

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 38 issue 4

July/August 2017



20oz Specimen

Inside This Issue



**Whroo Camp Report
Ararat Camp Report
Recent Gold Finds
The Danger of Fungi**

Bob's 9 grammer from Ararat



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

PRESIDENT: Lindsay TRICKER,

Club management/ representation, Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers. email;

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 shodges6@bigpond.com

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

July

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 6th - Tues. 11th: Camp **Waanyarra**

August

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

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

September

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

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

October

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 5th - Tues. 10th: Camp **Tarnagulla**

November

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

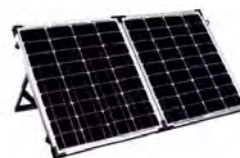
Thurs. 2nd - Tues. 7th: Camp **Fryerstown**

December

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

Tues. 26th Dec. - Wed. 3rd Jan : Camp **Moonambel**

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President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

Due to the fact that our newsletter is bi-monthly, you will note that the 'forms of election' for the new committee members appear in this edition. This is to enable said forms to be returned to the secretary at least 7 days prior to the Annual General Meeting due to be held on Wednesday the 6th of September, 2017.

Also at this meeting judging will take place for the 'find of the year' trophy. All winners of the 'find of the month' starting with July 2016 and concluding with the winner for June 2017 should arrange for their wins to be submitted for judging.

For the information of those members attending the Tibooburra trip this July, the latest information regarding the fee to be charged to detect on the common is \$10 per detector per month. As the majority of committee members are going on this trip, those members planning to go to Waanyarra camp will need to offer their assistance to the members who will be running the raffle, collecting firewood and attending to normal camp activities. Also it will assist the editor greatly if a member attending could compose a brief camp report and email it to our editor. Thank you all in anticipation. Lindsay

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

It's your newsletter, so have your say!

Newsletter Contributions

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

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 this Newsletter.

Your contributions is what make this a great Newsletter.

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!

For those members who have not yet paid their annual subscription



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General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our May meeting was highlighted by a visit from Reece Williams of the Melbourne Exchange, who offered us excellent prices for our alluvial gold, and silver and gold rings and jewelry. He certainly left with a lot less cash when he left after negotiating some good deals with us. For good nuggets he will pay well above the spot price for gold. I think in our haste to cash in our gold, no nominations were offered for the Find of Month.

We were honored by a visit from the PMAV president, Olly Oleszek at our May meeting, who brought us up to date with the PMAV action against the green bureaucracy who are trying to keep the likes of us from enjoying our hobby (see my last report). We will shortly be guided by the PMAV on the direct action we can take to put pressure on our MP's by sending submissions in the form of letters and emails.

In June our main speaker was Steve Rogic from the Monash branch of the State Emergency Service, who explained the role the SES plays in the time of emergencies such as fires, floods and storms and rescuing people or animals trapped in dangerous situations. They will remove fallen trees from buildings and place tarpaulins to make it safe, and provide access to homes and businesses. The SES is operated by mostly volunteers who are on call 24 hrs during impending emergencies. Steve explained that the SES operate on very limited funds from the government and rely a lot on donations to run efficiently. He also

pointed out that they are always looking for new volunteers who are accepted from 18-70 years old. At least one of our members has shown interest in taking up the challenge.

The June Find of Month was won by Peter Maffey for his 5gm nugget found on the Whroo trip.

Don't forget, that at the July meeting we will have the RACV giving us a talk about elderly driving. (This could apply to 90% of our club).

Bottle Finds

Anthony Hogan posted on the Seeker's Facebook page:

"Had a great bottle hunt at a landscaping job.

There were bottles everywhere from 30cm up to 60cm deep. I would have kept digging but my boss came back and he wasn't happy I wasted an hour. Totally worth it.



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Coin & Jewelry Finds



Sam Z. posted on the Seeker's Facebook page:

"Received a letter from Garrett for my submission for international find of the month. I didn't get 1st prize but I did get a badge to add to my cap. My submission was for my 1st valuable ring, platinum 950 mark. Thanks Garrett."

Find of the Month: June

Peter M.
5 gram nugget



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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!

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Faith	500gm	4mm	600mm
Jewel	450gm	4mm	450mm

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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.

May Camp Report

Whroo

by Ken Whittaker

Photos by Robert S.

Well the weather wand wavers were wonderfully wong this time. The respect that our forecasters deserve was diminished for this camp, only 6mm of rain on the Thursday night and into early Friday morning, but everyone was glad because it was replaced by almost a perfect detecting climate from there on.

