

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38 issue 2

March/April 2017

**312 oz nugget
found in Victoria**



**New Minelab
Gold Detector
announced!**



**Syd's 139oz Nugget
found in Victoria**



Inside This Issue

**Amherst Camp Report
Goldsborough Camp Report
Xmas Break Up Report
Recent Gold Finds
Safety In The Bush**



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: \$65.00

Single Membership: \$40.00

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: www.victorianseekersclub.com.au

email: eric.grummett@bigpond.com

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

Events Calendar

March

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Thurs. 9th - Tues. 14th: Camp Wedderburn

Sun. 26th: CARAC Club Day Dandenong

April

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 13th - Tues. 18th: Camp Fryerstown

May

Wed. 3rd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 18th - Tues. 23th: Camp Whroo

June

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 8th - Tues. 13th: Camp Ararat

July

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 6th - Tues. 11th: Camp TBA

August

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

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

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President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

At the risk of putting a 'moz' on things, it appears that we may have avoided any serious bush-fires in Victoria this summer. However we still have camp at the Wedderburn Jamboree weekend to contend with and it has been quite hot in the past.

The February camp at Goldsbrough saw two days with temperatures of 42 degrees C and 43 degrees C.! This did not prevent five prospective new members from attending – one being from a Sydney club.

Fortunately Easter this year falls much later being in the middle of April so we can look forward to a camp-fire and very congenial surroundings at the old Fryerstown cricket ground.

I have been asked by members if the club plans to do another trip to Tibooburra this year. Yes, we will go again. It will be in the second week of July and we will again stay in the caravan park. There is no restriction on numbers so feel free to make your plans early. I will call for expressions of interest closer to the time.

In the meantime stay safe and I'll see you at the next camp. Lindsay.



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/vic.seekers

- CAMP PHOTOS AND INFORMATION
- CLUB EVENTS
- NUGGET STORIES
- MEMBER'S FINDS (GOLD AND RELIC)
- NEWS ARTICLES
- VIDEOS
- AND MUCH MORE!

New Member

- White Raywyne

Welcome and Good Luck!

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 sun-screen, and Slap on a hat.

Members are responsible for their own safety!

CARAC Club Day

Sunday 26th March from 11.00am – 4.00pm.

An invitation to club members.

There will be three very knowledgeable speakers on the day, some lunch and loads of prizes. We always aim to have a fun time and we hope that your members can make it.

Please let Eric Grummet know if you are going because numbers are limited on (03) 9729 1026, 0488 972 922
Or eric.grummett@bigpond.com

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General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our last meeting was somewhat compromised by excessive noise from the amplified music of a dance being held in an adjoining hall. We have spoken to our landlords, the Monash Council, who will monitor it and hopefully correct the situation for us at our next meeting.

We were entertained by a video on the operations of the Hope Mine at Tarnagulla, showing us what is like finding big nuggets on a large open cut mining lease. We also were given a presentation by Francine, of the Australian Gold Panning Championships held at Blackwood each year, and encouraged members to support it on Feb 25th for a fun day.

Find of Month went yet again to Paul H. with a most attractive diamond ring. He has really excelled himself lately by finding some valuable jewelry items, winning many of the Find of Month awards, well done Paul. He will shortly be opening a jewelry store to offload some of the loot.

As I have said before, at our March meeting we will be having Dr Geoff Crawford to talk about his business in the disposal of assets, specializing in deceased estates, and people downsizing. Geoff has an interesting life, as he is also a microbiologist practicing

at the Monash Medical Centre, and the brother of our late member "Bluey" Crawford.

To follow up from the recent bushfire DVD's that Ian presented, Lindsay, who has been studying the subject 'The History of Fire', will be giving us a talk at our April meeting on how the use of fire has developed over thousands of years to benefit man. Other speakers coming up will be SES to tell us what they do when people need to be rescued from an emergency situations of storm, fire, flooding, accidents and rescuing prospectors after falling down mine shafts. We are also negotiating to get the RACV for a presentation on the management of elderly driving (that's for my benefit), so watch the coming newsletters for dates.

Find of the Month: February

Paul H.
Diamond Ring



Also entered: February

Max
Diamond Ring





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Newsletter Contributions

The next Newsletter deadline is the 20th April.
It will be then Published on the 25th April.

