

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 issue 6

November/December 2015



24 oz nugget
found at Wedderburn



Waanyarra Camp Treasure Hunt

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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.

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. email:

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers. email:

SECRETARY: John CLOSE

Correspondence, meetings, admin. email:

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions) email:

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution email:

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Robyn IBBOTSON

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RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity. email:

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

email:

CLOTHING OFFICER: Nuvolari SENEVIRANE

LIBRARY: Peter MAFFEY

FIELD OFFICERS: Bob LAKE, Mick SCHOTT, Brian McGOUGH,

Graham MEE & Alistair McKNIGHT

Events Calendar

November

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

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Sat. 7th: Gold Mine Open Day Fosterville

December

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 3rd. - Tues 8th: Camp Talbot

Sun. 13th Xmas Break Up Wicks Reserve

Thurs. 24th. - Jan 3rd: Xmas Camp Moonambel

January

Thurs. 21st. - Tues 26th: Camp Harvest Home

No General Meeting.

February

Wed. 3rd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 11th. - Tues 16th: Camp Talbot

March

Thurs. 10th. - Tues 15th: Camp Wedderburn

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 24th. - Tues 29th: Easter Camp Fryerstown

*Note:
Extra camp 3rd—8th
December*

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President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

As we are all aware, the bush-fire season in Southern Australia has commenced almost two months earlier than usual. Weather forecasters have warned that the likelihood of a significant 'El Nino' event has increased and its effects will bring drier and warmer conditions to most of Australia and will further exacerbate conditions in areas that are already in drought. It is therefore highly unlikely that we will have any camp fires or cooking fires from now on until probably next Easter. If weather conditions at a summer camp should turn wet or cold, check with me or senior committee members to get a decision as to whether or not a fire is permitted. This includes the Craigie West Melbourne Cup camp.

Remember, if a 'Code Red' alert is declared on a day of 'Total Fire Ban', then every person present in the forests (including the Seekers Club with a camping permit), must immediately pack-up and leave the forest. This is a State law with penalties applying.

It is timely to draw all members attention to the bush-fire evacuation procedures set out in the recently issued 'Members Hand-book'. If you have not read the relevant section then I strongly urge you to do so before setting out on any of our summer camps. It would be a good idea to have it handy in the glove box of your car. The next camp at Craigie-West is located over a kilometre into the bush so it may take longer to exit to the main road than some other camps. Familiarise yourself with the tracks around the camp so you know which ones to take to exit the camp in a hurry if needed. We are not able to change the venue. If the committee considers that conditions become dangerous or a 'Code Red' fire rating is declared prior to or during the camp then the camp will be cancelled.

This Melbourne Cup long week end is our second largest camp. The club will be providing roast chicken for possibly the Saturday night evening meal

Vic Seekers
U
H
F
12

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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Tandem Axle \$295 \$236 (plus parts)

Booking only required by the end of June 2015. The 20% discount is not off parts.

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YOUR EXPERTS IN SERVICING AND FITTINGS

General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our September meeting is reserved for the business of conducting our AGM, thus no speakers were arranged that night. As there were no formal nominations received for the executive positions on the committee, all of these positions were filled by the same members of the previous committee. One nomination from the floor was received for the position of field officer from Nuvo-lari Seneviratne and was accepted. Our committee felt that it needed to have more representation by country members, so we have co-opted (conned) Graham Mee and Alistair McKnight to join us, thanks boys - you won't have to come down for a meeting.

Nuvolari and his lovely wife Corin, promptly offered to take over the sales of our clothing merchandise, and as we will shortly be restocking, could those interested in purchasing, place your orders with the above.

The Find Of the Year was unanimously won by Alistair with his nice 39 gm nugget found at Talbot. The Find Of Month was won by Geoff K with a 11 gm nugget from Amherst.

At our October meeting we had the pleasure of having back Russ Connors to talk about his intriguing life in Papua New Guinea during the 60's and 70's, firstly as a patrol officer at the age of 18 then returning home to train as a school teacher, marrying, having a baby then dragging his young family back to PNG to live and teach in a very remote village under somewhat primitive conditions. Due to his demure and his previous experience as a patrol officer, he got on well with the natives who helped him to make life comfortable. They had another child while there, to the delight of the locals. Eventually, he returned home to resume a normal teaching career, teaching mainly in technical schools which were normally very rowdy, not like the PNG kids who never spoke out of turn and were always well behaved.

