

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38 issue 3

May/June 2017



**VSC Member finds a  
16oz nugget in Victoria**

## Inside This Issue



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**4 kg nugget found in Victoria**



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.victorianseekersclub.com.au)**

**email: [eric.grummett@bigpond.com](mailto: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:** Bruce Johnson

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

**TREASURER:** Warren IBBOTTSON

Budget, finance matters ( other than subscriptions)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Robyn IBBOTTSON

Subscriptions, membership records,

**RESEARCH OFFICER:** Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity.

**CATERING SUPERVISOR:** Jim & Maureen LAUNDY

**SOCIAL SECRETARY:** Tina WHELAN  
Sue HODGES

Organizing social functions, raffles, theatre bookings, etc.

**ALMONER:** Louise McGOUGH

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

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Nola PAPPAS

Corin Seneviratne

**CLOTHING OFFICER:** Nuvolari Mario SENEVIRANT

**LIBRARY:** Louise McGOUGH

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

Alistair McKNIGHT, & Alex ERAM

## Events Calendar

### 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 Waanyarra

### August

**Wed. 2nd:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 10th - Tues. 15th:** Camp Inglewood TBC

### September

**Wed. 6th:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 7th - Tues. 12th:** Camp Homebush

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# President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

I would like to thank all members who worked as a team to make the recent Easter camp such a great success, especially the cleaning of the pavilion and those who ensured that all caravans were backed into position rather than parallel parking.

What was very apparent this year was our aging population of members were not willing to take part in the more physical activities such as the traditional detector and egg balancing race – only three contestants turned up while the remainder of the crowd wished only to be spectators! The 'stake – your Claim' game was however very popular with it being run twice, utilizing the prizes set aside for the egg race. The proceeds of this second game was added to the donations given by members to Jim Cole's charity, the Red Cross. While on the subject of charities, the local fire brigades effort for the Royal Children's Hospital raised an estimated \$200 and we were given special mention in the local community – a thank you for the donations from our 'visitors'.

For those members contemplating attending the club's outing to Tibooburra which is taking place on the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July this year, we have received information that detecting on the town 'common' is no longer free but will now attract a daily fee. The towns people who in fact own the 'common' are still debating the amount to be charged. The figures being considered range between a minimum of \$5 per day up to a maximum of \$15 per day!!! Also to be noted is that the caravan park is now accepting pre-bookings (08 80913305).

After being on committee for the last 17 years, I will be stepping down at the end of my term this coming September, due to family commitments. With our club membership approaching 200, it is imperative that we get some new members on committee. Please give it some serious consideration as all positions will become vacant in September.

We are heading north for our next camp to Whroo (Rushworth) for our next camp. This is a lovely area situated near the Cheong Dam. I am looking forward to seeing you there. Lindsay.

## New Members

- Peter Groom and Colin Groom
- Anne Luscombe

*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!**

## Almoner's Report

Our Almoner, Louise had a fall while out detecting at Fryerstown and sustained a severe break to her ankle which required an operation to screw it back together.

She will be in the Casey Hospital for 6 weeks having rehab., which will drive her crazy. Well wishers from the club should help to keep her spirits up. Sympathies to Brian who is now house hubby.

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# General Meetings

*By Eric Grummett*

Although I have missed a couple of meetings I will hopefully fill in what I know has happened. At the March meeting some time was spent discussing the threats we face with further restrictions to prospecting in the Golden Triangle in the future. Firstly by the proposal to create State Parks over most of our favourite areas, which are currently State Forests, (particularly around the Dunolly area). Secondly, shires in the area are lobbying the government to declare Heritage listing for the Central Goldfield Region, mainly to promote tourism. Can anyone imagine busloads of Chinese tourists paying money to travel down our tracks. They want to start by giving the Castlemaine Diggings National Park a World Heritage listing, which would wipe out that area for a start. It seems that there is a green bureaucracy agenda to eliminate our activity. Keep tuned for further action to oppose the above. It is important that concerned prospectors be a member of the PMAV so that a united front can achieve numbers in our fight for survival.

Disappointedly, we were let down by our invited guest Geoff Crawford, canceling his visit at short notice, so thankfully Ian came to the rescue with a DVD on 'Shallow Water Detecting.' Geoff can be seen on his antique show 'Antiques With Attitude' on Channel 31, or look up 'C31 antiques' on the internet for replays of past episodes.

Find of month was a 11gram nugget found by Robert Shannon.

At the April meeting it was announced that our club has purchased a new Stihl chainsaw and protective clothing and helmet, to be worn by any experienced member who uses it. It is currently in my care and can vouch for its effectiveness, because at Easter I got carried away in Jimmy Coles place by cutting up nearly every tree in the paddock. It was agreed that the old saw would be sold to Bob Lake for \$175.

