

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 35 issue 5

September/October 2014



7 oz. Nugget

Found near Tarnagulla



**Tony P. finds
his first nugget -
a 21 gram!**



WA nugget

Inside This Issue

Harvest Home Camp Report

Homebush Camp Report

Navarre Camp Report

**Treasure Detecting in Adelaide
and England**

Earthquakes turn water into gold



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 from the 1st of July each year.

The VSC Inc. Constitution states:-

Clause 6. (3) 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: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>

email: xxx@xxx.xxx

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

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Geoff LEE.

Events Calendar

September

Wed. 3rd: AGM & General Meeting.

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

October

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Fri. 3rd - Mon. 6th: Camp Tarnagulla - Note the earlier dates than usual.

Sun. 5th: Tarnagulla Detector Key Hunt

Fri. 10-Sun 12th: Laanacoorie Gold Bash

Sat.18th-Sun.19th: Ararat Gold Dig

Sat.18th-Sun.19th: 47th Lapidary Show - NDLC

Sun 19th: VSC Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne

Sun. 26th. PMAV AGM Chiltern

November

Fri. 31st Oct - Tues. 4th Nov: Camp Moliagul
Melbourne Cup weekend

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

December

Wed. 3rd: General Meeting.

Fri. 26th Dec. - Thur. 1st Jan: Camp Moonambel

January

No General Meeting.

Fri. 24th - Mon.27th: Camp TBA

The editor welcomes articles, photos, comments or detecting stories to publish in the newsletter.
It's your newsletter, so have your say!

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 2, 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

Hello, I'm back again. Thanks to Barry for filling in for me while Bev and I tripped around central Aust. Although somewhat rushed, covering 9,000km in 5 weeks, it was a wonderful experience to visit some of Australia's best tourist destinations. Coming back to this cold weather wasn't so good though.

While away I missed an interesting talk by Ambulance Victoria on basic first aid, which is a subject we cannot place enough emphasis on, especially considering the increasing age of our members. It was suggested that we may consider the purchase of a defibrillator for club purposes at outings. The committee discussed its merits and decided it would have little practical use because of the nature of our hobby with members usually dispersed over quite some distance from camps. If someone collapsed in the bush it would have to be immediately available and used by someone trained in its use. At a cost of \$2,500 and a lifespan of only 5 years, it is something we may look at in the future if the economics of its operation become more affordable. Meanwhile members should be familiar with the fundamentals of CPR so as immediate assistance can be given.

A big thankyou to John F and Tom T for organising a special 6 day outing to Navarre where we camped on a large sheep station and were led out to many areas we were not familiar with (see Francine's report). Although gold was thin on the ground, the trip gave us some good ideas for future trips in the area. Those who missed out on this camp will have a chance to go to the areas we went and others when we organise a trip up there soon, maybe Xmas.

Our next meeting is our AGM and you know what that means, Yes, it's nomination time! Our present committee has members who want a break after many years of loyal service and we now need others to step up. No experience necessary, as training comes with the position. Being on the committee will give members a chance to implement new ideas and be more proactive in the club, also to taste Tina's great scones and Ted's curried egg sandwiches after the meetings. To those stepping down, a sincere thank you for helping to guide the VSC into being the successful club we are today.

Good luck and health to all
ERIC

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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!



General Meetings

Previous Meetings Guest Speakers

JULY

Ian Dale from Ambulance Victoria gave vital information for us all:- **HEART ATTACK** Warning Signs: Pain, Pressure, Heaviness, Tightness in one or more of your chest, neck, jaw, arms, back or shoulders. You may also feel nauseous, dizzy, a cold sweat or short of breath. Stop and Rest. Talk, tell someone how you feel. Are your symptoms getting worse or have lasted longer than 10 minutes, call 000. How do you know if someone is having a Stroke? Face - Has their mouth drooped? Arms - Can they lift both arms? Speech - Is their speech slurred? Do they understand you? Time- Time is critical. If you see any of these signs call 000 immediately.

