

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 35 issue 3

May/June 2014



Dave N. at Fryerstown

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The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. (A0001477T)

Is a family oriented organization, the objectives of which are to promote friendship, cooperation and exchange of ideas among people interested in prospecting and metal detecting. To realize these aims, we have meetings, lectures, discussions and practical demonstrations to help members acquire the skills required to make prospecting and metal detecting an enjoyable and rewarding pastime. We arrange outings to the goldfields and other prospecting sites, beaches, camps, ghost towns etc, to search for gold, coins, relics, gemstones and other natural and man made objects of value and / or of interest. In addition, we also have functions to foster social contacts among members. Our conduct is governed by a strict code of ethics including avoiding trespassing on private property or damaging the natural environment, hence our motto:

"Seek, But Do Not Destroy"

Membership is open to adult persons and their minor children without regard to race, creed or political persuasion, who are interested in these pursuits and prepared to abide by our Constitution and Rules of Conduct. VSC has general meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens and Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road Mulgrave, and at a field trip each month and, in addition, we also have some occasional day outing.

Annual Membership Fees

Family Membership: \$55.00

Single Membership: \$45.00

One-off joining fee: \$10.00 single, \$20.00 family.

Subscriptions are due and payable by the 1st of July each year.

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PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT: Barry WESTON

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: John CLOSE

Correspondence, rules, meetings, admin. matters etc.

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Warren IBBOTTSON

Subscriptions, membership records,

RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

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SOCIAL SECRETARIES: Val LIPPINGWELL

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ALMONER: Virginia LAKE

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

WEBMASTER: Geoff LEE

FIELD OFFICERS: Ted COX, Bob LAKE, Graham SILVER, Lindsay TRICKER,

Geoff LeEE.

Events Calendar

May

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Fri. 16th - Mon. 19th: Camp Talbot

June

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Fri. 6th - Tues. 10th: Camp Heathcote

July

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri. 11th - Mon. 14th: Camp Harvest Home (Dunolly)

August

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

Fri. 8th - Mon. 11th: Camp Homebush

September

Wed. 3rd: General Meeting.

Fri. 12th - Mon. 15th: Camp Havelock

Editor's Report

by Ian Semmens

Hi All,

I hope that you had a great Easter break. I certainly did at Fryerstown at the Club Camp. This issue is later than normal as Easter was late in the month and I stayed on with four others till the following weekend.

I desperately need club members to contribute relevant articles or stories to the newsletter for the enjoyment of others. If you enjoy this newsletter then it is time to put something back into it.

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 2014: Feb 5, Mar 5, Apr 2, May 7, Jun 4, Jul 3, Aug 6, Sep 3, Oct 1, Nov 5, Dec 3.

Committee meetings for 2014: Feb 4, Mar 25, Apr 29, May 27, June 24, July 29, Aug 26, Sept 30, Oct 28, Nov 29.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Talk about hanging from the rafters, our Easter camp was chockers down at Chokem Flat this year, (now called Chockers Flat). How we managed to fit 90 members in there with 50 vans and 2 tents was a true miracle. The Pope should canonise the club for the effort, even though I doubt we had any saints among us. The week was one of the best social events our club has ever had (see Robert's report), just ask my brother Ian, because he found his first (and second nugget) after 20 years. He is a cow cocky down Warrnambool way and can only come out once a year. He was that excited about his luck, he promises to flog off one of his prize bulls and buy a new detector, only if the dealer offers him 20c for his old Whites 6000.

Now, for some serious stuff. What's happening about the Victorian Government's response to the VEAC (Victorian Environmental Assessment Commission) report on additional prospecting in parks? At the moment, Government ministers are accepting the report in its entirety and are waiting to finalise amendments to the National Parks Act in Parliament to allow access into the additional 8 areas as described in the report. This process is being delayed until about November, probably after the State elections. All this might sound a clear win for prospectors, but be warned, it's just a smoke screen to cover what has come out of the report.