Members were then treated to a fascinating talk and practical demonstration by Lindsay on the history of fire lighting methods, over thousands of years by ancient civilizations right up to the present day. He showed how to light a fire using steel wool and a battery in no time at all. It was well researched and presented by Lindsay.

The Find of month was a beautiful 19 gram nugget found by Craig Webb.

At our May meeting I have arranged for Reece Williams of the Melbourne Gold Exchange to come along and assess any gold nuggets and old jewelry we can present him, and to tell us what he can offer us. So don't forget to bring along all those rings and nuggets we have found over the years to turn into cash. He promises to give us a good deal. June we still have the SES coming along, and the RACV for July.



Lindsay demonstrating one of the Fire making tools.

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## Find of the Month: March

Robert S.  
11 Gram nugget



## Find of the Month: April

Craig W.  
19 gram nugget



The club has purchased a new smaller lighter chainsaw and protective equipment to be worn when using it. Here is Eric all set to use it for the first time. Watch out that you don't get in his way!

## 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.



## Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/vic.seekers](http://www.facebook.com/vic.seekers)

- CAMP PHOTOS AND INFORMATION
- CLUB EVENTS
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- MEMBER'S FINDS (GOLD AND RELIC)
- NEWS ARTICLES
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## 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.



# March Camp Report

## Wedderburn *by Lindsay Tricker.*

*Photos by Robert S.*

Unlike last year's very hot camp, this year the weather at the Wedderburn camp was pleasantly hot and not too bad for detecting. 30 members set up camp and there were 6 day visitors including four prospective new members.

Six of our group took part in the two-day Detector Jamboree held at the Hard Hill Reserve close to the town. Eric won a prize of a small gold nugget from the tokens he recovered and Paul Hart also won a gold nugget for recovering a token from a previous years event. Eric took part in Sunday's gold panning competition and won a nice trophy for third place.

Meanwhile back at camp the gold was much harder to find. It was some of the "hottest" ground I've experienced using a mono coil with the Minelab 5000. It was necessary to skim the coil just above the ground and avoid making actual contact otherwise it would signal. Our latest new member Raywyne White, first learnt the basics of detecting at the previous camp using the club's GPX 4500 machine. At the last general- meeting she purchased John Douglas's GPX 4500 detector and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of detecting at Wedderburn she found her first ever gold – a 0.2 gram nugget. Well done Ray! There are not many detectorists who can relate having such early success.

The Saturday night's raffle took \$140 thanks to a number of donations, especially a dollypot made and donated by Alistair. Many thanks to our donors. No Sunday morning treasure hunt was held to enable members to get an early start at the Jamboree.

By the time this report goes to press the Easter camp will have come and gone. I hope you attended what is arguably the biggest and best camp of the year. Cheers, Lindsay



Ray has a big smile on her face after finding here first nugget! Well done, and may there be many more to come.



Hmmmmm, how does this work ?- with Ken Whit, Peter Maffey, Alistair Mck and Graham Mee.



Dean (second from left) who makes replica nuggets, brought up some recent and some well known replica nuggets to show the members.





Members fifth wheeler - Wow !!! And inside is amazing to say the least.



Camp scene - Peter Maffey enjoying the warm weather.



Camp scene - Francine keep cool and swatting the flies at the same time.



Relaxing in the shade of the caravan awning.

Camp scene  
Peter Gazzan  
'Catch of the Day'.

Peter went yabby hunting on a farmer's dam.



Eric G. enjoying a cool drink at the end of the day.





# April Camp Report

## Fryerstown

*By Shirley S.  
Photos by Rob S.*

The Seekers Club Easter Camp was held at the "Cricket Pitch" camp ground at Fryerstown. Beautiful Easter weather, sunny days and starry nights attracted 80 members in 42 camps. It was a wonderful site in a great location.

The traditional Easter fire was lit, big thanks to John and Eric who once again rallied around with other members to get the firewood in readiness for the first camp fire of the season, Eric put our new chainsaw into action which made light work of the job. John also bought along the fire drum/barbeque, which all members enjoyed sitting around in the evening.

On Saturday afternoon the Easter games took place, games included gumboot tossing and members playing bocce, Lots of fun and laughter and some bottles of wine were received by the worthy winners. Stake your Claim was a great success with 1st prize going to Matt the Tailor (1 1/2 gm nugget) second to Sue Close, although husband John got very excited thinking he had won and after outcry, deliberation and checking markers, Sue was the winner of a (1 gm nugget) with third prize of a 1/2 gm nugget going to Rob.

Jimmy Cole and Marilyn, traditional old time musicians, once again organized the annual old time dance at the Chewton Hall on Saturday evening. Sixteen club members kicked up their heels and strutted the light fantastic with some inspiring locals encouraging the dancing.