CPR D-Check for dangers.R-Check for response. S-Send for help, call 000. A-Airways. Open the mouth and clear. B-Breathing. Check if breathing normally. Tilt head back and lift chin, Look, Listen and feel for normal breathing. C-CPR. 30 compressions followed by 2 breaths. D-If available attach a defibrillator.



Dale explaining the CPR procedure assisted by Francine

The above is a summary only. Thanks to Ian Dale for his excellent presentation and demonstration with his dummy and defibrillator. We are all grateful. The Club also appre-



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.

ciates the instructional CPR pillow cases and the DVD,s available to members to view.

AUGUST

We enjoyed the presentation by Jennifer Lue, a Chiropractor, who was able to reinforce the importance of living a healthy lifestyle to assist us overcome disorders which can obstruct proper nerve functions. We learnt that our brain controls every part of our body by sending signals through our nerves. If a clear and positive signal is sent down the spine then the body will react better and faster resulting in a very much improved health result. We can practice passive exercises in breathing and improve our posture and assist our resistance to nerve damage. Pilates can also assist. Jennifer also offered our members a free spinal check. The things to look for when referring for a spinal check are: Poor Posture or Poor Balance. General Health and Wellbeing, Arthritis, Muscle Asymmetry/Weakness/Strains/Tears, Surgery or Old Injuries and High Stress Levels. Thanks to Jennifer for an informative and educational presentation.

Upcoming Speakers.

September - Our AGM and elections. No guest speakers. The Vice-President's position is vacant - Nominate and obtain even more pleasure from you club.

October - Gary Shaefer from Minelab - Chicago, will address us on all things Minelab. This is a "must hear and see" meeting.



Vic Seekers

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Find of the Month: July

Ralph D.
13.2g. nugget



Other Finds July

Ted C.
Rings



Find of the Month: August

Tony P.
21g. nugget



Other Finds August

Paul H.
Rings



New Members

- Graydon Allen
- Mark Shaffery
- Peter Koulouris



Welcome and Good Luck!

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Disclaimer:

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

Out 'n' About in Tarnagulla

Detector Key Hunt

Sunday 5th October 2014.

The Southern Loddon Development and Tourism Committee are conducting a Detector Key Hunt on Sunday 6th October in Tarnagulla as part of the Naturally Loddon a wonderland in spring festival. The Major sponsor of this event is the Inglewood and Districts Community Bendigo Bank.



The major prize is an X-terra 705 Dual Pack.

The cost to enter this event is **\$10.00** per person. Registration commence at 9am at the new Tarnagulla Community Centre, 9 Sandy Lane, Tarnagulla. All registered participants will be taken to the site at 10.25am for a 10.30am start. The time frame for this event is 10.30am to 2.30pm.

All Participants must be registered and are restricted to an 11 inch coil or equivalent.

Other activities on the day -

FREE DRAW TO WIN A GOLD NUGGET!

Historic walk, photographers, wildflower walk, stalls and Scarecrow competition.

To register interest in attending this event telephone the Loddon Visitor Information Centre (03)54943489 or email loddonvisitorinformation@loddon.vic.gov.au

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July Camp Report

Harvest Home

By Ken Whitaker

On arrival at camp on the Wednesday armed with our Research Officers comprehensive Dunolly Goldfields information sheet, I was then surprised over the next couple of days as to how many keen members turned out in the cold weather.

I didn't actually count but I think there was about 15/18 camps and about 30 people around the raffle Christmas in July Campfire. The Club tent was festooned with colour, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Francine & François Le-Claus, and the "Out of Season" celebrations were supported by many red peaked hats and some red noses.

As it happened, for the Saturday evening we were sharing the local dirt tracks with a Night time bush car rally. I think many of the rev. heads and motor-ing sports enthusiasts in our group were anticipating a "Burn-out Spectacular", and at 8pm we lined the bunting in anticipation. I don't know about the others but I was a little disappointed with the lack of spin-outs and crashes, so I returned to my glass at the fire. Nevertheless it was a great example of sharing our bush.



