



Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce

Bulletin 4

30 March 2009

Volunteer fieldwork update

Due to a delay in resolving the issue of insurance cover for volunteers, the fieldwork planned for the Kinglake region is now most likely to start on Wednesday 1 April.

Ten surveying firms have been selected by the taskforce from the Volunteer Register to perform the first wave of recovery surveys in 10 areas identified around Kinglake and Kinglake Central.

These firms have received the survey information for their respective areas and are performing desktop assessments prior to commencing the recovery surveys to locate and reference the surviving survey marks and monuments.

A second batch of areas in the Kinglake region has been identified by the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria (SGV) and is being allocated to more surveying firms on the Volunteer Register.

SGV is currently identifying additional areas in the Kinglake region that will form a third batch for volunteers, which will most likely complete the coverage for that region. The focus will then shift to identifying areas in and around the township of Marysville.

Survey Control

The GPSnet reference station established at the Kinglake Ranges Recovery Centre building is now up and running and providing positional control to surveyors from *Survey21* who are in the area identifying properties as part of the *Grocon* clean-up contract.

The reference station will be of great benefit to volunteer surveyors using GNSS receivers in the vicinity of Kinglake as it will provide Real Time Kinematic (RTK) position solutions for their work.

Geodetic surveyors from SGV have completed a reconnaissance of the coordinated permanent marks in Marysville and found 44 out of 61 PMs still surviving.



Surveying in a bushfire area east of St Andrews

The network of remaining PMs is considered to be sufficient 3rd order ground control for Marysville and as such no further work to strengthen or densify the network will be performed. The Geodetic surveyors are currently working on establishing coordinated permanent marks around Traralgon South and Callignee to support the survey recovery works being undertaken in those locations.

Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) has also completed a reconnaissance in the Marysville area to determine a suitable site for a permanent GPSnet reference station. Unfortunately, no suitable sites were found on the surviving buildings in Marysville. Other options are now being explored with a view to having a GPSnet reference station operating in time for the volunteer surveyors to use when they start work in Marysville.



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment

Information sheet for residents

An information sheet has been prepared by the taskforce to provide residents in fire-affected areas with information related to the project and the work of the volunteer surveyors.

Copies of the information sheet will be made available at Recovery Centres and will be provided to volunteers so that they can be handed to residents seeking information and advice on land surveys.

The sheet emphasises that neither the taskforce nor the volunteers will be dealing with requests to have property boundaries marked on the ground.

It provides some frequently asked questions and answers, and refers to a free professional advice service that the taskforce is establishing for residents so they can speak to a licensed surveyor on specific property boundary issues they may have.

It is intended to provide this service face to face at the recovery centres on the days the volunteers will be performing their fieldwork and over the phone by contacting the ACSV office.

Licensed surveyors who would like to nominate to provide this service should send an additional email to volunteers@acsv.com.au with Professional Advice in the subject heading.

Regional update

Beveridge Williams is progressing well with the recovery of survey marks in areas around Traralgon South and Callignee.

They intend to perform the work in these areas 'in-house' using additional staff and resources from their Melbourne office. Survey Control soon to be provided by SGV's Geodetic Section will enable the recovery surveys completed by *Beveridge Williams* so far to be coordinated on MGA94 datum.

In Bendigo, the survey firms of *Tomkinson, Cummins and Coomes* have completed recovery survey works and are in the process of documenting their results.

A further development in Bendigo is that Rotary, the Bendigo Bank and some local businesses have provided funds for bushfire recovery works in the Bendigo area and have earmarked some of these for property re-mark surveys.

Roger Muller from DSE will be coordinating the survey work in conjunction with Rotary and other government agencies and envisages that a tender

process will be used to engage local survey firms to perform the re-mark surveys.

Website

Since the last bulletin, several additions have been made to the website of the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce.

The website now provides two-way links to regional community websites that have been established to assist recovery in bushfire-affected areas. These links provide residents with another means of obtaining information on the work of the taskforce and how they can go about arranging a survey of their property boundaries.

A link also now exists to the map created by SII of the project areas identified for volunteers to perform the recovery surveys. The map indicates the location of these areas and their project status as being either identified, allocated or completed.

The information sheet for residents and the updated permanent marks sketch plans for the parishes of Kinglake, Flowerdale and Steavenson (which covers Marysville) can be downloaded from the taskforce website at 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 Eddie Cichocki on 8636 2545 or email eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au