I witnessed a budding dancing with the stars amongst our members, none other than Rob, he was a little shy at first but when asked to dance by one of the locals, who with gentle persuasion and encouragement, got Rob up to dance, it did not take long, Rob found his dancing feet, great to see, I think he surprised himself. The famous supper arrived on cue and once again we feasted on sandwiches, award winning passion fruit sponges that disappeared quickly, lots of tasty slices and much more. A great

night, full of fun and frivolity, thanks to all the members who attended and also the fund raising by Lindsay back at camp with proceeds going to the Red Cross

Easter bunny arrived on Easter Sunday, the treasure hunt was organized by Eric. Two events were held, one for the ladies and another for the men. Winners are grinners, the ladies hunt was won by Gunilla who was rewarded with \$20 for her efforts and the runner up was Emilie who received \$10. The men's hunt was won by Ted receiving \$20, with the runner up being Peter Smits winning \$10, congratulations to all those participated. To those who missed out better luck next time

The Sunday night Easter feast was a great success with over 75 people enjoying a wonderful meal under a beautiful autumn starry sky around the fire. The roast meats were cooked to perfection by Lindsay on the Webbers, who was assisted by other committee members. Members were requested to bring along a salad or sweet to share, some marvelous tasty food was thoroughly enjoyed by one and all. The efforts of Lindsay and committee members in organizing the dinner is to be congratulated, because it is these types of events that takes a lot of effort and makes an evening memorable. The major auction and raffle was held after dinner which proved to be successful.

There were some lucky prospectors, with a number of small pieces of gold being found, the biggest reported nuggets weighed in at 18 gram, 11 gram, 10 gram, and 7 gram,. Congratulations to the members who found the treasures and who shall remain nameless. Alistair's luck was in when he specked the 11gramer on the road behind his truck while having lunch.

Monday morning saw many camps packing up and leaving, those who had longer distances to drive. Once again the camp was a great success, well done and congratulations to the Committee members, for organizing another great Easter

You never know when the hand of faith could unearth a large nugget for you.  
Happy prospecting,  
Shirley Schubach

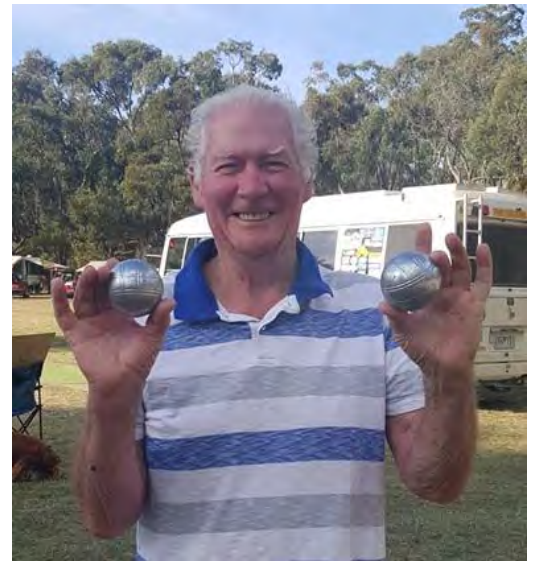




Graham H. giving it a go in the gum boot throwing competition



Bob's 10gram nugget.



Ken Whit with a cheeky grin showing us his balls ready for action!



Alistair and Eric playing bocce on the old cricket ground.



Sunday night Jimmy & Marilyn entertained us with their enjoyable music.



Token Hunt - Gisela & Peter Grasser



Sunday evening at the campsite.



Dave N. with a 8.2 gram nugget.



## More Fryerstown Photos



Alistair McK. specked a 11gram nugget laying on the ground near the tailgate of his ute as he stopped for lunch.

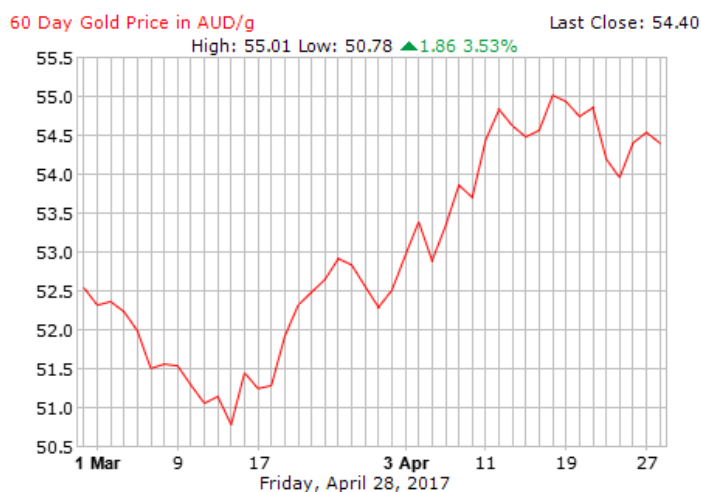


Ted C. did well with two specimens and some smaller nuggets



Anja McK. Looking very pleased with her finds. The inset photo shows nuggets of 18,7 & 2 grams.