Firstly, the areas granted are only part of what we were hoping to get and are in almost inaccessible steep mountainous country, almost devoid of any known gold areas, with little access to rivers. So, by giving us these almost useless areas, it is one way to keep us out and at the same time satisfy the greenies by giving us nothing of value.

The second point is that any use by us will be restricted to metal detectors and gold pans only and no sluicing, (manual or motorised), not only in these parks but all national and state parks where we currently have access.

Thirdly, the DEPI (Department of Environment and Primary Industries) will establish a working group to examine the impact we have on these new areas after 12 months, and if they decide that we are having an impact, all bets are off and we will lose these areas, just like they did to the cattlemen.

Fourthly, The VEAC are calling for more power for the park rangers so that they can fine us or confiscate equipment in any areas of the gold fields for

any misdemeanour.

Fifthly, the report also calls for a detailed study of our impact in areas that we have frequented over many years in the golden triangle, which may result in us losing some good ground. (remember the Box - Ironbark investigation report allowing us into certain areas at "management discretion"). It looks like the penny may drop on that one.

The VEAC enquiry received 950 submissions, 655 of which were against us, so you can see how well oiled the green groups are in opposing any move we make to advance our course, especially the VNPA (Victorian National Parks Association) who are adamant that we are kicked out of all parks. If we take no action on this issue it could mean a downward spiral for prospecting in Victoria. For the VEAC to call for sanctions outside their terms of reference which was an 'investigation to increase the number of parks under the National Parks Act 1975 where prospecting may be permitted' must surely be illegal. For all the gory details of the VEAC report see http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/documents/VEAC%20Prospecting%20Report_int.pdf

Now what can we do about this shemozzle? We must first of all, go and see your local house of representative member and tell him/her how concerned you are at the possible loss of our liberties and how important our hobby is to us, and that the VEAC report is stacked with misinformation and the green influence. It doesn't matter if he/she is in opposition, as he/she may be in government when the vote will be given. At least send a strong letter of protest to him/her and to your upper house reps. as well.

Your next newsletter will probably see a blank space on this page, as Bev and I will be going to Central Australia in June for a few weeks, so I hope you all will be good little Seekers while I'm away and don't be too hard on Barry.

Until next time, good health. ERIC



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

General Meetings

GUEST SPEAKERS

Previous Meetings Guest Speakers:

MARCH - Bees & Honey - Carole & David Scholes

The presentation at our February meeting was interesting, informative and professionally presented. Who would have thought that the production of honey could have been so interesting. The roles of the queen bee, drones and worker bees was complex and fascinating. The information on royal jelly, navigation system and disease being but a few of the interesting subjects covered. Thank you to Carole and David in broadening our knowledge on the production of liquid gold. Keep in mind that they always have produce in their car for members.

APRIL- Russ Connors - At the tender age of 18 years Russ was appointed as a Patrol Officer in New Guinea. He related some of the interesting and occasionally dangerous times of his experience there covering the diseases, driving accidents, the terrain and climate, and dealing with the local population. He also revealed some of the culture and attitudes of the native people and told some extraordinary tales.

Upcoming Speakers:

MAY - Robyn Vella - Tourism manager for Loddon Shire (Bridgewater, Tarnagulla, Wedderburn). Tourism & Gold history in the Shire and their recently introduced prospecting tours.

JUNE - Eureka Documentary film compliments Ian Semmens

Find of the Month

March:
Ring with Kruger
Rand Gold Coin
Thomas M.



Find of the Month

April:
Rings
Ted Cox



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 new 9:00 pm cut off time

We encourage you to consider charging batteries with a solar panel.

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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!

March Camp Report

Wedderburn

By Robert S.

Photos By Geoff L & Ian S.