You can send articles (in Word or Publisher Files please) and photos to ian@regentvideo.com.au
A big thanks to all those who have contributed items to the Newsletter.
You are what helps make this a great Newsletter.



Members watching a video on the Hope Mine gold claim near the Poseidon Lead , Tarnagulla .

Letter to the Editor

I recently purchased a new GPX 4500 with the new 14 “ COILTEK Camo Elite coil. After some 12 months some bad news, the Camo coil was playing up.

Here's the good news.

I returned the offending coil to the staff at Miners Den in Mitcham, where they confirmed the Coiltek coil was still in warranty. They sent it away for testing. To my pleasure in the post within 12 days, from COILTEK, was a brand new replacement coil.

Thank you Miners Den and COILTEK for excellent warranty and service, unequivocally given.

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Easter Camp at Fryerstown March Thursday 24th to Tuesday 29th

Another exciting camp. Fun for everyone!!

SATURDAY:

☺ **Chewton Market** - handicraft and produce from local stall traders; all day, next to the Albion Hotel.

☺ **Egg race** - 5pm. Ladies' event followed by Men's. Balance a hard boiled egg in a holder on your detector and run a short course through camp.

☺ **Chewton Old Time Dance** - After dinner in hall behind the Albion Hotel. Supper will be provided.

SUNDAY:

Fancy Dress competition -

There is no theme this year. Just dress up in what ever you like. This will be held Sunday evening before the dinner.

NOTE: Due to lack of entries there will no Easter Bonnet Parade.

Roast Dinner - 6.30pm. ☺ Choice of 3 different meats: ham, pork or beef. There is no cost for members however for non-members it is \$5.00 per person.

Please bring salads and sweets. Keep your dinner ticket for the Door Prizes.

☺ Games for all ages and genders.

☺ **Songs, sing along, sketches, jokes, etc.** This is your chance to present an act. Go on, Have a Go!

MONDAY:

☺ Special Easter treasure hunt at 9:00am, Men's and Ladies' events.

☺ "Stake Your Claim" Your chance to win a nugget.

☺ Damper Bake Off

Be there and join in the fun . . .

Xmas Breake Up Party

Wicks Reserve

By Eric Grummett

Photos by Sue & Eric

We were very fortunate to have had a perfect day for our end of year barbecue get together. After much socializing and eating it was down to business for the events. First up it was the 'stake your claim' of which 1st prize nugget was won by Eloise Purselove (John Close's granddaughter). Second prize nugget went to Meike Smits, and 3rd to Sue Close. I think the Close family have a mortgage on this event, as John won first prize last year.

Next up was the token and key hunt, which was a little different this year with only 100 numbered tokens and the usual 50 keys. To make it fairer to the inexperienced operators, Thomas M and Peter Smits, who have won this event many times, were given a 5 minutes handicap (under protest- but rules are rules), but they still almost got the most tokens, only pipped by Paul Hart with 14 for which he will be presented the Bluey Crawford trophy. Thomas got back at us by drawing the lucky \$50 token, and also Peter by collecting the \$20 and Paul the \$10. The lucky key was won by yet another member of Close family with John's grand son James (Eloise's brother) winning the \$50 for opening the lock with one of his only 2 keys found.

The first prize Xmas hamper was won by Pat Daragh, 2nd was James Zombos and 3rd, by our raffle queen Tina.



Stake your claim winners Sue, Eloise & Mieke

Many door prizes were won by various members. After Lindsay's thank you to those that helped set up and run the events, and his Xmas message, most called it a day.

A most enjoyable day was had by all, and look forward to coming again next year.



Tina W. in the Treasure Hunt



The raffle prizes.



Members detecting for tokens in the Treasure Hunt.

January Camp Report

Amherst

By Lindsay Tricker

This was a very pleasant camp with 22 persons in attendance including three prospective new members. The weather was not overly hot for this time of year with several days in the mid 20's and a couple of days mid 30's.

Gold is getting harder to find with the areas close to camp being thoroughly detected and devoid of any signals. Going further afield resulted in most operators getting some small nuggets. One member did well scoring a 14 grammer.

A 'swindle' raffle was conducted on Saturday night with three cash prizes of \$30, \$15, and \$7. This impromptu raffle was well received.

