

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 issue 4

July/August 2015



***Big Nugget
239 grams***



Alistair's 39 gram nugget

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The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. (A0001477T)

Is a family oriented organization, the objectives of which are to promote friendship, cooperation and exchange of ideas among people interested in prospecting and metal detecting. To realize these aims, we have meetings, lectures, discussions and practical demonstrations to help members acquire the skills required to make prospecting and metal detecting an enjoyable and rewarding pastime. We arrange outings to the goldfields and other prospecting sites, beaches, camps, ghost towns etc, to search for gold, coins, relics, gemstones and other natural and man made objects of value and / or of interest. In addition, we also have functions to foster social contacts among members. Our conduct is governed by a strict code of ethics including avoiding trespassing on private property or damaging the natural environment, hence our motto:

"Seek, But Do Not Destroy"

Membership is open to adult persons and their minor children without regard to race, creed or political persuasion, who are interested in these pursuits and prepared to abide by our Constitution and Rules of Conduct. VSC has general meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens and Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road Mulgrave, and at a field trip each month and, in addition, we also have some occasional day outing.

Annual Membership Fees

Family Membership: \$55.00

Single Membership: \$45.00

One-off joining fee: \$10.00 single, \$20.00 family.

Subscriptions are due and payable from the 1st of July each year.

The VSC Inc. Constitution states:-

Clause 6. (3) Members whose current subscription are in arrears on the first day of September shall automatically cease to be members and can only be re-admitted upon payment of both the annual subscription and a joining fee.

Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>
email: eric.grummett@bigpond.com
PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Lindsay TRICKER,

Club management/ representation, Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: John CLOSE

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Warren IBBOTSON

Subscriptions, membership records,

RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity.

CATERING SUPERVISOR: Jim & Maureen LAUNDY

SOCIAL SECRETARIES: Val LIPPINGWELL

Tina WHELAN

Organizing social functions, raffles, theatre bookings, etc.

ALMONER: Louise McGOUGH

Contact on matters of personal nature, weddings, bereavement, etc.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Geoff LEE

FIELD OFFICERS: Ted COX, Bob LAKE, Graham SILVER, Mick SCHOTT, Barry WESTON

Events Calendar

July

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Thurs. 9th - Tues 14h: Camp Clydesdale

August

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 6th - Tues 11h: Camp Amherst

Sun 23rd: Social Outing Shrine of Remembrance

September

Wed. 2nd: AGM & General Meeting.

Thurs. 10th - Tues 15th: Camp Waanyarra

October

Thurs. 1st- Tues 6th: Camp Harvest Home

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

November

Thurs. Oct. 29th - Tues Nov. 3rd: Camp Craigie West

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Treasurer's Note



The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.
Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>

General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (Except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens & Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave, MELWAYS (80, C1). Meetings start at 8.00 pm sharp, punctual arrival would be very much appreciated.

General meeting dates for 2015: Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, Jun 3, Jul 1, Aug 5, Sep 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2.

Committee meetings for 2015: Feb 3, Feb 24, Mar 31, Apr 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, Aug 25, Sept 29, Oct 27, Nov 29.

President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

This report marks the end of my first year as your president as our Annual General Meeting occurs on the 2nd of September. It has been a busy and eventful year for the club which has continued to grow and prosper – at the time of writing we have a membership of 210 with another half dozen waiting in the joining queue.

Our camps continue to be well attended – the last camp at Kingower being a example. Even with the wet, cold winter weather we had 35 persons including day trippers attend while other members attended the special Navarre trip and even more were over on the W.A. Gold fields.

Gold is still being found in sufficient quantity to maintain a keen interest, especially with the release of the new Minelab 7000 detector which a surprising number of our members have purchased. Changes in legislation have recently necessitated an increase to 8 weeks in the lead time for applying for our permits to camp in Crown Lands situated in the central goldfields region. Your committee, and especially your busy secretary, John Close are dealing with this new development. Rita Bentley, president of the PMAV has already had talks with the relevant authorities on our behalf in an endeavour to streamline the permit system. Have you joined the PMAV yet? They are our voice in the bureaucracy – without their efforts we will be forced out of the gold fields!