The Wedderburn camp is usually a warm one, just like last year it got up into the mid 30's however that didn't prevent a good turn out by dedicated members. With the Wedderburn Jamboree held on the same weekend, it also helped boost numbers to the Vic Seekers Bocca Flat campsite. There was plenty of activities going on locally which kept most of us busy, from the annual Wedderburn garage sale with most of the town putting up stalls with various items for sale, to the treasure hunt up on Hard Hills in search for those elusive tokens (and gold mind you, with reports of up to 8 grams found in total). There were plenty of gold panning and detecting demonstrations to teach anyone new who wanted to experience the thrill, from the littlies to the grownups .

A young chap from camp (No, it wasn't me, I'm now the second youngest chap thanks Anthony!) decided he wanted to visit China. In doing so, he fetched a bucket and shovel from his car and proceeded down the hill into a gully with gold workings in it. Just like how they did in the 1850's, he dug a large shaft by hand down a good 6-8 feet trying to hit the Welcome Stranger II without any luck. Though I believe he located some colour for his hard work and well deserved at that! I took three days to dig it



Anthony hard at it.

and one day to back fill it. You have to admire his enthusiasm.

Along with plenty of smaller nuggets recovered by most, few members had some nice finds including Herman, Ron and myself. Largest nugget was reported to be an 8 gram piece with a few 6 and 5 grammer's. One afternoon I stumbled across Eric in Queens's gully busy chiselling away on a rock! Was he building his own pyramid for when he passes away, or has he a gateway to the gold god's? Unfortunately not. His detector was giving off some nice sounds over a piece of Conglomerate. He al-



Old Battery still in use at the Christmas Reef mine.

ready managed to crack open one piece with glittering gold inside, now to try his luck with the second target which was only a piece of the dozer blade coating one of the stones. Better luck next time Eric!

Nights at the camp were never a dull moment. Ron was enjoying a good drop (or several) and sharing jokes around a cozzie warm camp fire with thanks to Herman who supplied an LED light with red cellophane located in between the logs for when the temperature cooled down. Plenty had to move their chairs further back as the heat from this woodless "fire" got strong at times. The raffle was held on the Sunday night this time, awaiting Peter's return from his duties representing the PMAV at the jamboree. You can't keep a good man down, hey Pete!

All in all, it was another successful camp and I'm already looking forward to the next one at Fryerstown. Hope to see you all there!

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More Wedderburn Photos



Our light "camp fire".



A few kangaroos were near the camp most mornings.

April Camp Report

Fryerstown

by Rob Shannon

Photos by Geoff L. & Ian S.

Camp started early for me on a crisp Monday afternoon when I drove into the Chokem Flat camp ground with plenty of space to choose from. With four other keen campers present on the 'German Hill', I wasn't alone to say the least, which was comforting. Each day as I returned back from a long day's work of detecting, I was greeted by more vans each time. The camp slowly grew in attendance until Friday, when it almost resembled the Caulfield Caravan Expo! It wasn't the best start for one unfortunate member who locked his keys in the vehicle, however a quick phone call to the RACV helped saved the day. The weather gods were kind to us for the Easter Camp, most days were sunny which was welcome especially for those who were detecting on top of the local exposed hills. We all know how windy and cold it can be up there, which comes to mind, it almost felt like the old Waverley Park back in the 90's. Chilly nights were a sign when you looked up to see an impressive display of stars. Hot water bottles and extra thick blankets were put into overdrive with reports that one night's minimum dropped well below zero.



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Events started off with the egg and detector race on Saturday which involved balancing an egg on your detector's coil and completing a lap around camp with some members treating it like a Bathurst race, with Immy scrambling over the finish line in first position. And in the women's division Sue Hodges swiftly pinched the lead for first place under the chequered flag. Sue Hodges won and Lydia was second but since Sue donated the prize, Francine gave it to Lydia. Later that day the action didn't stop with 25 members attending the 'Chewton Old Time Dance' with the old wooden floor boards coming into life once again from the shuffling of feet and music filling the air. Ian Grummett the 'golden child' (well technically not a kid) and I call him that on grounds that after 20 years he found his very first nugget, and not only that, he won the door prize that night as well ... mind you the prize was another nugget! Congratulations Ian.