Due to the low attendance no 'treasure-hunt' was held on the Sunday morning with the camp virtually deserted by 8:30am with everyone out looking for the elusive yellow metal!

Looking forward to the next camp at Goldsborough.

Alistar showing off his six-pack, much to the amusement of Anja.



Ken W at the end of a days detecting.



At the end of the day gathered around Rob's awning for some drinks and snacks.

February Camp Report

Goldsborough

By Rob Shannon.

We sometimes get warmer weather at camps, like Wedderburn for example, and over the last few years it has built a reputation in being a warm camp.

Let's step back a little, and reflect on our last camp at Goldsborough for a moment. Now that's what I call a HOT camp! No I'm not talking about having exotic dancers jiggling around a flameless fire pit. I'm talking about other kind of hot with temperature's exceeding 40 degrees in consecutive days! According to the bureau of statistics (Thank you Lindsay) the temperature on Thursday which was the start of camp reached 42. But wait for it, Friday was the scorcher reaching 43 in the shade! There was some thunderstorm activity building up in the East, however we only encountered a few drops of rain.

Despite the weather, surprisingly it was a good turnout. 8 caravans, 4 tents, 4 camper vehicles and of course Matt in his bus. We also had visitors both locally and interstate seeing what the club is all about. Lindsay kindly donating his time to help demonstrate what detecting is all about to one possible member who hasn't detected before.

Gold, just like the weather was a little dry however, Ken scored a nice 2 gram nugget, whilst Anja and Alis-tair again did well with a combined 4.5 grams worth. Alex with his little vacuum cleaner (aka SDC 2300) did an amazing job with some perseverance and detected 15 nuggets in just one day. Yours truly, Robert S. finally on the last day, on the last hour, managed to find a nice chunky nugget weighing in at 11.1 grams.

Thank you to everyone that attended and hope to see you all again at Wedderburn!



Rob's 11.1 gram nugget.



Alex using his SDC 2300 got 15 tiny nuggets in just one day.



Craig Webb, Robert and a new visitor at camp.



Graham M. relaxing after a days detecting.



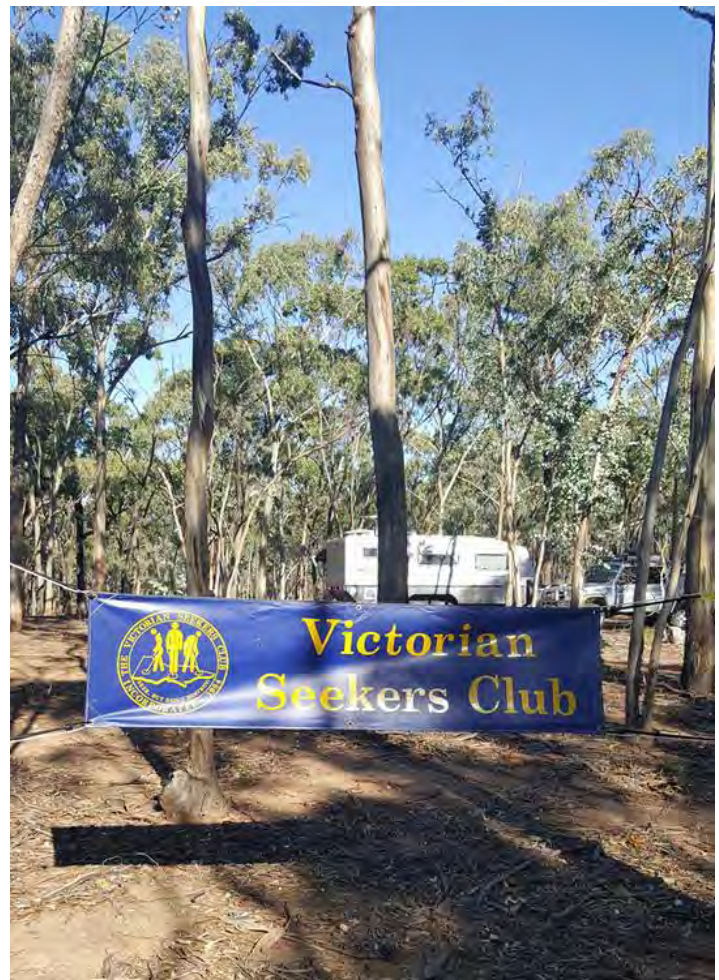
Saturday nights congregation before the club raffle is drawn