Alistair presented a 4gm nugget from Waanyarra which took out the October Find of the Month (he is on fire since he has gone GPX5000).

The Goldman is coming to our November meeting to take us through his process of gold melting and subsequent gold purchases.

Our club is very saddened with the recent loss of two members, succumbing to illnesses. Firstly, John Fricke lost his long battle with Leukemia, followed by the sudden loss of our lovely Noela Poskitt who's apparent stroke led to a rare brain cancer. Sincere condolences to Judy Fricke and Noela's family particularly Geoff (Noela's partner) and her sister Kay.



Russ Connors enlightening the enthralled audience of his family's experiences in New Guinea

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

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Find of the Month

Geoff K.
Nugget 11g.



Nugget

Find of the Year

Alistair
Nugget 39g.



Nugget

New Member

- Bill G



Welcome and Good Luck!

VSC POLO SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE!



And VSC
CAPS!



The Club's Polo shirts are great for this summer.
Shirts are only \$20.00 each, it's a bargain!!
Fleecy Jackets only \$35.00 and caps \$10.00

Available at the meeting and at the camps.

See Nuvolari SENEVIRANE

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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September Camp Report

Waanyarra

By Rob Shannon

This is it ladies and gentleman, the warmer weather is here! No more freezing, cold and wet days, spring is finally in the air with the smell of blooming Wattle and glorious sunshine to bath in. This is the perfect weather to detect in, and most members took advantage of these conditions with a decent attendance at the Waanyarra camp. Each day got slightly warmer until it peaked on Monday with a warm 27 degrees followed by a cooler change and a storm that night.

There were around 40 people accounted for around the camp fire on Saturday night, each busy chatting away and having lots of laughs with each other. With the help of Bob L (Our chief fire inspector) let's say a 'cossie' fire was created with his expert help to keep our backside toasty.

It was an unlucky weekend for 2 of our members, Peter M and Alistair both suffered tyre punctures whilst manoeuvring around in the bush. Both slashed their tyres on sharp outcropping rocks sticking out of the ground. Peter mentioned that his original Cooper tyres lasted an impressive 80,000 km on just one set! So it was about time he was due for new ones anyway.

Gold was again hard to get this camp with only the small little pieces being found. Some never found anything, but they never gave up in hope of finding the big one. The star performer was Russell finding a lovely 9 grammer close to some diggings.

I would like to thank Peter M for getting permission from a farm owner he knows close by and allowing us to detect his property. Eric did well there finding some gold on the diggings.

There is one other person I would like to thank, who is James. Each camp he provides a 'test patch' for anyone to use. The test patch is basically a target (often a piece of lead or gold) drilled down by an auger, and the object is lowered into the hole at any depth replicating a gold nugget. Here you can adjust your settings to see if you can pick up the signal below in the ground.

We can't go now not thanking the 'Meat Pie Man' Graham M, or should I call him Four n Twenty! Most camps he provides some delicious hot pies for everyone to enjoy and we appreciate you doing this Graham. Thanks to everyone that attended a fantastic camp and looking forward in seeing you all on the next one.

Research Officer,
Robert Shannon



The scene around the camp.



Ken telling Peter how big the nugget was.



Alistair with his FOTY trophy and Anja



Round the campfire Saturday Night.



Lars & Alex at the start of the treasure hunt.



Martin
And Jan
L.



Virginia L.
in the
Treasure
Hunt.



Seekers' Christmas Party

Sunday 13th December,
from 11am

turn right into the Reserve.
(Electric BBQs and water in the
premises)

- * Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)
- * Drawing of the **Christmas Raffle**. One huge hamper plus two more hampers.
- * Door prizes
- * Bring along your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket from Mieke on arrival. Electric BBQ available, BYO table, chairs, food and drink, don't forget the AEROGARD. and sun cream!

Please make an effort to come to this break up party and support the club. You could also have a great time !!!

October Camp Report

Moliagul

by Shirley
Photos by Anja

The last camp was held near the Historic Moligul Reserve, home of the "Welcome Stranger", I am sure people had visions or dreams of finding another large nugget. However, it was not to be, although the lady prospectors did have more luck than most of men with some nice 1gram pieces being found

The weather was unseasonably hot for this time of year and the AFL footy final may have kept the numbers down, with about 25 campers in attendance, but a fun time was had by all along with the usual bantering.

