FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 issue 5

September/October 2015



Member finds
Big Specimen
121 grams
SG est. 80 g.





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.

Membership fee includes an email version of the Newsletter.

Plus \$20.00 fee for a printed & posted Newsletter.

(6 issues per year)

Subscriptions are due and payable from the $\mathbf{1}^{\mathrm{st}}$ of July each year.

Website: http://seekers.metapath.org/ email: xxx@xxx 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 IBBOTTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Warren IBBOTTSON

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

email: xxx@xxx

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

WESTON

Events Calendar

September

Wed. 2nd: AGM & General Meeting.

Thurs. 10th - Tues 15th: Camp Waanyarra

October

Thurs. 1st- Tues. 6th: Camp Moliagul Sun. 4th: Detector Key Hunt Tarnagulla

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Fri. 9th - Sun. 11th: Laanecorrie Bash Laanecorrie Sat. 17th - Sun. 18th: Ararat Gold Dig Ararat

Sat 24th: PMAV AGM Creswick

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 (Extra Camp)

Sun. 13th Xmas Break Up Wicks Reserve

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

January

Thurs. 26th. - Tues 26th: Camp **Harvest Home** No General Meeting.

Treasurer's Note

For Members who have not paid their annual fees
This will be the last newsletter
That you will receive.

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

Recently, I and nine other members of the Seekers Club, who are also members of the Melbourne subbranch of the P.M.A.V., joined six other P.M.A.V. members on a ten day gold prospecting trip, they'd organised, to Tibooburra. We stayed in the local caravan park and detected on public land, and, for a small daily fee, on private land. While the gold was generally small (I found 64 specks for 4.5 grams), some nuggets of 15 and 20 grams were found by our members. It was my fifth trip to Tibooburra and we all enjoyed ourselves immensely. If sufficient interest is shown by members we could organise a trip there next July.

On the 16th of August Minelab offered a two-week special on the 4500 detector with a saving of \$900 off the normal retail price. At the July general meeting a motion was passed that the club purchase a detector for use by members. This Minelab offer was too good to ignore so we have gone ahead and purchased a new GPX 4500 detector. I expect it will be brought to camp by a committee member and will be available for use by members at a small daily fee. The committee is yet to discuss the finer aspects of how it will be utilised.

Sadly, member John Fricke is in failing health and has decided to sell off his detecting gear. See this issue for details of his Minelab Excalibur 11 underwater detector and sandscoop. Contact me if you are interested as I am holding the above items. We wish John all the best.

See you at Waanyarra camp. Lindsay.

New Members

- Charles BUGEJA
- Don and Heather BUCHANA
- Raeleen HARPER
- Craig WEBB



Welcome and Good Luck!

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General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our July meeting was to have as a guest speaker, Olly Oleszek, the vice president of the Victorian Fossickers Club and also of the PMAV. Unfortunately, due to a bad dose of flu, he was not able to attend, and at short notice Ian came to the rescue with a DVD on gold discoveries around Australia which gave us an interesting history lesson on this topic.

Our July Find of Month was won by Anthony Hogan with a large gold ring, which he discovered since his return from his work period in Western Australia.

You would not believe it possible, but Peter Woodland who was to be our guest speaker for August rang in at the last minute with the same symptoms as Olly last month, and could not make it. A quick call to Olly, thankfully, had him on his way down to fill in.

Olly, wearing his PMAV hat informed us of looming problems we face with the greenies, especially within the Victorian National Parks Association. They are campaigning for a huge increase in National Parks within Victoria and are calling for a Great Forest National Park of some 355,000 hectares which is a huge increase from the 177,000 hectares already in existence in the alpine areas. Their agenda is to eventually cover the whole golden triangle with national parks, thus eliminating us from our favorite gold fields. Check out this link: http://vnpa.org.au/admin/library/attachments/PDFs/Reports/smallparks-report-web.pdf

All prospectors are strongly urged to join the PMAV to help fight for our rights in maintaining access to these fields, otherwise prospecting could one day become only a memory of the past.