What a lovely couple hand in hand James and Patricia



Matt Kelava with his aluminum foil coated beer to help keep it cool



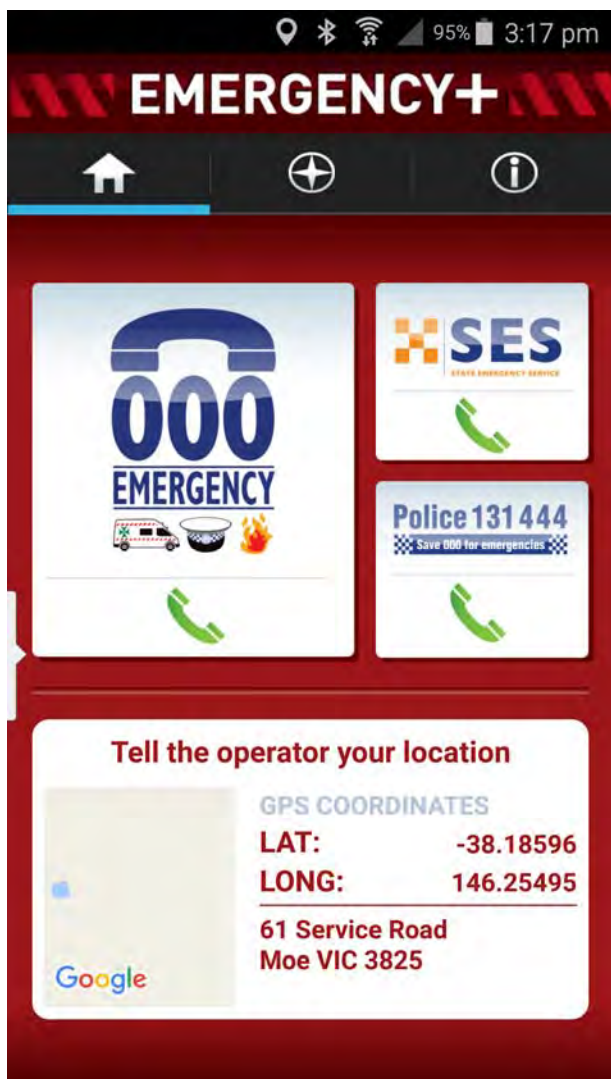
The Seeker's Banner greeted the hopeful members and visitors to the camp site.

Emergency+ By Ian Semmens App for Mobile Phones

In the previous issue of *Fossickin' Round* an article on making emergency calls in the bush appeared and featured in it was the free mobile phone app **Emergency+**. This is an app developed by the Triple Zero Awareness Work Group, a government backed group.

As a follow up to this I can now bring you this screen shot of what the app looks like. This app helps people in an emergency situation call the right number anywhere in Australia. Not only this, and particularly important for us who venture into the bush, it also displays your GPS position on the same screen that you making the call. You then read out your location to the operator. No need to tell the operator to wait while you access your location app. It is so quick and easy to do now with this app. Also for non-emergency situations it gives you access to the right SES and Police numbers for your location.

Because of its importance in an emergency situation, it is **strongly recommended** that all members with a smart phone install it and keep their phones with them when in the bush.



New Minelab Gold Detector



Called the GOLD MONSTER 1000, this detector will be available soon. According to Minelab the GOLD MONSTER 1000 turns beginners into experts with fully automatic operation in an easy-to-use, high performance detector.

The GOLD MONSTER 1000 comes with a choice of coils, battery options and shaft configurations. If you are looking for super sensitive gold performance at a great price, then this is the detector you've been waiting for!

Features:

- Fully automatic operation.
- Extra sensitive.
- VLF performance.
- Highly adaptable2 search coils included.
- Easy quick start.

For more details and to watch the video, visit our product notices page via this link:
<http://www.minelab.com/customer-care/product-notices?article=305146>

Safety in the Bush

Just to raise awareness:

It's been a year since my mate fell down this nasty surprise hiding in the grass. It was just on dark and my mate and I were heading back to camp when my mate disappeared. We thought we knew the area well as we had been going to the same spot for months. The results of his fall: 6 broken ribs, lost all his teeth and destroyed a GPX 5000. Surprisingly it was located in a common posted camping area, so keep your eyes peeled fellow prospectors.