Thursday and Friday evening the campfire was lit as the temperature cooled, thanks to John again collecting a nice load of wood. Late Saturday afternoon the wind picked up, the risk was too great for a fire on both Saturday and Sunday evenings

Thanks to Lindsay's great organising skills the Saturday night raffle was the usual bit of fun. There were a number of redraws taking place due to generosity of people who had already won prizes. It was a mystery why the coffee kept being redrawn, however eventually a ballot was used to find the winner.

The usual treasure hunt was held Sunday morning with participants trying their luck, all tokens were found. I apologise for my reporting skills slipped and I forgot to note the winner? Some fellow campers participated in the Tarnagulla Treasure Hunt.

Most of the campers left by Monday afternoon, thank you to all, for another great camp, hope to see you at the next big camp at Craigie West near Maryborough.
Cheers, Shirley.



John C. checking out Louise's detector.



Treasure Hunt Winners; Bill G, David G. and Thomas M.



Treasure Hunt activity on Sunday Morning.

GPZ 7000 SOFTWARE UPDATE BETTER GROUND BALANCING = FINDING MORE GOLD!



Anja's 3 nuggets on top and Alistair's 4 gramer.



Bob showing off his old Garrett Deepseeker detector.



Hopeful Treasure Hunters; Alex & Claude.



Martin and Lindsay at the camp.



Minelab are pleased to announce the first software update to our GPZ 70000 detector.

This free update incorporates a new Auto Ground Tracking Algorithm resulting in improved Auto Ground Balance functionality.

This GPZ software update improves the detector's ability to track to the ground, such that more of the audio you hear is from gold nuggets. Resulting in -

- More stable threshold
- Higher sensitivity
- Less false ground signal interference
- Precision ground tracking

More gold found

This update also maximises achievable detection depth in any given soil type by delivering improved tracking of the yellow ferrite when ground balancing. Updates can be done easily via Minelab's XChange 2, or manually via a file transfer method when XChange 2 is not available (e.g. if using a Mac). There is no need to return your detector to a Minelab dealer.

For further details refer to the brochure [here](#) or

http://www.minelab.com/___files/f/286800/GPZ%207000%20Software%20Update%20Brochure.pdf

Rare Australian Coins

by Ken Whittaker

As sometimes coins and tokens and such are unearthed by prospectors, this information might prompt someone to revisit their collection and check for possible values. Taken from my local La Trobe Valley U3a newsletter. quote -

“In colonial Australia, guilders and ducats from Holland were used, rupees and pagodas from India (also a British colony at the time) and several other coins as well as a few English and Irish banknotes. The total amount was small and the coins tended to be exported quickly as they were often the sole means available to individuals to purchase goods from visiting ships.

So in 1812 Governor Lachlan Macquarie came up with the idea of the ‘holey dollar’. Asking permission from England for a sizeable quantity of Spanish silver dollars, he had a hole punched in them (by a convict doing time for forgery). The new ‘holey’ dollar was denominated as 5 shillings while the punched-out plug, called a ‘dump’, was worth 15 pence. Both were re-minted with a NSW stamp.

This went on until more reliable and generous sup-



plies of British money began to arrive in the 1820s and finally until Queen Victoria consented in 1853 to a branch of the Royal Mint in Sydney.

If anyone of our members still has an 1813 Holey Dollar tucked away somewhere, just know that in 2012 one was sold in Melbourne for \$410,000. Wouldn't it be nice!"

Gold Price Report



Special Event

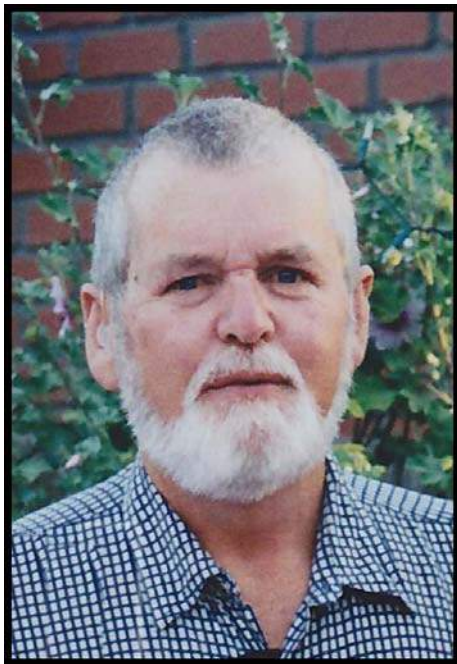
Craigie West Camp Melbourne Cup W/E Hot Chicken Dinner



Free Hot Chicken Dinner.
Saturday 1st Nov. Evening Dinner.
Bring yourself, salad and/or desert.