Couple things I would like to raise is firstly, the auction of

the bed spread which was masterfully hand knitted and took 2 years to complete went under the hammer at the club auction and was sold for \$100 with proceeds going to the Red Cross. Thank you to all those who made bids. And secondly another big thank you to those who contributed in raising \$150 (including \$50 from the club) for the Children's Hospital Appeal.



Our new bunny Nola P. and her helper Virginia.

Sunday morning began with everyone celebrating Easter with smiles all around and bellies slowly digesting chocolate after a visit from the Easter bunny. Over hearing one member saying "All this chocolate will give me enough energy to detect until supper time" I took this into action myself which worked! Or maybe it was my excuse to have another chocolate egg or three. If a photo is worth a thousand words, the fancy dress and bonnet display tells you all. For the Easter bonnet completion there were some very good bonnets but the startling, colourful and size of the "egg heads" of Carole and David took first prize. In the fancy dress held shortly afterwards, some had gone through a lot of trouble to impress with costumes from Pirates to Beverley Hillbilly's, even a very close resemblance of Colonel Sanders paid a visit from KFC! The winner voted in First came from Jim and Marilyn, and I have to say you're looking mighty fine in that skirt Jimmy! Egon & Lydia were second followed by a close third with Brian, Sophie, Geoff and Nola.

The famous Vic Seekers roast dinner was served once again on the Sunday night. Under the stars on a moonlit night, the queue quickly grew in length as eager members patiently waited their turn. Lindsay was at home cooking up the meats to perfection like he was trying to impress the judges on My Kitchen Rules. Two large camp fires were at full ablaze with welcome heat dispersed around the circle whilst everyone settled down enjoying their meal and desert.

Monday morning started off with 'Stake Your Claim' on a flat just over the creek not far from camp. Under a fantastic blue sky with the sun happily shining through, everyone was busy staking small parcels of earth in which they believe will help them strike it lucky. And lucky enough it did for Lars winning first prize, followed by Murray and Robyn for second and Val for third.

Some started to pack up in morning and headed back home but most stayed on. One member who shall remain nameless (Oh alright, it was Bob) packed up their camp site and was ready to leave when he informed Eric that someone from camp had pinched his one of the side towing mirrors. Eric was quick to take action arranging the police to visit camp for a full investigation. On arrival they spotted me and Mariusz being the younger ones quickly

came to conclusion we were both involved. Bob you owe Eric \$300 for bailing us both out! Jokes aside, where did the side mirrors end up? Well when Virginia was cleaning her van later that day, she found it under the bed!

Over 90 members attended the weekend with around 50 vans. It was getting tight at the end with everyone trying to make use of any spots available. Gold finds were mostly small with hundreds of smaller nuggets found in and around mullock heaps and surfacing from various locations. I was lucky enough to find two beauties 10 and 15 grams respectively along with 51 smaller pieces and a hand full of specimens. Excluding the specimens, I ended up with 33 grams which is the best I have ever done.

I would like to personally thank on behalf of the club, a big thank you to everyone who helped donated money for the appeal, prizes for the raffle, helped with the set up of marquee, provided deserts and side dishes for Sunday nights roast, Ian for helping out with lighting and movie night setup, Lindsay for cooking a delicious dinner, Eric who stayed back most days helping out with events, and to everyone who attended and making it another memorable Easter camp. I look back and I'm happy to say I'm

involved with a great organization, well done!



Jimmy Cole and Marilyn dressed up for the fancy dress And took out first place.

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More Fryerstown Photos



Camp scene around the campfire and marquee



Easter Bonnet entrants.