Olly went on to demonstrate to us how to separate fine gold from heavy black sand which is encountered in many of our streams while panning, and turn the clean gold into a casted nugget. Some black sand

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is almost impossible to remove by careful panning. His method is to save all the concentrates including the black sand at the end of day, then take it home and run it though a small sluice box. Mercury is then added to final concentrates to amalgamate with the gold and extract it from the remaining black sand. He then places the amalgam into a retort and heats it up to remove the mercury which is recovered and reused. No mercury is lost to the environment. The remaining "yellow cake" gold is then heated red hot in a crucible with a borax or similar flux and then, 'bingo' out pops a nice shining nugget. Warning: mercury is an hazardous material and all safety procedures must be followed and must only be used by an experienced person. The Victorian Seekers do not encourage the use of mercury.

The August Find of Month went to Alex Eram for his 13 gram nugget found at our recent trip to Tiboorburra.

September is our AGM and Find Of The Year award night so no speaker is planned. All those who won Find Of The Month from July 2014-June 2015 will be judged for FOTY.

The guest speaker for October will be Russ Connors (hope he doesn't come down with the flu). Last year Russ gave us a fascinating talk about his experiences in Papua New Guinea as a patrol officer in the 50's and 60's trying to maintain law and order. Because of all the things he was involved in up there, he didn't have time at our last talk to relate all that happened to him. It is a part of the world we know little about, so it will be interesting to hear more of his intriguing life in the PNG.





VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER For the year 2015-2016

Nominate For the following position:
Seconded by(Nominee

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

Vacant positions:

President Vice president Secretary Treasurer

Membership secretary Social secretary

Research officer Newsletter editor Information Technology

Officer

Catering supervisor

Almoner, Librarian,

Catering supervisor Field officers



See Robyn at the meetings or the camps or call on

9999 9999

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
- · 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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July Camp Report

Clydesdale

By Ken Whittaker

Considering that James is a permanent fixture at our outings we only had an additional 12 camps on this trip. Understandable as many of the members are away in other gold fields. 14 of us around the fire on the first night and 25 on raffle night raising \$118. Those of us that did go were well able to do some detecting. The showers were not too bad and allowed for us to collect some yellow bits. Echuca Geoff & Nola did the best with some 12 grams altogether. Geoff's best was 6.5g. Others had some small bits. I scored 11 tiny bits for a total of 2.1 grams. I enjoyed the company of my daughter and her visiting Italian student friend. I was totally chuffed to have them help me uncover a nice little 0.4 grammer on a heap only 100 meters from the camp. You should have seen the smile on their faces.

Michael was there sporting his new second hand van. Better than the tent hey Mick!! Also it was good to see Dave there also on his second camp. Jenny & Gary kept us entertained around the fire with their beautiful Border collie/ Kelpie puppy.

This camp was a little different as I think, as in the main most of the gold found was from 2 private properties. We had permission for these two places and Geoff and Nola & Geoff & Kay laid the groundwork for us at the "Trommel" place by bearing heaps of gifts to the reclusive owner.

Considering that it showered or rained on Friday, Saturday & Sunday it was nevertheless a successful and enjoyable camp with a great bunch of people. I hope the new members Bill & Max and company, enjoyed it as much as I did.

See you at the next one. Probably with some stories from those returning from the West & North to make us envious.

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

It's your newsletter, so have your say!



Dinner sizzling away on the flames for John Close.



The umbrellas were out in force.



Saturday Nightlife

July Special Camp Report

Tiboorburra

By Alex Eram
Photo By Francine G.

PMAV TRIP TO TIBOOBURRA JULY 3RD TO JULY 19TH

After meeting Eric at 5.30am at his house we headed off in the direction of Broken Hill. With a few petrol and rest breaks along the way we made it into Broken Hill around 4pm and went straight to the Caravan Park where we met Lindsay, Francois and Francine and Laurie who were waiting for us.

The next day Lindsay, Francois and Francine made their way to Tibooburra. Eric, Laurie and I did our shopping in Broken Hill and set off for Tibooburra after the others. It was a good road for most of the way to Packsaddle as a large part of it is now sealed and we enjoyed a cup of coffee and a pie there. Half way between Packsaddle and Tibooburra. Francois and Francine made a detour to look at a roadside grave and unfortunately they were bogged and stuck for quite a while. Fortunately Louise and Brian were not far behind and with their help and that of a Good Samaritan who was passing by it was not long before they were back on the road again.