## Gold Price Report



Dave N. was showing members at the camp this lovely 21 gram nugget that he found recently on another trip.



## Doug Stone Gold Maps



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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".

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# Vital Caravan Towing Information

By Ian Semmens

As we travel to the camps and take the caravan to other locations it would be wise to refresh yourself with some of the factors relating to towing your caravan safely. Some of this we may have heard before, but it is worth reviewing it and seeing how it applies to your current towing situation.



## Passing large trucks

You need to take care when towing a caravan on the open highway and passing an articulated truck (semi trailer) at speed. While travelling at highway speeds there can build up an area of high air pressure around the front of the truck, a "bow wave" of air as it pushes the air aside. Down the sides there is air pressure pushing outward. As the car and caravan are passing the truck the air pressure comes in contact with the large surface area of the caravan and it can be pushed to the right. The driver may try to correct this by steering to the right. This can set up a swaying motion that may get progressively worse until the caravan spins out or flips over taking the car and its occupants with it.

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The following two clips clearly illustrate this effect and are well worth the time to view.:

<https://www.facebook.com/ACurrentAffair9/videos/983594588413585/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9SsSZVTanQ>

Driver training experts advise to keep the wheel straight, limit wheel correction to a minimum and gradually DONT jerk the wheel, and do not brake, let the car slow down by itself....and pray.

This situation of fishtailing may also occur when the caravan emerges from the relative calm air within a roadway cutting or a tunnel and encounters a strong cross wind.



## The importance of correct weight distribution

Another important factor that may contribute to the swaying is the distribution of weight within the caravan. If too much weight is put at either end of the caravan then stability is compromised and it is much likely to get into a fishtail. Heavy items like batteries and levelling bars must be placed as low and close to the axle as possible. This will lower the centre of gravity, decrease the yawl inertia and make it more stable. You also need to have the correct amount of weight bearing down on the tow ball.

The following videos explain this very clearly and are well worth a look.

This video explains with a model car and caravan on a rolling road, caravan weight distribution and its effect on stability:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9P0ajgaZgDg&t=199s>

This video is about stabilisation in caravans:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgHluADWRng>

Thanks to Geoff Lee for posting the A Current Affair video on the VSC Facebook page and thus raising the topic.

## Recent Gold Finds



32oz of nice chunky gold from only ONE days detecting a patch in Victoria. The largest piece found was 7oz. It was only found couple of years ago in 2015.

That's what dreams are about!



Last year VSC members Murray and Robyn H. returned from a prospecting trip to Western Australia where Murray found this great specimen of wire gold.



51grams of nuggets found at Wedderburn by Detracksozi.

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Just under 4KG gold nugget was found by a Lucky prospector in the Central Goldfields of Victoria using a Minelab GP Extreme fitted with a Nugget Finder 14X9 Evolution Coil.  
Source - Coiltek Gold Center FB page

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### Surfers Paradise gold digger finds four more nuggets in the sand on Gold Coast beach

MARCH 27, 2017 9:06AM

KERCHING! There's more gold where the now-infamous Gold Coast beach nuggets came from. The Surfers Paradise gold digger who found three precious rocks on a northern Gold Coast beach last week has done it again. Local beachlover Greg Cooke uncovered another two nuggets on Saturday when he returned to his lucky secret spot in the sand. "I went back with a mate with a metal detector and found these two (pictured)," he said. But wait — there's more.

Greg Cooke says he found these gold nuggets on stretch of beach on the northern Gold Coast — but won't say exactly where. Mr Cooke and his buddy returned to their treasure trove again yesterday — and found two more rocks. "They're not as big. My mate's got them — he



reckons those two are his," Mr Cooke said.

Mr Cooke said he and his mate reckon the nuggets are most likely broken fragments from the same rock.

"The big one's been there forever and it's only with erosion that they've come to life," he said. "We reckon the small ones are coming from the rock retaining walls.

"You can see the quartz veins in the rock in the retaining walls."

Eager to keep the exact location of his 'gold mine' secret, Mr Cooke said the unlikely prospectors were careful not to attract too much attention.

"There are an awful lot of people on the beach looking down at the moment," he said, laughing.

## Seekers member finds 16 oz nugget!

Found recently by a VSC member in Victoria's Golden Triangle is this magnificent 16.27 oz. (506 gram) nugget. It was found with a GPZ 7000 with a 14" coil and at a depth of 21 inches. It was a definite signal. The finder dug through the surface soil, then the quartz wash layer and then it was time to get out the crowbar and a fair way into the red clay sat this little beauty. The area was of course gridded around the find and, as is often the case, only a few tiny bits were found.



The nugget as it appeared in the bottom of the hole.



The nugget all cleaned up.





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