



Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce

Bulletin 6

5 May 2009



Kinglake region update

Despite the sometimes cold, wet and windy weather conditions, volunteer surveyors are continuing to make good progress with their recovery survey work in and around Kinglake.

Of the 23 areas identified in Kinglake, Kinglake Central, Hazeldene, Flowerdale, Kinglake West, Steels Creek and Strathewen, 11 have had the fieldwork completed and four Bushfire Format Records of Having Re-established a Parcel (RE Plans) have been lodged with the Office of Surveyor-General of Victoria (SGV).

A further seven areas in the vicinities of Castella, Pheasant Creek and Humevale have been identified and allocated to surveying firms from the Volunteer Register who intend to commence their fieldwork in the week commencing Monday 4 May.

Marysville

KLM Spatial is performing desktop assessments of the cadastre in two areas of Marysville for the purpose of reporting back to the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce (VBST) about the need to continue with similar assessments in other parts of Marysville.

The two selected areas are typical of the cadastre in the township of Marysville which, as reported in the previous bulletin, is well controlled by the network of surviving coordinated permanent marks.

GNSS control is now available in the Marysville region as Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) has established a GPSnet Reference Station at Buxton.

The reference station – a Leica GNSS (GPS and GLONAS) receiver – was kindly donated by CR Kennedy and Leica Geo-systems. It has been fully operational since 17 April 2009.



Volunteer surveyor Brian Walsh from BM Walsh & Associates commencing work at Castella C1



Volunteers Jay Barfoot and Mark Holland from Nilsson Noel & Holmes locating the remains of a post at Castella C3



Department of
Sustainability
and Environment

Regional update

Rotary in Bendigo has received 57 boundary definition survey requests from property owners affected by the fires.

As reported in previous bulletins, Rotary, the Bendigo Bank and local businesses in Bendigo have secured funds to be used for these property boundary surveys.

Four local surveying firms – Coomes Consulting, Adrian Cummins & Associates, Geoff Shaw & Associates and Tomkinson Group – have been allocated properties within areas for which they initially performed the survey mark recovery works on behalf of the VBST.

They are providing Rotary with quotes for the respective boundary definition surveys. The surveys are expected to commence shortly after Rotary accepts the quotes and Grocon gives the all-clear that clean-up operations are complete.

In Gippsland, SGV's geodetic section has completed the provision of MGA94 coordinated marks around Traralgon South and Callignee, which will enable Beveridge Williams from Traralgon to coordinate their recovery survey works and finalise their documentation.

The VBST has also visited and identified three areas in Boolarra where survey mark recovery surveys have been considered worthwhile.

The relevant survey information has been collated and will be sent to the survey firms from the Volunteer Register that are allocated these areas.

Records of having re-established a parcel

2009 Bushfire Format Records of Having Re-established a Parcel (RE Plans) are documents being prepared by volunteer surveyors to record their survey results.

These RE Plans are being registered by SGV in the usual manner and made available on Land Victoria's imaging systems and the VBST website.

The reason for also providing RE Plans on the VBST website is that they give other surveyors access to the digital photographs, taken by volunteers, of the survey marks that have been placed and recovered.

Five RE Plans have been submitted to SGV so far and posted on the VBST website – www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst – under the heading 'RE Plans'.

The RE Plans are accompanied by the name of the firm who performed the work; the VBST area they apply to; and a map of the all the VBST areas, which SII produced and maintains.

Surveyors performing work in bushfire affected areas are encouraged to access this part of the website to determine whether an RE Plan is available for their area of interest.

Publicity

The work of the VBST and volunteer surveyors has been well publicised to date through information sheets provided to residents, presentations at community meetings and the VBST website.

The VBST is now looking at more ways to promote the volunteers' work, which, over the coming months, will take the form of newspaper articles; notices in monthly newsletters from the Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (ACSV), Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI) and Institution of Surveyors (ISV); papers for professional journals such as *Position Magazine*; and presentations at seminars and conferences.

One such newspaper article was published in the *Diamond Valley Leader* on 29 April 2009. It mentioned the local surveying firms that volunteered staff and equipment at Kinglake.

Michael Loy from Lawlor and Loy was interviewed for the article. His comments provided an insight into his Kinglake experiences and the challenges he and his staff encountered.

We are planning to arrange similar articles in *Leader* publications throughout the Melbourne Metropolitan area, highlighting the volunteer work of other local surveyors.

Further information

For further information on VBST's work or the project's progress, please contact the VBST Leader, Mr Eddie Cichocki on 8636 2545 or email eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au

The VBST website can be accessed at www.dse.vic.gov.au/vbst