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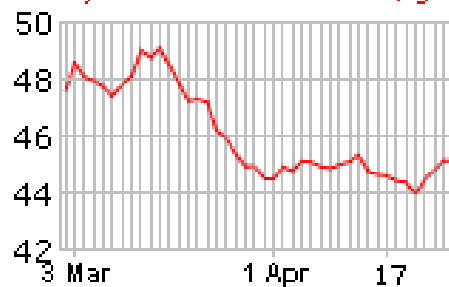


Jimmy Cole and Marilyn entertaining the campers.

Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Price as at 29/04/2014

New Members

- Ivan Albrecht & Susan Moore
- David & Susan Gothard
- Matt Kelava



Welcome and Good Luck!

Code Red Fire Days Notice

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



During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and Forests. Camp may also be cancelled during other periods of severe weather.

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How to use jumper cables

Sooner or later it happens to all drivers, a dead battery. It could have been you left your lights on or the battery just failed, but now the only thing to do is to start your car with jumper cables to get it going. Assuming you have them, or can flag down someone who does, do you know how to use them? (You should always keep them in your vehicle). It can be dangerous both to you or your car if they are not used properly. What you are doing when you connect jumper cables is to temporarily borrow electrical power from a good battery—normally in a donor vehicle, to get your engine started and then hopefully the running engine can generate power to recharge your battery to the point where it can restart the engine.



To begin with you need a pair of good jumper cables. A good pair will be of sufficient capacity to carry the amperage to operate the starter. The usually is in the range of 100-250 amps, though this is normally for a short period. A good jumper cables can have a conductor size of 4, 6 or 8 AWG. The metric equivalent Cross Sectional Area is 20, 13, or 8 mm². Avoid jumper/booster cables with higher gauge (AWG) numbers (thinner wire). These CAN work but are not recommended. See Q & A below. The clamps must be in good condition and have enough force to clamp onto the battery terminals securely.

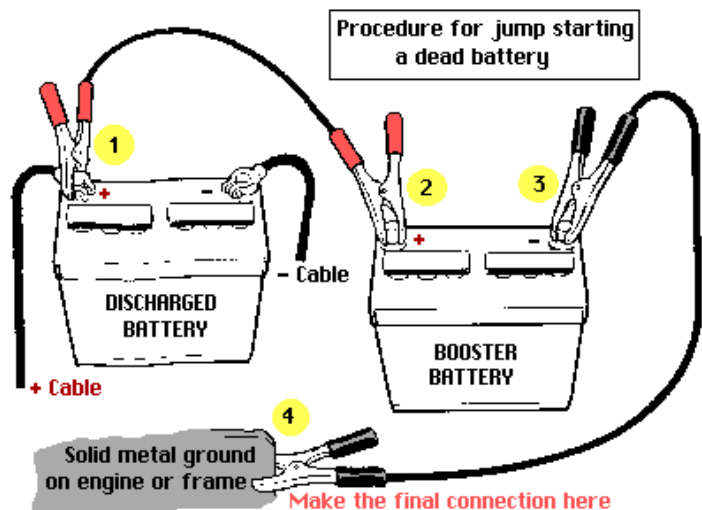
The basics are quite simple if you take a minute to look under your hood now and not have to find things when it is dark and rainy outside. Open the hood and locate your car's battery. The battery for most cars and trucks is visible and easily found. A fairly large black box with 2 large cables attaching to either the top or the side. The battery has 2 posts that the car's cables attach to. The positive is the largest of the two. Many times it has a red cover but not always. The negative is smaller and may not have a cover at all. Some late model cars have the battery located out of sight but provide a positive post for jump starting when needed; it will have a red cover over it and

most likely will be labeled for jump starting.

The jumper cable clamps are most times coloured black and red. It is common practice when jump starting the car to match the colour of the jumper cable clamp to the colour of the battery terminal. Consider the black cable to be the ground, or negative, and the red cable to be the positive.