We managed to arrive in Tibooburra about 4pm and there was Brian and Louise, Alistair and Anja. In total there were ten members Victorian Seekers and six PMAV members. Just after our arrival Sophie and Brian directed us to our site.

We spent the first few days on The Common chasing small pieces of gold. For the short period of time Lindsay was there his total was 64 small pieces equalling 4.6gms. Other detector operators on The Common using the SDC 2300 had great success with the small gold.

Trips were made to Mount Stuart and Gum Vale Station with some success as some larger pieces of gold were found; Alex a 13 gram nugget and a few days after Alastair found an 18 gram nugget. All up there was about three ounces of gold found by the group which is a great result. On a couple of occasions we went for meals at the two storey pub, which has the same owner as Gum Vale Station, and each time the meals were excellent. On the second occasion Laurie won the pub's meat raffle which gave us all a tasty barbeque the following night.

Our lovely Francine ran off with the Postman for one day and joined him on his weekly 560km round trip during which they visited about 20 different outlying stations in three states, for more details on her adventure see Francine's report on page 10.

One day was pretty miserable weather, absolutely no good for detecting and you had to be very brave to even leave your caravan. However, we made the most of the day when we were 'confined to barracks' as we spent our time playing cards, reading and catching up on our laundry. It was a welcome change from detecting. During this time the weather in Melbourne was shocking and we copped it as it made its way up to us later

Eric and I with the help of some members, thanks to all of them, managed to organise a banquet for the ten of us. The Menu was as follows:

STARTER

Smoked Salmon, Pate, Dips, Hard Boiled Eggs and more

MAIN COURSE

Thai Chicken Curry with steamed rice, pumpkin puree and a selection of vegetables

DESSERT

Freshly made Chocolate Mousse

All of the above were accompanied by a selection of red and white wines and needless to say a good time was had by all.

After leaving Tibooburra Francois, Francine, Eric and myself made a detour towards White Cliffs and stayed two nights at the caravan park and visited an underground working mine and a couple of dug out homes which were amazing – I've never seen anything like it before. Francois, Francine, Eric and I did some noodling for opal. Eric was lucky and found a nice piece but a bitterly cold wind was blowing.

All in all it was a great trip and everyone's feedback was very positive. On behalf of the group I would like to thank Eric for his kindness, friendship and his great attitude. It was a memorable and enjoyable trip, roll on the next one!



Rugged up against the biting cold wind at Jeffery's Flat.

7

Fossickin' Round September/

August Camp Report

Amherst

by Virginia Lake

There was a time if you arrived at camp Thursday you would be one of the first to arrive. Not anymore. We arrived around teatime to find a dozen camps already set up and everyone sitting around a very welcoming fire. Fortunately the days are getting longer so we were able to set up before dark. Over the next couple of days the camp continued to grow, reaching 24 camps. Saturday night saw 36 around the camp fire. In addition to the established camps 2 couples choose to attend the August camp but stay in alternative accommodation, one in a bed and breakfast the other in a caravan park. We had a further 6 day visitors.

The weather was kind to us, clear with some sunny patches. It only rained once and that was during the night so it didn't interfere with the day's activities. However, it was too cold to stay around the fire for long. On Sunday night, the stars were shining bright but the wind was bitter. Herman, heard me say how cold it was and instantly provided me with a wind break, what a gallant gentleman he is!

While I am referring to camp fires I take this opportunity to thank everyone who took the time to collect, cut and cart the wood, it is truly appreciated. It is good to see more people putting in the time and effort to do this. Special thanks to Bob for cutting up the wood and to John Close for the use of his vehicle to cart it back to camp.

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Saturday night before the raffle Lindsay gave a report to camp members outlining what has taken place in the club and discussed at meetings so that country members know what is happening.

As a club we are very fortunate, we have many people willing to impart knowledge or help members wanting assistance. For example, at this camp James set up test holes for all to use over the camp period. On Saturday afternoon John Bone took a group to a place he thought was worthwhile detecting in order to demonstrate how to adjust, set and operate Minelab detectors in a correct manner. He also made Club members aware of the special price on the Minelab 4500.....a \$900 saving. And of course we have Eric, Lindsay and many others who tirelessly impart their knowledge and experience to others.

