BSAR Police Liaison Officers and been involved in organising and running numerous BSAR training weekends.

Merv served as the Bushwalking and Mountaineering Leadership Search and Rescue Group Coordinator for several years in the mid 1990's.

Special Recognition Award

John Petheram

Ballarat Bushwalking & Outdoor Club

Presented to *John Petheram* in recognition of his significant contribution to the development of recreational bushwalking in Victoria.

John has represented the interests of all bushwalkers to land managers and policy makers, especially in the area of development and maintenance of walking tracks in the Grampians and the Mt Cole areas. John is passionate about the conservation of our bush lands and spends a lot of his free time lobbying state and local government on preserving bushland and campaigning against the destructive elements that are threatening natural areas.

Without John's tireless commitment the Buckatillible Track in Mt Buangor State Park, closed since bushfires devastated the area in 2010, would have remained closed with the local bushwalking community losing a valuable asset that has great heritage and natural value and is frequently used by regional schools to introduce students to bushwalking.

John has been instrumental in the development of Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club's 'Tuesday Walks' that promotes to members of the public the concept that outdoor activity assists health and wellbeing and gives participants a better understanding of the natural environment and the historical impact of mining in and around Ballarat.