The procedure to connect the cable clamps is a sequence that matches the polarity and is safe for the person making the connections. Batteries produce an explosive gas called hydrogen and if sparks are made close by an explosion can occur spraying battery acid in the eyes of the people close by. I have been present when a person tightening up the positive terminal with a spanner accidentally touched the bodywork with it which shorted out the battery, creating a spark, which ignited the hydrogen and it went off with a very loud bang, spraying acid into the person's face.

The first thing is to bring the vehicle with the good battery close enough that the jumper cables will reach. Open the hoods of both vehicles and locate the batteries and which terminals are which, look for a plus sign on the battery case (+), this is where you connect the red positive jumper cable. The negative battery terminal will have a minus sign (-). Keep the engine running on the vehicle that is providing the jump start to reduce the load on the battery.



Lay out the cables on the ground stretching from one vehicle to the other. While connecting cables, make sure the unconnected clamps do not touch each other, any moving part like the fan blade or a bare metal part. You are going to match the colours, red to red, black to black.

The first connections are the red clamps on each end of the cable to the positive terminal each vehicle's battery. This first cable connection is safe to do as no sparks will occur. Make sure the clamps are tightly on each terminal; give them a little wiggle when connected to make sure they don't fall off.

Now the second cable connection. This is the important one and must be done in this sequence only.

Make the first connection of the black cable to the negative terminal of the good battery while holding the other black cable clamp in your other hand. The other end of the cable must go to a heavy metal bracket or part of the engine block away from the battery and any moving parts. This is important so as to not create a spark near the battery. However if this is difficult it is possible to connect to the negative battery terminal. You may get a small spark when making the last connection as power travels from the good battery to the car with the dead battery, that's OK. If you have left your lights on the headlights may go on now, if so turn them off. If the jumper cables are of good quality and the battery in the boosting vehicle is sufficient for your car, you can turn the key and start your car immediately. If the battery is dead flat you may wish to let it run for a minute or two to put some small charge back into the battery before starting the engine.

When the engine is running steady you may remove the jumper cable in reverse order, the clamp you put on the metal bracket first, then the other end of the black cable. Then remove the red cable.

If the engine does not crank over and start as usual, but cranks over slowly or clicks, the cable clamp connections may not be good; wiggle them. If that doesn't do it, then you must leave the cables connected and allow the running booster vehicle to charge your battery. If your battery is in good shape this may only take 5-10 minutes before you can try again. Even with very cheap jumper cables, if you leave them connected long enough you should be able to charge the battery sufficiently to start the engine.

Problems

If you get a large flash when you make the last connection you probably have the polarity wrong and you need to recheck the battery connections.

If you cannot get past a clicking but the engine won't turn over, one of the vehicles may have loose battery cables and is not transmitting the current to the car's system. You should not be able to twist the cable connections by hand; if so tighten them. With the jumper cables connected temporarily turn on the headlights of the vehicle with the dead battery to see if they light up as usual. If you have good connections the headlights should be bright; if not recheck the connections for tight.

If you remove the cables and the car you just jump started stalls soon after, you likely have a charging problem, that will be why the battery went dead to begin with.

If after doing all of the above and the engine will not crank over you may have serious electrical problems or a bad starter.

Common questions

Q) What colour cable to connect first?

A) Red cable first.

Q) How long to leave the cables connected after the car is started?

A) You can remove them immediately or you can leave the cables on as long as you need to be sure it is running steady and not going to stall, you won't damage anything.

Q) How long do you leave the cables connected before you can start the car?

A) If the cables are of good quality you can start the car immediately.

Q) Why does it spark when I connect the jumper cable?

A) You should only get a small spark, that is because the good battery you connected is actually charging, or putting electricity into the dead battery. If you get a large flash you have connected the cable incorrectly and need to recheck your connections.

Q) How long will it take for the dead battery to recharge after it has been jump started?

A) If the battery and the charging system is in good working order you should be able to restart the engine after 30 minutes of running.