Some nice gold was found but some very small nuggets were found as well. Just ask Bob, he was in the latter group. One member must have thought his nugget would grow, as he left it on the ground. I would have thought 12g a decent sized nugget.

Winner of the Sunday Treasure Hunt was Peter Smits.

Amherst campsite is easy to access although relatively small. There was an abundance of wood on the ground not too far from the main camping area and it is central to Talbot, Maryborough and other gold-field towns. This campsite might be a good option for the hot months as it is close to the main road with easy access in and out.



Geoff K's 11.1 gram nugget. Found at the Amherst camp, by Kirky with a Minelab GPZ 7000 going deeper.

Amherst Camp Photos

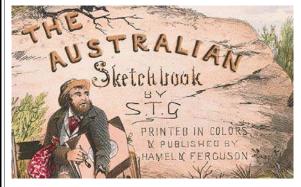


Lindsay T. giving Peter S. his prize for first in the Treasure Hunt.



Shirley detecting at the Treasure Hunt.

Australian Sketchbook: Colonial life and the art of ST Gill



Special Free Exhibition at the State Library of Victoria Friday, 17 July 2015–Sunday, 25 October 2015

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For more details visit:

http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/australian-sketchbook

News

Yes, that's right! Minelab have reintroduced the GPX 4500 back into Australia, though it has been available in other countries, particularly in Africa.

Special price up until August 31st.



The Heritage Act and how it affects You!

From Peter Maffey:

The Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning are reviewing the Heritage Act 1995.

We should make the effort to make a submission or comment, as we are continually confronted with problems related to the Act. An example of this is any item other than minerals (a relic) we find on Crown Land which is over 50 years old should be left as found and not removed. This is only one aspect of the Act which out dated. Now is time to have your say!

A survey is available from their web site. Written submissions are required by 30th Aug 2015. Information on making submission including an online template.

http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/heritage/about-heritage-in-victoria/heritage-act-review-2015.



A Great Outback Experience

by Francine Gilbert

Francine's Adventure with an Outback Postie

Having settled in the Granite Caravan Park in Tibooburra, while chatting to Sophia, a Club Member and part time caretaker of the Park, I learned that the local Postman was happy to take visitors on his delivery runs. Excited, I asked her to see if I could be a passenger in one of the next postie's run.

So the following Wednesday, at 7am, John the Postie and I headed for the local airstrip to collect the parcels (one of them was a potted sapling that had to be covered with plastic sheets to endure the long trip ahead). We then drove to the Post Office to collect the mail, and off we went on our 540km journey!!

To reach the first station we had to drive along a rough dirt road for 80km. John the Postie had to concentrate on the road. It was a lovely sunrise enjoyed by all our friends joining us, the kangaroos – emus – goats – sheep – and, even, one dingo.

What a sight to behold. The red earth, the blue sky, the vastness, the birds and all those animals...

We visited many stations (farms) in 3 different states, NSW – South Australia & Queensland, we were welcomed everywhere.

I had to open (and close) 44 gates!!

We arrived back at Tibooburra by 4pm. John is a happy and hard working fellow. He never stopped for lunch, he lived on lollies and water. I am so happy to have had this experience, sharing the true way of life in the outback or is it the "back of Burke"?

PS: The icing on the cake, a few days later, Francios and I had the pleasure to film at close range a Daddy Emu hatching and minding 8 eggs, I wish we could go back to see the chicks...

Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens





John the Postie and Francine



Nest of Emu eggs.



"Old Man Emu" watching over the eggs.



PMAV Membership Application / Renewal 2015/16

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The PMAV encourages all prospectors to become members of the Association. We are the only voice for Victoria's prospectors and will be stronger with your support.

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Would you please consider adding a few dollars to your payment as we always need and appreciate donations. Please note that all memberships expire on 30th June each year.

All applications for membership are subject to the approval of the PMAV State Committee.

Gold Finds



Member's Finds: The large specimen/nugget is 121 grams with a estimated gold weight of 80g.