To those people that tend to paint themselves with a mixture of blue and yellow, please also take note.

Welcome to a new member Mark, who would have to have been impressed to see a longer standing member, Mr. T. find his first nugget, a nice 21 grammer. Young Rob S continued to demonstrate his skills by unearthing as well a cuppla chunky yellow bits.

Apart from the usually



Tony's first nugget detected - a 21 grammer!.

present good fellowship member "**Mr. Camaraderie**", who always turns up at the campfire with some salty biscuits or a cheese platter, or in Graham M case, a large plate of hot party pies, there is not a lot else to mention, so I'll close this report of another relaxing, quiet, well conducted and successful camp. (Notwithstanding the cars as they were only noisy for a few minutes on 2 occasions)



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The exact location of the fable "Lost Gold Reef" became more unclear as the evening wore on.



August Camp Report

Homebush

By Eric Grummett

Ron was the early bird on Tuesday who expertly erected the 5 signs required to find the camp. Due to undergrowth starting to take over the original site, it was decided to relocate to a better spot at the corner of Camp Track and Homebush Track.

We had 24 members in attendance, which was good, considering many others were committed to the overlapping Navarre trip and also a wet weather prediction (which didn't eventuate). Unfortunately, the coinciding of the two events was unavoidable. The timing for the Navarre Camp had to work in with John F's medical treatment of an illness. John was the organiser of the Navarre Special Camp.

Gold finds were small as usual except Ken who pulled a rabbit out of his hat with a 11+ gram piece, (see photo) which shows that there is still a few good bits left. Good company around roaring fires at night made for a most enjoyable weekend.



Ken's 11.5 grammer.

Help Please

If you are at an VSC outing it and have a camera or even a mobile phone, would be great if you can take some photos, especially of the activities, so they can be included in the newsletter.

I also need members to write of their stories and personal experiences of detecting or articles on detecting techniques or equipment.

Please email to Ian Semmens at
ian@regentvideo.com.au
9879 7891

Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Price as at 24/08/2014

Club News

FIND OF THE YEAR

Those who have won the monthly *Find of the Month* from July 2013 to June 2014 are encouraged to bring their finds to the September meeting to be judged for the prestigious **Find of the Year.**

Social Outing

By Val & Tina

Theatre Night



"Fawlty Towers"

This play will be at 8:00pm on November 8th at the Athenaeum Theatre, Castella Street, Lillydale. Meet before at 6:00 pm for a meal at the Crown Hotel, Lillydale for a meal for those who wish to do so. As all available group booking tickets have been sold if you wish to go contact the theatre direct on 9735 1777. For more details call Tina 9878 9886.

Special Outing Report

Navarre

*By François & Francine G.
Photos By Eric G.*

YES!, We had a great time!

Francois and I left the Homebush Seekers camp on Sunday morning, and arrived at the meeting place to a warm welcome by a flock of sheep along the track and Tom, John, James, Mick and Bob were already sitting around a huge camp fire. At 4 pm, after all the other guests had arrived, (there were a 14 members on this camp plus Tom), we had our first meeting with John who gave us the program for the week. This was followed by a Spaghetti Bolognese dinner around the camp fire (prepared by Tom and Alex) and it was DELICIOUS. We then watched the magnificent night sky where the full moon was starting its special show... Every morning we left camp by 8-8.30am in a convoy to places far and wide with John, Tom, Lindsay, Alex, Peter, Bob, Eric, Ted, F and F, Mick, James, Louise and Bryan. Barry was by himself, missing his darling Amelia who was home in bed with back problems. We took some unusual and scary tracks, where James proved his driving excellence in his 2WD van. Everywhere we went all the country was a golden colour with the wattles in full bloom.

We had beautiful weather all the week, even though some mornings were down to minus 5 degrees. Wednesday night we experienced a great pub meal down the road at Landsborough, during which Louise told us the story about a Tortoise trying to get back on its feet, referring to her experience that day when she had to be rescued when she fell backwards from her perch while having a wee and not being able to get up. The laughter would have been heard all over town.