Plus:

- **Special Cup W/E Raffle**
- **Cup Sweepstakes**
- **“Fashions on the Field”**
Dress up for judging of this fun event.
We have had some great appearances in the past events.



John Fricke

After battling a long illness John passed away 30th September, 2015.

John joined the Seekers Club July 2008, coming from the Victorian Metal Detector & Prospecting Assoc. in Dandenong. He, along with Tom T, organised the special field trips to Navarre. John enjoyed camping and prospecting in the bush and was a well respected and liked member. As the family wanted a private service, a wake was held at John's home and was attended by several members.

Our sympathy goes to their family and friends.



Noela Poskitt

Passed away on the 14th October 2015.

The funeral service will be at 11.00am Thursday 22nd October, 2015 at The Onion Patch in Echuca.

Noela and Geoff joined the Seekers Club in July 2005, coming from the Moorabbin Prospecting Club. I am sure you will remember Noela not only as a proficient detector operator but as quite a character... Remember Bindy Irwin and all the other parts she played? We will also miss her contribution to the club raffles and her homemade relishes.

Deepest sympathy to family and friends.

Almoner's Report

Our sympathy to **Tom T** and family, whose brother passed away suddenly of a Heart Attack Sunday 4th October, 2015. A particularly sad week for Tom, he lost a brother and friend, John Fricke.

Over the last couple of months quite a few members have suffered a particularly nasty strain of flu which took on average 3 to 4 weeks to recover. It would appear the flu injection didn't cover that strain as most members who were struck down had been immunised.

Our good wishes for a speedy recovery went out to the following:

John D who had a fall cracking a disc in his back and was hospitalised.

John G who has had Heart problems.

Margaret T who has had a serious infection and was hospitalised.

Valerie L who needed an investigative procedure.

Murray H who broke his arm.

Eric G is having knee problems and is in the process of arranging knee reconstruction surgery.

Gold Finds

Member's Recent Find:
Lovely 64.8 gram nugget
called "The Lobster" found by
Herman. Well done!

Herman said "The power of
the Z found it easy at 2 feet
deep. It was good fun digging
"The Lobster" out of the
ground."



Found over the weekend was this superb 60 gram nugget. The operator hired an GPX 5000 from Coiltek using the 11 inch commando coil. Unfortunately it wasn't found by anyone from the Vic Seekers.

*Source - Coiltekfacebook page.

Latrobe Nugget

This beautiful nugget is famous as one of the best examples of a large body of crystalline gold in which the metal is present as cubic crystals rather than its typical smooth, amorphous shape. These crystals are quite rare in nature because the "molten"



gold is usually under intense pressure and rarely has "room" to form into these more delicate geometries. The Latrobe Nugget was found in Victoria, Australia in 1853. It weighs 717 grams (25 oz.)

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Ashley's Nugget! Found with a Minelab GPX 5000 on the Palmer River Goldfields! Approx.1.1 kg

*Source Minersden NQ Facebook.

87 oz Wedderburn Nugget Update



A Victorian man who found a 2.7kg gold nugget after his wife booted him out of the house for being "grumpy" has sold it for \$175,000.

Mick Brown, from Kerang, unearthed the 87-ounce nugget in March while letting off steam on a solo prospecting trip near Wedderburn. The hunk of gold was passed in for \$160,000 at an auction in April despite keen interest from US buyers, but Mr Brown told me he has since sold the nugget in Ballarat.

"It's a private collector in Australia. I believe they'll keep it as a nugget and we might find it in a museum one day," he said.

Looking to sell your Gold ???

We will buy your panned gold, small and large nuggets and even jewelry.

We pay up to 3% **over** the Gold Spot Price.

Gold needs to be clean and will be tested.

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The Club has purchased a new Minelab GPX 4500 detector.

It is available for use by members or their guests.



Eric showing Judy how to use the club's new detector.