Some of your committee have now been working continuously for 30 years! We are not getting any younger. For the club to survive we must have some younger members on committee. You have two months to think about what position you could assist in. I urge you to step forward, speak to a committee member to see what is involved. I wish you all good health and good luck. Lindsay.

Code Red Fire Days Notice

In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.



During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and Forests. Camp may also be cancelled during other periods of severe weather.

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- Ray CLOSE
- Mike & Bronwen HANNAH
- Gary & Jenny HARVEY
- Georgena & Fank MIHALY



Welcome and Good Luck!

General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

The May meeting was featured by our guests CARAC Caravan Parts and Services who made a major expo of their presentation with no less than 5 staff members to demonstrate the huge amount of products they brought along, and services available to us.

The company owner, Ashley described how CARAC started off over 50 years ago by his father as a car accessory business, then added trailers and then caravan accessories over the years to its' expanding organization. They pride themselves of only selling quality goods, and so avoid cheap imports. They offer us very generous club discounts on all purchases and van servicing. They also have a reward card bonus points system available. As an introduction they donated gift cards to the value of \$70 and \$50 to our raffles which were won by Lars Lennartsson and Graham Hodges.

The Find of the month for May went to Robert Shannon for his nice 19 gram nugget from Fryerstown.

In June Barry Weston gave us a very informative talk about the recent trip he and Emilia made to Norfolk Island. It was a great presentation with well researched historical facts, especially about the use of the island as a convict settlement, including his own family connection. We were shown many photos of the landscapes and heritage features that make up the Island's past. Thanks Barry, well done.

Alistair McKnight cleaned up on the June Find of month with his beautiful 39 gram nugget from our Talbot camp. (see photo in Talbot Camp Report).

At the July meeting we are having Ollie Oleszek of the Fossicker's Club talking about fine gold recovery from heavy black sands.

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Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the VSC Committee.



Carac were our guest speakers for the May general meeting. They specialize in caravan accessories and offer the Vic Seeker's members discount's for goods and caravan servicing. They also kindly donated over \$150 worth in prizes for our raffles.

The August guest speaker will be Peter Woodland from Detector Mods informing us on their products. It will be great to hear again of Peter's expertise and knowledge of detectors

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VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER For the year 2015-2016

I,
Nominate

For the following position:
.....

Seconded by

Accepted by(Nominee).

To be handed over to the Club's Secretary
no less than 7 days prior to the AGM

Vacant positions:

President	Information Technology
Vice president	Officer
Secretary	Catering supervisor
Treasurer	Almoner,
Membership secretary	Librarian,
Social secretary	Catering supervisor
Research officer	Field officers
Newsletter editor	

Winter is back with force!



So rush out and get your warm and snuggly

VSC Polar Fleece Jacket.

A Genuine bargain at Only \$35.00.

See Robyn Ibbottson at the meetings or the camps
or call on 9857 7449

Safe Detecting

Prospecting is an enjoyable activity however there are some inherent dangers on the goldfields.

- Take care around any open shaft and when walking through the bush.
- Carry a mobile phone and water and the usual emergency provisions such as GPS, compass, first aid kit, torch, matches, UHF radio, snack bar.
- Be aware of hazards such as snakes.
- It is not advisable to prospect alone. Team up with a mate.
- And be SunSmart. Slip on a shirt, Slop on some sunscreen, and Slap on a hat.



Members are responsible for their own safety!



Remember:

to be considerate of others if you feel that you must use a generator.

Don't use it close to other campers, take measures to mitigate the sound such as put it in a ditch or use a sound baffle, don't run it all day, and observe the 9:00 pm cut off time

We encourage you to consider charging batteries with a solar panel instead of a generator.

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May Camp Report

Talbot

by Graham Mee

Yet another great monthly outing with 31 Camp sites and 50 plus members in attendance.