The camp fires were more like Guy Fawkes nights, with huge 5 meter logs brought in each night by Tom using the farmer's 200hp tractor. Talk about being cosy. Gold-wise, the pickings were small, and some places appeared to be barren, however most of us did manage a few bits.

On the last night there was a sausage sizzle supplied by John and superbly cooked by our resident chef Alex. John then handed out awards for the worst prospector and the biggest B.S.artist (to protect the guilty, no names supplied).

The week's camp on this huge sheep station (3,000 acres) was thoroughly enjoyed by all and so we would all like to give a big MANY THANKS to John and Tom for organising this special event..



Prospectors around an old Chinese cremation pit.



Now that's a real campfire.



Lunchtime around the campfire.



Frosty mornings greeted the prospectors.

Gold Finds

7 ounce nugget found near Tarnagulla



There are very few details of this find but it was very recent, maybe within the last two weeks, it is 7 ounces and it was actually found somewhere in the Tarnagulla area, though it was reported as found at Dunolly.



The Laanecoorie Gold Bash 2014

This event has now been running for 3 years. It started in May 2011 with a few hobby prospectors from a Gold Prospecting Forum getting together at the Laanecoorie Caravan Park with the intention of sharing their enjoyment of prospecting, to pass on their knowledge and to help newcomers into this great hobby of ours. At the same time they were responsible for organizing sponsors in the trade to donate a few items so they could raffle them off with the proceeds going to charity.

"The Laanecoorie Gold Bash" is on again this year. It will be held on the 10th, 11th, & 12th October at the Laanecoorie Lake Side Caravan Park. The organizers expect this year will be even bigger and better than last year with all the proceeds again going to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Research Foundation.

Some of the activities over the weekend will include:- Nibbles, drinks (BYO) and general get together at the "Welcome to the Gold Bash" on Friday night. Detector course and training days for both new and old hands conducted by professional trainers throughout the weekend. Static displays by sponsors and some will be there to answer questions. Lectures and guest speakers. Gold panning demonstrations. Car boot sales of prospecting related items. There will be a Fund Raising Raffle on the Saturday night, and the Sunday afternoon Auction done by a professional Auctioneer. There will also be a special free raffle for financial members of the PMAV or NAPFA who attend over the weekend. But you must be there on the day of the raffle (Sunday). Saturday night dinner put on by the Laanecoorie Caravan Park is a great hit for only \$13.00 per head.

Of course, it is also an opportunity to detect some of Laanecoorie great goldfields. But most of all it is a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Laanecoorie is only 30km. from Maryborough and 40km from Bendigo Victoria all on sealed roads.

If you are planning to stay at the Park over the weekend, bookings are essential.

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A Minelab metal detector with a coil and a control unit, along with some accessories like a bag and a small container.

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Treasure Finds (1)

Pensioner uncovers hoard of gold with metal detector

• by: *Correspondents in London* From: *AFP*



TREASURE TROVE: Some of the items found by Mr Herbert. Picture/ AP

IT'S the kind of discovery metal detector enthusiasts only dream of - a treasure trove of buried gold and silver. But that's exactly what amateur metal detector Terry Herbert unearthed while exploring a friend's farm in Staffordshire, England.

Herbert stumbled across the hoard of 1500 pieces of gold and silver, believed to date back to the 7th century, while scouring a field in July. His find was kept secret until today to allow experts to examine each piece and hold a coronial inquiry, which officially classified the hoard as treasure. Included among the 5kg of gold and 2.5kg of silver were coins, Christian crosses and precious metal stones used as decorations on various weapons and helmets.

Experts from the British Museum have described the find as the largest haul of Anglo-Saxon gold ever discovered in the UK. "I have this phrase that I say sometimes: 'spirits of yesteryear take me where the coins appear'. But on that day I changed coins to

gold," Herbert, 55, said.

"I don't know why I said it that day, but I think somebody was listening and directed me to it. "This is what metal detectorists dream of, finding stuff like this. "But the vast amount there is, it's just unbelievable."

