



# Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce

Bulletin 3

11 March 2009

## Update

The taskforce met on 10 March to discuss the progress of the project during the past week and to try to clarify the way forward. Although a sound strategy exists as to how the volunteer offers will be utilised, the details have not been developed to an extent where volunteers can start their work. Two particular issues that need to be resolved are the health and safety of volunteers while onsite and the identification of areas where the recovery of survey marks can occur. Because of this, the anticipated date for the start of volunteer work in the Kinglake region has been delayed from 16 March by at least one week. Volunteers are asked to remain patient and be confident that their services will be called upon at the appropriate time, which is not too far away.

## Geodetic activities

During the past week, geodetic surveyors from the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria (SGV) and Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) have been working in the Kinglake region establishing the network of coordinated Permanent Marks (PMs) and a Global Navigation Satellite System base station to be used in the subsequent stages of the project. Of the existing network of coordinated PMs, approximately 50 were recovered with no visible damage as a result of the fires. Fewer than 15 were not found and were most likely destroyed prior to the fires. Further PMs are being established and additional GPS measurements observed to densify and strengthen the ground mark network.

A suitable site has been chosen in Kinglake for the establishment of a GPSnet base station. The Kinglake Ranges Recovery Centre building being run by the Department of Human Services has been chosen to house the base station and arrangements are being made to have it up and running in the next week or so.

## Identification of areas

The process of identifying areas in the Kinglake region for the recovery of survey marks and monuments has been started by SGV. Post-fire aerial photography of 0.18m resolution supplied by SII is being used to identify and prioritise these areas. Once this task has been completed, the relevant survey information for each area will be searched by Land Registration Services, Land Victoria and forwarded to representatives of the taskforce who will then allocate resources to the area from the volunteer register.

## Built Environment Bushfire Support Roundtable

On 6 March the Building Commission convened the second Built Environment Bushfire Support Roundtable to progress the building industries' response to the fires. Speakers including the Minister for Planning Justin Madden MLC, Christine Nixon (Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority), Daniel Grollo (Grocon) and the Building Commissioner Tony Arnel addressed the gathering and raised matters relevant to the project the surveying taskforce is coordinating. A constant theme was the need to coordinate the 26,000 or so registered volunteers and to keep them motivated over the next two to 12 months, which could be how long the recovery work continues.

Also discussed was the issue of safety and insurance cover for volunteers while onsite. Given the amount and wide range of volunteer offers, the issue is currently being investigated by the Victorian Government so that a whole-of-government solution can be provided.

At this stage, six projects have been included in the Victorian Built Environment Bushfire Volunteer Program of which our project under the heading Land Surveying is one.



Department of  
Sustainability  
and Environment

### Website

Land Victoria Communications has developed a webpage for the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce. The webpage includes general information relating to the project, update bulletins, survey guidelines and a link to a SII webpage that is also being prepared to map the progress of the recovery works. The webpage is now online at [www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst).

### Further information

For further information on the work of the taskforce or the progress of the project, please contact the Taskforce Leader Mr Eddie Cichocki on 8636 2545 or email [eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au).



*Geodetic surveyor Peter Growse at Junction Ridge Trig Station near Flowerdale*



*James Milner of SII (left) helps set up the GPSnet base station on the roof of the Kinglake recovery centre*