The camp was attended early by some interstate visitors who are potential members. One group from Sydney, Gino and his son Adam enjoyed their first camp and Gino's first nugget with his new 2300.

The Saturday night raffles saw approx. 36 people relishing a not unusual and typical "Fireman Bob" inferno which was enjoyed by all. Peter M. arrived on the Friday to receive applause for his nearly new caravan. He boasted every day as to its warmth and comfort and "easability". Well done Peter and thanks for the celebratory glass of red fruit juice.

On the Friday morning whilst waiting for the 6mm of rain to diminish, Eric G. & myself went exploring in Rushworth. On a back track, a largish bog hole nearly claimed the Land Rover and Eric thought we would be stuck for the duration, however the engagement of the diff locks and a reverse gear retreat saw us out, albeit now a different colour bodywork. (Grey mud that is).

During one of our sojourns Eric & I visited another camp, being the locals from Rushworth. In talking to their President he bemoaned the circumstance where he claimed that the whole area has been flogged, then in the next breath reported some nice little nuggets and "species" that the members had popped up. There is hope out there, particularly with the newer machines and coils. At our camp a few pieces of gold appeared. A few little bits here and there with Peter M. sporting a 3.17 Grm. nugget he found somewhere above where Robert S. found a nice one last time we were there.

A few dollars were left in the town by our members with visits to the local IGA store and fish and chip shop and hotel. Again a big thank you to our club committee and organisers and camp officers who

always make each outing a pleasant and enjoyable experience that is becoming more and more relevant and important in our challenging world today, not only abroad, but here at home with outside pressure being placed on our hobby and the environment that we enjoy that hobby in.

Lets hope the same weather people are in charge for the next camp.



Kay giving Peter a small gift for his new caravan



Virginia and Gunilla about to go on a 5km. walk.



Peter Maffey did well finding this lovely 3.7 gram nugget



The best dressed prospectors in the bush, time to get dirty lads!



Relaxing and socializing around the main camp fire. In the early evening.



The camp fire with members enjoying the warmth.

June Camp Report

Ararat

*By Lindsay Tricker
Photos by Rob S.*

The last time I attended the Ararat camp was in June 2013. This time the camp site was somewhat overgrown but we managed to fit in some 20 caravans. The visitors from NSW who had attended the Whroo camp had stayed in Victoria and were already at the Ararat camp when I arrived. Two of these visitors, Bruce and Gino from the Sydney Prospecting club have submitted their applications to join our club.

The weather was reasonably good considering the time of year and the lovely camp-fires kept us all warm.

Gold was scarce for the first couple of days but then Eric led a convoy of 20 cars to a secluded spot where a lot of small gold was found on some recent pushings. A second convoy the following day headed off to diggings near Stawell. Only one nugget was found however, a lovely piece weighing just under 10 grams. Some nice artefacts were found – Chinese buttons and coins. No treasure hunt was held due to insufficient contestants.

The Saturday night raffle was ably run by Peter Maffey – Many thanks Peter. I also wish to acknowledge the special effort put in by Graham Mee who frequently supplies hot party pies for the happy hour.

After attending many camps as a visitor, my young brother Eddie has joined the club and found his first ever gold with his new 2300. Welcome to the club Eddie! -



An Alluvial shaft about 3 meters deep near the camp that has been worked recently.



Ohhh dear ... so this is what we get up to at camps!



Bob's 9 gram nugget.



Camp scene



Eric Grummett pointing out some tips of places to detect at this location where the club has found gold previously.



Shirley W. and Kay keeping warm around the camp fire



Photos Right: clockwise from top left:
James, David B. Craig C. (dressed as Rambo) and Peter R.



The World Gold Reserves

This first appeared on the Seekers Facebook page and was submitted by Rob Shannon.