The detector will be brought on all camps so if you need to use it then see Lindsay or Eric.

Currently the rate to hire it is \$15.00 per day but these rates will be reviewed soon.

Nov. Outing: Craigie West

Friday 29th Oct. to Tuesday 3rd Nov.

DIRECTIONS -

EMERGENCY INFO: Call 000. **Police:** Maryborough, 70 Wellington St.,
Hospital: Maryborough, Clarendon St.
Fire District: North Central
Map Ref:

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No unattended fires.

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.

December Outing: Talbot

Thursday 3rd to Tuesday 8th December

NOTE: TALBOT (Alternate) CAMPSITE

DIRECTIONS -

Map Ref:

EMERGENCY INFO: Call 000.

- Police: 24-hr, 16 Campbell Street, Maryborough. Phone 5460 3300 .
- Hospital : Clarendon St., Maryborough. Phone 5461 0341

Xmas Outing: Moonambel

Thurs. 24th Dec. to Sun 3rd Jan.

Directions:

EMERGENCY INFO: Call 000

Police: High St. Avoca. Tel.: (03) 54653300

Hospital: Clarendon St. Maryborough. T: (03) 5461 0333

Fire District: South West

Map Ref:

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.

THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. No Dogs allowed at this camp. No unattended fires.

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.

Recent Gold Finds

Wedderburn heart of gold find leaves owner anxious

By Larissa Romensky (ABC Central Victoria)



There's a lot of excitement in the town of Wedderburn after a local resident recently found a 25 ounce gold nugget valued at about \$40,000. "It's probably been sitting in the ground for millions of years waiting for me to come along and unearth it."

Leo Mathews has been searching for gold for the last 15 years. After a 'drought' of 15 months he finally struck gold in the form of a 25 ounce gold nugget he found while fossicking in the bushland north of Bendigo. (Wedderburn)

Describing it as very solid with no pipe clay or much detritus and shaped in the form of a heart, Leo has called it - The Heart of Gold. "They're rare, a bit like snowflakes; no two are the same," he said.

Leo had had only been out in the field for about four hours that afternoon, with only two hours of detecting time when he came across an area in the bush that had been previously 'worked over'. Noticing the middle part had been left untouched, he decided to explore further, having been spurred on by the small speck of gold he had found nearby. That was when his high tech pulse induction detection started to make 'some serious noise.' "I had to bring the coil right up, way up off the ground about three feet to get it to settle down and I knew then you could hear the long signal at the end and I thought, 'I reckon I've got something here', not thinking it would be this big," Leo said.

So he began to dig to the bottom of the one foot hole until he felt something hard. "I could feel the weight against my fingers and the coldness of the gold and I thought, 'Beauty I've finally got one'."

Until the find, Leo had been feeling despondent about gold detecting but persevered. "I'm not a quitter, I set my

self to do something and I keep doing it," he said. When asked about what characteristics make for a good gold prospector, he said - determination, patience, and having low expectations.

Then there's the metal detector.

"Machines have become a lot better over the years," Leo said. "Every two or three years now there is a game changer, something new comes out or the coils get better and it just gives you more depth." Along with the machine is the technique. Leo said he likes to go 'low and slow'.

"Keep a flat swing all the way through and just don't be in a hurry, just take your time, that's basically it," Leo said.

An anxious time

Leo took up gold detecting as a form of exercise after knee replacement surgery. He said it gave him a reason to go out and walk through the bush. He has been known to spend up to seven hours under the blazing sun of summer searching for gold. "It's hot and uncomfortable and you spend all day picking up a heap of rubbish, anything from bullets to little bits of wire, nails, you

name it," he said.

Aside from his recent find his largest nugget to date has been six-and-a-half grams. But it's not just the exercise and lure of riches that motivate him, it's his love of the bush and the contemplative mood it inspires. "It's great getting out in the bush, it gives you a lot of time to think about things, things you've done in your life and things you would still like to do and that sort of thing," Leo said.

But the quiet serenity inspired by the bush has been disrupted by the fear of theft. "It changes your life," he said. "Something that valuable you have to be very careful, it's over \$40,000."

A photograph of a Minelab GPZ 7000 metal detector. The device is blue and black, with a large circular search coil attached to the end of a long shaft. The control panel is at the top, featuring a digital display and various buttons. The Minelab logo is visible in the top right corner of the advertisement.

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