Source: A Prospecting Forum



The old diggers hole nearly covered up with grass tussocks.



It's a long way down....

Gold Price

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g

Last Close: 52.62



Wedderburn Detector Jamboree

11th & 12th March 2017

At Hard Hill Tourist Reserve

Sunday Major Draw

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Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".

www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

Recent Gold Finds



Syd was recently featured on the front page of the PMAV magazine the Eureka Echo. He has been named as the finder of the Lady Catherine nugget which was 4.325 Kg. or 139 Troy ounces.

Syd uses an old Minelab Extreme with some of Woody's Mods (Detector Mods - see ad below). The nugget was in the wall of the claim about 10 inches.(26cm) He said it sounded like a tin can. He got one of the excavators and gouged it out. Pictured here about 10 minutes after finding the large nugget on his private lease.



Where the nugget was found on a claim in Western Victoria

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

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Some say the SDC 2300 is only made for small gold ... well this one recently found a 312 ounce nugget!



5oz nugget - Dunolly



This 765 gram nugget was shown at Coiltek Maryborough recently. The only given details of it's location is North East of Maryborough.

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Why support the PMAV?

The PMAV is very appreciative of the fact that all Victorian prospecting clubs — and a couple of interstaters — are corporate members of the PMAV.

However, the level of membership by individual club members in the Association continues to be disappointing, so I thought I would point out what we are up against in coming years and why you should make a small investment in the future of your activities and join the PMAV.

During the election campaign you may have heard about the proposed Greater Forest National Park. This involves some 355,000 hectares of park additions to the 177,000 hectares of parks already in the Central Highlands. Yes, there are goldfields affected.

But that isn't all. The table below is an extract from the report on 'Better Protection for Special Places' published by the Victorian National Parks Association, it doesn't include all of their demands.

Location	Size (in hectares)	Proposed land tenure
Pyrenees Ranges State Forest	14,680	State Park
Dunolly Waanyarra SF	7,547	State Park
Kingower SF	4,690	State Park
Bealiba SF	7,954	State Park
Moliagul SF	1,396	State Park
Harvest Home SF	2,242	State Park
Timor SF	1,379	State Park
Wellsford SF	7,122	State Park
Fryers Range SF	3,321	Add to Castlemaine NHP
Wombat State Forest	42,280	State Park

Readers should note that State Parks enjoy exactly the same level of 'protection' as National Parks. This means that prospecting is prohibited in almost all cases.

The PMAV will resist the creation of these parks on behalf of all prospectors.

We believe it is time all prospectors supported us, so if you are not yet a member, hopefully I have tweaked your conscience and 'you will come on-board'.

Your Club may have membership forms available, if not please email me on

rita.bentley@bigpond.com or phone 0408 176 496 and we will put one in the mail.

March Outing: Wedderburn

Thursday 9th to Tuesday 14th March

DIRECTIONS: Available to Members only.

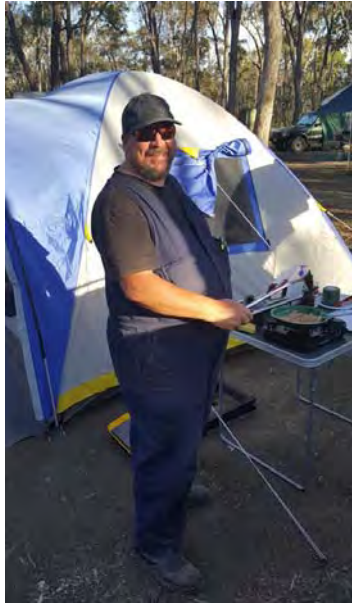
April Outing: Fryerstown

Thursday 13th to Tuesday 18th April

DIRECTIONS: Available to Members only.



Minelab 4500 detector in very good condition. And it comes with two coils, 11" mono and D/D. Also carry bag, harness, Koss headphones, battery and two chargers - 240v and 12v. Asking price \$3,000. Contact John Douglas on 98792197.



Correction:
This is Steve enjoying cooking his BBQ meal, NOT Craig as incorrectly captioned in the last issue.

News Flash



On behalf of the Seekers Club, we would like to congratulate our member [Matt Kelava](#) in winning the Australian Gold Panning Championship at Blackwood on Saturday. Well done Matt that's a top effort!

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