There was plenty going on at the weekend with the Central Goldfields Activity program in full swing. Six members attended the Kong Meng Mine at Carisbrook. A few members attended the Maryborough Historical Town Tour and a few going on to Dunolly to the Gold Museum. The Talbot Sunday Market was also well attended with members picking up quite a few bargains.

Saturday night saw a great turned out for the Raffle, organized again by Val & Tina who put on offer some great prizes. Well done girls and many thanks to all those that donated to the raffle with special thanks to our club sponsor CARAC for their most generous donation, won I might add, by Lars L. This night ended up a two fire night as the circle around the camp fire got bigger and bigger. So it is also well done to the wood collectors for the fuel supplied.

Sunday morning saw a good attendance for the Treasure hunt with the first prize going to Virginia, second prize to François and third to Anja.

Sunday night Roast went down very well at the Talbot Hotel with 30 members doing their best to eat

and drink the place out as both items were reported to have been consumed at a most alarming rate with a comment from one member "I have never seen food disappear so fast in all my life".

The weather was good except the last official camp day when the rain put an end to it all, although a couple of members were carrying on for a few more days.

The gold count was again very impressive with one lucky member scoring a 39 grammer close to camp. Another with 35 pieces for 13 grams and another with 9 pieces for 16 grams. So with the rest of the members finds, that would make a total of just over three ounces for the camp outing. Well done members, not bad for a more than a well worked area.

I was told that a few members are heading off to the west for the warmer climate, good luck to all and leave some for the rest of us. For those of us not going, see you at the next camp.....be there.



Members on the historical mine tour



Alistair's 39 gram nugget



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More Talbot Camp Photos



Bob L. In the Treasure Hunt.



Eric showing Tom how to pan.



Tom's first detected nugget, using Nana's (Louise) detector.



Marius's 16 grams of nuggets .



Talbot Camp Scene.

June Camp Report

Kingower

By Lindsay Tricker

I arrived at the camp on Thursday afternoon in steady rain – the first time this has happened to me in years. About 5 camps were already set up, several having arrived some days earlier. Ron Hollis and Anja McKnight were endeavouring to re-light the camp fire, Ron had positioned a large umbrella over the fireplace! Eventually the rain stopped, the weather cleared and a pleasant Queen's Birthday long week-end followed.

Some nice gold was found. One member made what may turn out to be the 'Find of the Year', perhaps, with a beautiful perfectly formed 2 gram gold crystal. All eight facets were perfectly formed. I have only ever seen pictures of an individual crystal of gold. Bob Lake found a pendant quality 10 gram nugget and other members did well.

Saturday night's camp-fire had 32 members present who were all content to stay at the fire which was amply supplied with wood thanks to the efforts of several members, especially John and Ray Close. Alistair McKnight was presented with his 'find of the month' trophy which he won at the June general meeting with his 39 gram nugget.

The club's recent purchase of an LED light mounted on a tri-pod was given the vote of approval by all present. Ron Hollis has kindly offered to be responsible for bringing the light and battery to the outings. The raffle took \$113 of which 35 dollars was used as prize money on Sunday morning's treasure hunt which was set up by last camps winner, Virginia, ably assisted by Bob. The winner was Louise McGough with the runners up being Francine Gilbert and Doug Berwick.

This was a very pleasant camp made all the more enjoyable by the willing help of members. The next camp at Clydesdale is set in very pretty surroundings and well worth the drive. See you there! Lindsay.



Treasure Hunt participants



Lars's Gold Crystal



Anja's Nuggets

June Special Camp Report

Navarre

By Eric Grummet

On an invitation from John Fricke and Tom Tehan, 6 members (Gerd and Erica, Peter M, Graham M, David G, and Eric) attended a special camp on a 3000 hectare sheep station at Navarre, which is managed by Tom and owned by his brother. Each day we travelled out to various unfamiliar goldfield locations in the district to try our luck. Places like St Arnaud, Barkly, Stuart Mill, Red Bank and Navarre. Not a lot was found, however 39 pieces including one of 4 grams is not to be sneezed at.