Herbert, whose main income is a disability benefit, stands to share in a reward of at least £1 million (\$1.88 million) for his role in unearthing the treasure.

Leslie Webster, the former keeper of the British Museum's prehistory department who led the team of experts which examined the find, described the hoard as "absolutely the equivalent of finding a new Lindisfarne Gospels or Book of Kells". "This is going to alter our perceptions of Anglo-Saxon England as radically, if not more so, as the Sutton Hoo discoveries," she said.

Kevin Leahy, an expert on Anglo Saxon metal who helped catalogue the find, was impressed by the craftsmanship that went into each item. "There is absolutely nothing feminine," he told The Guardian newspaper. "There are no dress fittings, brooches or pendants. "These are the gold objects most commonly found from the Anglo-Saxon era. "The vast majority of items in the hoard are martial - war gear, especially sword fittings."

Experts believe it could take up to a year to value the treasure. The collection is under lock and key at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, which will display some of the items from mid October.

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Treasure Finds (2)

Mark Williams uses metal detector to find coins worth \$18,000 in Adelaide's parks

From the Adelaide News



Mark Williams tests a Minelab metal detector along the Torrens. Picture: Mark Brake Source: News Limited

IT'S the hobby with a magnetic pull that is lucrative, historically fascinating and when done right, even a form of public service.

And according to metal detecting enthusiast Mark Williams, the stigma of being "scavengers" is slowly fading as appreciation for historical finds grows in the online world.

Mr Williams is among the detectors often found

Ararat Gold Dig

18th & 19th October
Greenacres Road, Moyston



MAJOR PRIZE:

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There will be three sessions, held across the weekend, starting Saturday morning.

Presentations will be at 1:30pm Sunday.

For more information:

Murray Woods 5352 1683, 0418 671 095

Hosted by the Ararat Y's Mens Club in conjunction with the Golden Gateway Festival.

"hunting" in the Adelaide parklands and along the Torrens.

He has uncovered \$18,000 worth of current and historic coins and other artifacts in the past year alone, including \$1,800 in just a few days after a major music festival in Bonython Park.

The Mad March festival season and other major events are the best times, he says.

"You'll find the morning after the Clipsal 500 there are detectors everywhere," he says.

But Mr Williams, who tests new detectors for producer Minelab, insists it's not about the money, but the hunt, the history and the good that's done along the way.

That includes clearing parks of rubbish, syringes, knives, and even the odd bullet, he says.

Detectors are often called upon to help people find lost jewelry and phones in parks and on beaches, and Mr Williams says he always takes his own jewelry finds to the police unless they are buried deep and clearly historical pieces from decades or centuries past.

"I've also been asked to find where pipes run under schools and things like that."

The 49 year old, who runs a security door and blinds business, says he gets the biggest rush from the historical treasures he digs up, researches, and posts about on his blogs.

Around the city he has found 19th century traders' tokens from early Adelaide, Victorian and Tasmanian businesses - leather and ointment makers and ironmongers - that were both advertisements and legal tender worth a penny.

"We find a lot of cricket buckles with bats and balls and players' faces on them," he says.

"The one thing I love most about detecting is history and I've learnt so much about South Australian history."

Other finds were a cross belt plate from a Napoleonic-era uniform, an infantry button from the early Royal South Australian Volunteer Militia, an 1811 half-crown, pennies dated as early as 1803 and an 1856 gold sovereign.

None of that would have happened if a mate hadn't won a metal detector in a raffle when they were in their 20s.

"He didn't want it so I bought it from him for \$25," Mr Williams says.

"I had a bad back and getting out and walking helped."

Now his father George, 84, has become an enthusiast too and they go hunting together.

They even record "live digs" on YouTube.

Follow Mr Williams' finds at

coinrelicdownunder.wordpress.com

Thieves hit the Golden Gateway Festival Gold Dig site

July 10, 2014

From the Ararat Advertiser



Murray Woods and Charlie Powell inspect some of the holes dug by thieves intent on looting the Gold Dig site.