Q) Can I leave the jumper cables on to charge the battery?

A) Yes you can.

Q) The jumper cables get very hot or smoke when I try to start the car with the dead battery?

A) 2 Possibilities here.

- 1) If it smokes when you try to start the car with the dead battery, your jumper cables are too small a gauge (wire thickness) and cannot handle the current. Heavier gauge cables is recommended, but you can still jump start the car if you start the car providing the jump and let it run for several minutes to charge the battery of the dead car.
- 2) If the cables start to smoke as soon as you connect them, the cables are attached wrong. Remove them immediately and recheck the connections.

Q) Can I jump start a car with just a battery sitting on the ground?

A) Yes you can, just connect the cables to the battery like it was installed in a car.

More Fryerstown Photos



Ian Grummett showing the first nugget found in 20 years of detecting.



Close up of the Ian's nugget.



New member Matt detecting



Peter S. Finding a tiny nugget.



Rob S. great haul of over 30 grams of gold.



Warren detecting.
The grass is always greener (and the gold bigger) on the other side of the fence.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Restrictions to prospecting announced in VEAC Report.



The use of all sluices to be banned in Parks.

As noted in the Presidents report, the fight to continue sluicing in the rivers is beginning (and maybe panning in the future) with the announcement in the VEAC report that prospecting will be restricted to metal detectors and gold pans only and no sluicing, (manual or motorised), not only in these parks but all national and state parks where we currently have access. This includes the small two tier sluices and even the small river sluices.

Now you may think that this does not concern you, but there are a small group of members, around 10, that do have and use sluices in the club and they need your support and also do you think that they will stop at just sluices? What will be next? Panning? And then maybe detecting?

It is vital that we let the local politicians know how we feel about this reduction in our rights to prospect.

Write or email to your local member to tell them that we demand the retention of our prospecting rights. It does not matter if they are in government or opposition.

As we come up to a state election this may be a good chance to get some attention from them.

To contact your local member, follow the link given here. Type in your suburb or postcode and do a search for your representative.

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/members>

Fossicking in the Northern Territory

In stark contrast to the Victorian Government's position on prospecting, the Northern Territory position is one of encouraging prospectors to its lands because it recognises the value that prospectors bring to it. The Vic Seeker's Club have received the following publication from the NT Dept. Of Minerals and Energy.



Renowned for its abundance, quality and variety of gems and minerals, Australia's Northern Territory is a vast land of hidden treasures just waiting to be discovered!

Whether you are on your own, with friends or family, fossicking is a unique and fun way to see and explore some of the most scenic outback landscapes the Northern Territory has to offer.

Fossickers have unearthed an array of gems and minerals across the Territory, including agate, amethyst, apatite, epidote, beryl, garnet, gold, jasper, magnetite, mica, microcline, pyrite, quartz, ribbonstone, tourmaline and zircon.

A number of dedicated fossicking areas are located throughout the Territory to encourage more people to seek out these hidden treasures.

From the beauty of the Red Centre through to the "Golden Heart" of the Territory, Tennant Creek and beyond to Pine Creek in the Top End, why not join the growing number of people who have discovered how addictive fossicking can be!

Before you embark on your next fossicking adventure in the Northern Territory please take the time to read through the information, including factsheets and useful links to other information of interest, provided for you on this website. <http://www.nt.gov.au/d/fossicking/index.cfm>

By familiarising yourself with the relevant requirements you will ensure that your experience is a happy and enjoyable one!

May Outing: Talbot

This Map is available to Members only.

June Outing: Heathcote

This Map is available to Members only.

THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. Dogs must be on leash and under constant supervision.

No unattended fires.

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

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.



***Vic Seekers
are now on***

Vic Seekers
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12

THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. No Dogs allowed at this camp. No unattended fires. FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.



Coiltek Goldstalker mono coil 18"x12"
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GPX battery harness (new) \$20

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97802688 0418 831 605

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