It was great to be travelling around a new part of this state in pursuit of our hobby in good company. A couple of community barbecues around a huge camp fire (which was one to behold). Tom fed the fire huge logs and old telephone poles with the farm tractor which created enough heat to almost melt the paint on our cars 100 ft away.

One night we went down to the Rainbow Restaurant at Moonambel for a great meal and a partaking in a local wine or three. On the way home down a local backwash road, used probably by only a handful of cars a day, you wouldn't believe it, cops pounced on us for a breath test (well Peter anyhow). We thought he was a goner, but luckily he got through, (the wine in the area must either be low alcohol or it cost Peter a quid or two to pass the toll gate).



Kingower main campfire scene.



Members gathered around the campfire.



Another nice Talbot nugget.



Some of the members with Tom.

Continued next page.

Everyone enjoyed the week up there except John whose illness forced him to go home early, and is now in hospital being treated for pneumonia and other problems related to his chemotherapy treatments. We thank him for organizing this great outing for us, and wish him a good outcome in his health soon.



Navarre gold finds

Some of the relic finds



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Gold Finds

Recent finds from Victoria's Golden Triangle



Some nice nuggets found in March with the GPZ 7000



April 2015, a large nugget found in the Golden Triangle which tipped the scales at just over 147 grams or about 4 3/4 ounces. It was found with one of the new 7000's set on general, not high yield. What's unusual about this nugget is it's almost square appearance. Source* Bendigo prospecting club Facebook page.

Member's WA Trips

We have eight VSC members who are over in the West Australian outback at the moment on two different trips but all sharing a desire to pluck out of the earth a few of the WA nuggets that are lurking below the red soil.



Geoff, Imi, Carole, David, Frank and Gina (and Ruby) outside Sandstone.



Rob's haul so far, 37 grams.

Rob S. and Matt K. are also over there and are doing reasonably well. Though Rob lost a week detecting due to getting the new caravan repaired. They also had some fun un-bogging a ute!



Some of Geoff's gold in the first week 45.5 grams.

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New Nugget Finder Coil



It look's like there is a new range of Nugget Finder coils coming out soon. They claim to out-perform anything on the market and will be lighter than the new Coiltec 'camo' 14" round coils. Rohan has been very busy with the development of the new coils and he expects them to be out in June. Above is a glimpse of the new product.

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When you are using the high power magnets to pick out the bits of tin and other pieces of iron be aware that because these magnets are so powerful they can also attract and hold onto ironstone. This is not normally a bad thing, however if you have a piece of gold that has a even a small amount of ironstone attached to it, then it too will be attracted to the magnet and it is possible that it may be discarded as a worthless bit of iron.

David Barclay relates what happened to his wife, Marie.

"Marie found this 5.6 Gram Nugget stuck to her magnet on her pick after just scraping leaf litter."



Thanks to David for the Detector Tip and photos.



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Detecting Tips for WA

Notes from a talk presented to a VSC meeting in February 2015 based on a WA trip in 2014.

By David Kleesh.

In early March 2014 five of us started planning a prospecting trip to Western Australia. We planned to leave on 12 June and return on 12 July.

We had 4 meetings before we left. During these meetings we discussed vehicles to take, food and camping equipment, where to go, research areas, section 40E's maps, reading, and contacting mining companies.

The first thing we looked at was choosing areas to go, because this was going to take the longest to do. We all read some different pages from D.W. de Havelland's book *Gold and Ghosts* vol.1 (vol.2 could also be used). We then chose areas that we considered might be worthwhile detecting. It was also important to us that the places we had chosen were fairly close together. The Western Australian Department of Minerals and Petroleum (DMP) have a terrific website for researching prospecting in WA, called *Tengraph*. On this website can be found pending ground (marked in blue, public areas), Exploration Leases (marked in green) and Mining tenements (also green). This information was printed out as maps to the scale of between 1:60000 and 1:80000.