The Golden Gateway Festival Gold Dig site at Ararat has been destroyed by unknown gold detectors, who have stolen hundreds of dollars of gold coins and gold pieces.

Organiser of the Gold Dig, Murray Woods, is angry and disappointed, and said that the actions of the gold detector will disappoint many children who take part in the event each October.

Each year gold coins and gold pieces are 'planted' to enable participants in the Gold Dig to fossick using metal detectors, with the event, now in its 11th year, attracting dozens each year.

"We never worry about leaving the coins there from the year before, because it means that if we are flat out at the time of the Festival there will still be plenty of coins there for the kids," Mr Woods said. Mr Woods believes the theft occurred around three to four weeks ago with the offenders leaving the site decimated with holes.

"I couldn't believe it when I saw it, I don't mind if they pinch a few chairs or a table, but when it comes to things for the kids..." he said.

"The holes haven't even been covered up, but if they'd leveled it out we wouldn't have had a clue.

"It's disheartening to think that these people have taken the fun out of it for the kids.

"It's got to be someone in the know - no-one else would know where to find it.

"Now we've got to go and replant all the coins again."

Winter is back with force!



So rush out and get your warm and snuggly

VSC Polar Fleece Jacket.

A Genuine bargain at Only \$35.00.

See Robyn Ibbottson at the meetings or the camps or call on 9857 7449

AGM in September

The next club's AGM will be at the General Meeting on Wednesday 3rd September. Members are encouraged to take on a position to contribute to the club and to give the existing hardworking committee members a break. If you enjoy the club's activities then it is time to put something back into the club.

NUGGET FINDER COILS

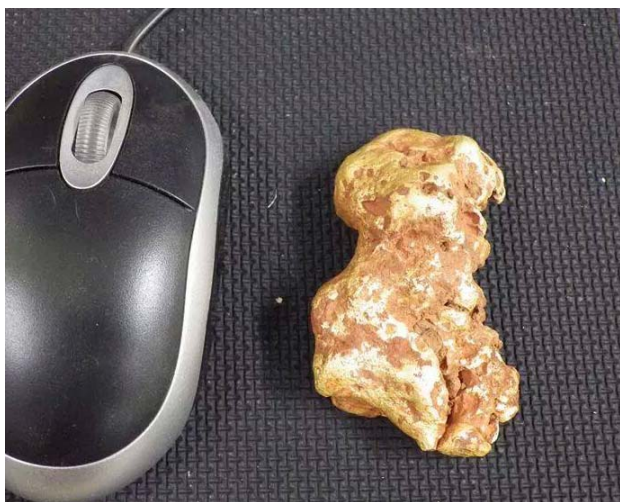
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Some nice gold is coming out from WA with this recent find from Mt Magnet. Not found by one of our members, however it just goes to show it's still out there even in heavily detected locations. Never give up!

Nunawading & District Lapidary Club Inc.



47th Lapidary Show Displays Demonstrations Sales

Sat 18th & Sun 19th October
2014

At the Dorset Primary School

Rescoria Ave. Croydon

Admission: Adults \$3, Family \$10

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Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne



A trip to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne has been organised for Sunday 19th October 2014. It is planned that we meet at the top end of the car park near the entrance to the Australian Garden at 10.00 am. However as it is not an organised tour you can come at your own convenience and catch up with others in the Australian Garden or at lunch.

We will be meeting at 12.30 pm for lunch at **Woodland Picnic Ground** which has free gas barbecues, toilets, drinking fountain and children's play ground - bring your own everything. There are two picnic grounds at the Botanic Gardens - **we are not** going to the Stringybark Picnic Ground. Entrance to the 400 meter forest walk to the **Woodland Picnic Ground** is at the top end of the car-park.

There is a café at the Australian Garden for anyone who would prefer to have a light meal. There is also a bike track in the farmlands and to the Woodland Picnic Grounds.

No dogs or animals are allowed on the property. No Detecting allowed on the property.