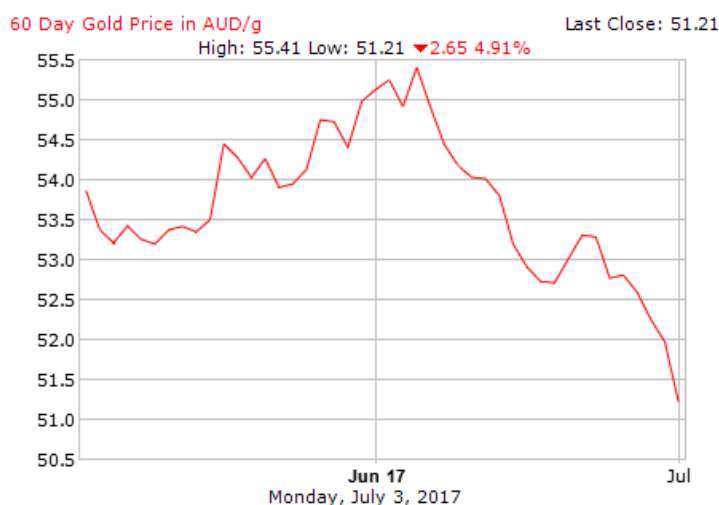
We're INSIDE a Gold Bullion Vault. This is an amazing video on one of the major bank vaults that houses the banks reserves of gold.

This one is the Bank of England and it protects about £197 billion (\$315bn) worth of gold, according to the mostly recently published figures.

Film by Brady Haran. Featuring Professor Martyn Poliakoff.

Look at the video of this vault tour at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTtf5s2HFkA>

Gold Price Report



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".

www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

The Dangers of Fungi

CFA volunteer warns of fungus in firewood

From the CFA magazine

Glenaladale CFA volunteer John Hine was faced with a battle last year, one he never saw coming. This time last year John was cutting up the annual supply of Redgum wood on his farm in Woodglen. John had no idea he was inhaling a small fungus that lives in some timbers. The substance is in form of a white powder that when disturbed becomes airborne. John said a few weeks after cutting the firewood he began to feel sick.

"I started experiencing symptoms such as muscle aches, fever, sweating and headaches so severe no amount of Nurofen or Panadol could help me," said John.

Initially it was thought that John had lung cancer as chest X-rays and CT scans revealed a shadow on the lungs. "I was referred to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne for further scans and a

bed was set aside for immediate transfer to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. "It was soon discovered that in fact I didn't have cancer but a rare fungus infection which has spread from my lungs into spinal fluid and into the brain.



The rare fungal infection is called Cryptoccal Fungus. The illness is very uncommon and on average 6 to 10 Victorians are diagnosed with infection every year. "An intense medical treatment plan was administered including daily intravenous therapy of anti-fungal fluid by a team of specialist doctors and nurses. The strain of fungus John inhaled is most commonly found in Redgum, but other strains exist in other timbers including Blue gum, and Blackwoods.

John shares his story so that others may learn. John said simple precautionary steps could have been taken like wearing a face mask.

Winter is back with force!



So rush out and get your warm and snuggly
VSC Polar Fleece Jacket.
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Code Red Fire Days Notice

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



FIRE DANGER RATING

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.

Recent Gold Finds



Left:

From a post found on Facebook - beautiful specimen! Once again, I had the great privilege of getting to see and handle an amazing Motherlode gold find. It was found recently with a Minelab GPX4000. Total weight of the rock is 7 pounds and an initial specific gravity test indicates 20+ ounces of the nice yellow metal.



Found in Victoria with a GPZ7000 2.5 feet down, July 2017.

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Maryborough June 2017 5g & 0.5g

Nuggets
found at
Inglewood in
June 2016.
The largest is
13.5g



Nuggets Inglewood June 2017
The largest is 2.1g



Maryborough June 2017 GPX5000 14x9 Evo coil,
the largest is 4g.



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Gold Finds



27 May 2017

Found the 2 smaller ones only a metre apart and the bigger one was only 10 or 11 metres away down slope but it didn't sound like a good target so i was shocked when I

dug it out 🤖 Again, dig everything !
Below: The large nugget cleaned up.



For those who have won a
"Find of the Month"
You are invited to submit
your find to
the November Meeting
For the judging of
"Find of the Year"



VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER
For the year 2017-2018

I,

Nominate

For the following position:

.....

Seconded by.....

Accepted by(Nominee).

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

Vacant positions:

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

Items for sale

Fisher Gold Bug Pro Detector (DP and 5" coils) \$450 ONO
 Minelab Pro 25 Pinpointer (unused) \$100
 Minelab Carry Bag (unused) \$20
 Minelab 8" Mono coil \$150
 Nugget Finder 12" round Advantage coil \$200
 Nugget Finder 18" round Advantage coil (unused) \$250
 Coiltek Goldstalker 18"x12" coil \$100
 Coiltek 6" round coil \$80
 Walco Large Pick (unused) \$50
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 Contact Peter Richards 0418 831 605



PRO-FIND 25



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