To get access to the Exploration leases we needed to fill out section 40E forms. Each form covered 3 people on one exploration lease of up to 10 connecting graticules (about 1 square km each). Each form cost us \$25. We could only get access to our section 40E areas 21 days after they were approved. The approval process took about a week. Once approved, we then had 3 months access to the ground.

To get access to the Mining tenements we needed to contact the mining companies that held the tenements. This information was also available on *Tengraph*. We either emailed, phoned or wrote letters to the mining companies concerned. We tried to link up the Pending ground, Exploration leases and the Mining tenements because it meant we could have access to many square kilometres and we wouldn't need to move our campsite. This was important because if gold was not being found in one area we had a lot of ground available to detect near our campsite. Five of us could cover a lot of ground

very quickly, so after a short detect we could determine what our chances were of finding gold. If gold was not being found we needed to search other areas.

If the areas were on pastoral leases we also needed permission from them to camp on the ground. This info was available through the DMP.

Maps we used included Natmap Topographical Map 1:250,000, GeoVIEW WA (another good website) and *Tengraph* maps. Google earth maps would have been very helpful because a lot of new mines have been started since the Natmaps were made.

At the other meetings we made lists of food, clothes, cooking equipment and camping gear to take. We pooled together our camping gear. We also had a very valuable, and important, discussion about how the gold was going to be split between us.

Things we learnt.

- Across the Nullarbor fuel was very expensive after Ceduna and before Norseman, about a 1200 kilometre distance.
- Join APLA (about \$60) because the membership fee includes public liability insurance.
- Woolworths and Coles not open on Sundays in Kalgoorlie. Good butcher 2 doors from Woolworths where meat can be cryovaced.
- Fill water containers at Kalgoorlie. Or buy bottled water.
- GPS and two way radios essential, but be discrete about what is said over them because you never know who is listening.
- Must be prepared to walk long distances.
- Have many and large areas available for detecting. WA miners Right, \$25 for life.
- Talk to people who have been to WA and see if they are prepared to mention any spots that might be worth trying.
- In a small group, have two people responsible for the money. Start with everyone putting in say, \$500 each.
- Be prepared to move to new spots if little gold is being found.
- Talk around the campfire to see how people are feeling about the trip.

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Description

These are the sandals that can detect metal while you walk, allowing you to find buried artifacts while strolling the beach. A copper coil built into the right sandal is powered via a battery pack that straps to your calf. Using beat frequency oscillation technology, the ring creates a magnetic field; when a metal object is underfoot--up to 2'--it distorts the field and the battery pack alerts you to the presence of metal using a flashing red light and either a gentle vibration or a clearly audible buzz. Requires one 9-volt battery (not included)--provides up to six hours of use. The sandals have non-skid soles and polyurethane foam footbeds. Black. Sizes M (Men's 7 1/2-9, Women's 8 1/2-10) and L (Men's 9 1/2-12, Women's 10 1/2-13). (1 lb.)

Editors Note: Great for detecting where you don't want to be detected. As I was keen to learn more about this innovative new product I looked up the manufacturer's website only to learn that they are no longer available.

Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold Price as at 20 June 2015

More Gold Finds



Magnificent nugget of 239 grams.
No more details are available at this stage.



Another
great nugget
found by the
same
person.

July Outing: Clydesdale

This Map is available to members only.

August Outing: Amherst

This Map is available to members only.

**THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. Dogs must be on leash and under constant supervision.
No unattended fires.
FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.**

Parting Shot

From the Photo Album



Nice 22.8 gram specimen found by VSC member David a few years ago.

The editor welcomes articles, letters, photos, comments or detecting stories to publish in the newsletter.

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Social Outing



Shrine of Remembrance

Sunday 23 August 2015

Meet at the Shrine at 10:00am.

If we have enough members turn up we will get a free guided tour.

For details contact Val on 9879 1470 or 0425 716 470



Close up of Marius's specimen.



Close up of Marius's nuggets. Gee, they look big here.