Admission into the Australian Gardens is free however they do have a three carriage train that goes around the main gardens and the day pass for this "train" is \$6 for Seniors or Pensioners \$7.50 for everyone else.

Directions: Cnr Ballarto Road and Botanic Drive, Cranbourne, (off South Gippsland Highway). Melway Ref: 133 K10. Telephone: 5990 2200

Web: www.rbg.vic.gov.au/visit-cranbourne

Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne is approximately a 50 minute drive from Melbourne. The turnoff for the Gardens is signed and located 500m past the Cranbourne Racecourse.

Earthquakes turn water into gold

Stuart Gary
ABC, 18 March 2013

Gold could be deposited almost instantaneously in the Earth's crust during earthquakes, say Australian researchers. They have found gold is formed when an earthquake widens a fluid-filled rock fracture causing a drop in pressure, which in turn allows gold dissolved in the fluid to rapidly leach out. Their study, reported in the journal [Nature Geoscience](#), explains how the metal changes from a soluble state to concentrated deposits a thousand times greater.

"[This process] may underpin the formation of up to 80 per cent of the world's gold deposits," they write. Much of the world's gold is found in quartz veins that formed during periods of mountain building up to 3 billion years ago and was deposited by large volumes of water along deep, seismically active faults. The veins were formed under fluctuating pressures during earthquakes, but until now, the magnitude of these pressure shifts and how they influence the formation of gold was unknown.

Dr Dion Weatherley of the [University of Queensland](#) and Professor Richard Henley from the [Australian National University](#), developed a mathematical model to see how different earthquake magnitudes affect fluid-filled rock fractures. They found that a sudden drop in pressure in the fracture causes the fluid inside to expand and vaporise - a process known as flash vaporisation.

"The change in the volume of the fracture causes a change in fluid pressure," explains Weatherley. "The fluid becomes supersaturated at the low pressures and the various minerals that are dissolved will precipitate out very rapidly." Different minerals are known to precipitate out of fluids at specific pressures. Weatherley and Henley found the ability of minerals to dissolve out of the water grew quickly even for relatively small earthquakes.

The amount of space within a rock fissure can increase 130-fold for a magnitude 2 earthquake, while a magnitude 6 event could experience a 13,000-fold increase. This process, which had not previously been recognised as a major driver of mineralisation,

causes the deposition of silica with a range of trace elements eventually forming gold-enriched quartz veins. While a single event may not deposit significant levels of gold, successive earthquakes in the same area can cause a build up of these deposits within the fracture eventually leading to economically viable gold concentrations, say the researchers.

The search continues

The bulk of gold mined today has been found where deposits are exposed on or near the surface. According to Weatherley, geologists believe they've explored the majority of the dry part of the planet, and now have to start looking for deposits which are hidden in deeper parts of the crust. That requires more knowledge on the geological processes that have been occurring in that part of the world. "When we know what forms a deposit, we can go looking for ancillary tell-tale signs of where those kind of mechanisms may have been occurring both in the recent past and through geological time," says Weatherley. "This may assist in future gold exploration efforts."



The above photos show seams of gold in the host rock of quartz and slate.

Sept. Outing: Waanyarra

Friday 12th to Mon. 15th Sept.

Emergency Info: Call 000.

Hospital: Clarendon St. ,Maryborough Ph. 054 610277

Police: Market St. Dunolly Ph. 054 681100

Fire District: North Central

Map Reference: VICMAP reference:

Waanyarra

October Outing: Tarnagulla

Friday 3rd to Mon. 6th Oct.

Note the earlier dates than usual.

Emergency Info: Call 000.

Hospital: Clarendon St. ,Maryborough Ph. 054 610277

Police: 4 Victoria St. Tarnagulla Ph.5438 7333

Fire District: Northern Country

Map Reference: VICMAP reference:

Tarnagulla

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.

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Parting shot

Photo by Eric G. of the early morning golden sunrise through the mist at the Navarre Camp.

Please submit your detecting photos for inclusion in the Newsletter for all to enjoy.



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