The next biggest lump is 8.5 grams.





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Member's Finds: Rob's final tally of nuggets from the recent WA trip of 172 grams plus another 10 grams from a large specimen.



230g at 8 inches with a Minelab SDC 2300 (Not a member).



Posted by rcr2burke on 23 July 2015 on Gold Prospectors forum.

I thought I would share with you a few photo's of a bit I picked up late last year at "Western Creek" NQ, this bit was coated in Ironstone & only had a small sliver of "Gold" showing on one side, so recently I put it into some "Hydrochloric Acid" to get rid of the Ironstone & I was amazed at what it turned into, there is no wear to this nugget at all it is 100% crystal structure "Absolutely" the best I have seen.



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Poets Corner

A Catastrophe

by Ken Whittaker

Bob and Bill were in the bush Trying to find some gold They were not so young any more But neither were they old

Bob knew the rules about the scrub And the deep shafts out of view Catastrophe can strike you bud If you have a careless shoe

Now Bill he was not so sure
About the safety and the care
That one should take amongst the trees
When prospecting out there

Bob was walking all about His coil was swinging wide The gold is mine he would shout If a nugget he could unhide

Just then poor Bill
He took a little short
And over a fallen log he sat
Detecting he did abort

With his legs spread wide Hand braced against a stump His balance to be true Bill was sorted to do his dump

He began his bodily duty
His concentration pure
Sometimes an enjoyable task
One we all endure

T'was then that Bill heard him cry
"A snake" he said, "has got me foul"
Upon his exposed cheek
Alas, the wound began to leak

Bob saw Bills plight, and raced away Some help to get I'm certain Triple O he rang without delay He spoke to Dr. Curtain

"His nether parts exposed, your going to have to suck it
Quite hard" the doctor told him

"If you don't he's out of luck
He'll certainly kick the bucket"

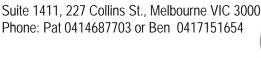
Bob grabbed a stubby from his fridge And to the log returneth The gift he gave with a wry smile "Bill, you'd better drinketh"

"So what's my fate?" his good mate cried "What did the doctor say?" "I've got some bad news, son He said your going to die"



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Sept. Outing: Waanyarra

Thur. 10th - Tues. 15th Sept. Directions:

October Outing: Moliagul

Thur. 1st - Tues. 6th. Oct Directions:

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Hospital: Clarendon St., Maryborough Ph. 054 610277

Fire District: North Central Map Ref.: VICMAP

Emergency Info: Call 000. Fire District: North Central Map Ref: VICMAP

Moliagul

Waanyarra

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No unattended fires.

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

Under current Government requirements fossickers should be trained in first aid; they should carry water, a mobile phone, a list of contacts in case of emergency and a basic first aid kit; any incident or injury should be reported to a Committee Member ASAP.

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.



Vic Seekers AGM in September

The next club's AGM will be at the General Meeting on Wednesday 2nd September. Members are encouraged to take on a position to contribute to the club and to give the existing hardworking committee members a break. If you enjoy the club's activities then it is time to put something back into the club.

World's best Minelab detector upgrades and modifications.

We now provide the latest upgrades to all Minelab Pulse-Induction detectors. Lightweight battery systems, high quality boosters, and clip-on speakers are now available for all models.

New upgraded headphone inserts can be installed in your old headphones, the sound difference increases the response from both small and deep gold.



E detectormods@gmail.com



Social Outing Report

By Francios & Francine



Twenty two Seekers visited the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday August 23rd. It was so interesting, you would need at least one or two days to see everything.

We all learned something on Australia's History, and its involvement in so many conflicts. The new basement is full of fascinating exhibits and information

We have got to do it again!

A big thanks to the Ladies who organized this lovely day.



Minelab Excalibur underwater detector. It has a 10 inch coil and also has a hip-mount bracket and belt plus short coil stem for scuba diving. Excellent condition. Asking price \$1400. Also an American brand long handled steel sand-scoop. Asking price \$125. Ring Lindsay on

PMAV AGM

1:00 pm Saturday 24th October 2015

At Creswick

Annual General MeetingGuest Speaker: Prof Ian Plimer