

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34 issue 1

Jan./Feb. 2013

Big Specimen Found

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The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.

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: \$40.00
Single Membership: \$35.00
One off joining fee: \$ 5.00

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

Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>

email: xxx@xxx

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

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President's deputy, arranging speakers.	
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Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)	
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS	9999 9999
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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mieke SMITS (Mrs)	9999 9999
Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.	
RESEARCH OFFICER: Ted Cox	9999 9999
Information about outings, field activity and site control.	

Events Calendar

January

No General Meeting

Fri 25th - Tues 29th Jan: Camp Chute

February

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Fri 15th - Tues 19th: Camp Goldsborough

March

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Fri 8th - Tues 12th: Camp Wedderburn

Sat 9th-Sun 10th: Wedderburn Detector Jamboree
Wedderburn

Sunday 24th: 19th Annual Australian Gold Panning
Championships **Blackwood**

Fri 29th - Tues 2nd April: Easter Camp Fryerstown

April

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Note: No camp in April as the Easter Camp runs into April

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

A **BIG** round of thanks to those members who have written articles and have taken photos for this newsletter. Without them this would be not be possible. This is a bumper "holiday" edition with a record 16 pages of great prospecting news, stories and reports.

How about some other members also think about contributing to YOUR newsletter?

I am still in need for reports of recent outings by members, and of any news, stories photos and articles of detector activity. Please email to me at xxx@xxx

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 2013: Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 3, May 1, Jun 5, Jul 3, Aug 7, Sep 4, Oct 2, Nov 6, Dec 4.

Committee meetings for 2012: Feb 5, Mar 26, Apr 30, May 28, June 25, July 30, Aug 27, Sept 24, Oct 29, Nov 24.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

As I write this, it's 41°C outside and wildfires down in Tassie with more hot weather predicted, it looks like another 2009 summer arriving. Camping in the bush for the next couple of months will require us to be very wary of conditions at all times and be prepared to get out quickly at the first signs of smoke in the district. Our vans and camping equipment should be **adequately insured**, as it may mean in an urgent evacuation we may not have time to pack up. Our lives are more important than the insurance companies.

When out detecting in hot weather, keep in close proximity to your car so as you can keep your water bottle topped up, and be able to get out of the locality quickly if the need arose.

Just when you begin to think gold has almost dried up, our Xmas camp at Ararat proved otherwise, with everyone coming home with something to show for their effort, especially David N. who couldn't get the huge smile off his face after unearthing a 35gm specie, nearly all gold. Good on you Dave, it's my turn next. A few 4 and 5 gramers also looked good. A thanks to John B who arranged access to one area.

It is now pen to paper time for all prospectors to put their weight behind the PMAV campaign to gain access to more prospecting ground in Victoria. Success in this will only come if we all are prepared to put in a submission to VEAC, [Victorian Environmental Assessment Council] which is a body appointed by the State Government to investigate and recommend to the Government changes in legislation relating to Park management. Those with an internet access can simply download the VEAC submission page and fill it in with your comments and press send. Anyone without a computer can write direct and post it to the address shown on the enclosed notice. To those who don't wish to send in a submission, please at least register your interest with VEAC, which should carry some weight. Read the enclosed Notice of Investigation on page 14 carefully, and remember we have only till the 18th February to respond. I will be doing one on behalf of our club. If we can get this through, we can look forward to some new and interesting areas for prospecting.

Over the last few weeks I have had an issue with Parks Victoria over them using our camp site at Chokem Flat at Fryerstown as a dumping ground for huge pine logs [some up to 1.0m in diameter]. On inspection, it was a mess, with logs scattered all over. They thought we would use it for our camp fire, [HA, HA!] After several strong emails and phone calls they finally agreed it is unsatisfactory and promise to have the area cleared up before Easter. I do not trust them and will be checking on it before we go there to make sure they keep their promise.

Well that's it for this month, good luck and health.
ERIC



General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

December

Jack Absalom's DVD about Rainbow's End (Gold documentary on WA and Kalgoorlie) was shown.

This proved to be very interesting about the history of gold discovery around Kalgoorlie --- it is still being discovered at greater depths than ever before, even to this present day.

February --2013

John Morris who has approximately 40 years experience in Prospecting sells Fisher Metal Detectors plus other items as well, will be our Guest Speaker for this night.

He is very interesting to talk to and has a wealth of experience to which he is very willing to impart to all Club Members who attend this Month's General Meeting.

March

Ken James will be our Guest Speaker. His presentation will be about Discovering Chinese Miners, and Market Gardeners, at Lyal and Myrtle Creek, in Central Victoria. He is a published author with over 20 publications to his credit. Some of his titles are about Metcalf, Glenluce, Golden Point etc.

Nov. Find of the Month

Graeme S.
*Sovereign
Mounted in a ring*



Nov. Runner up

Paul H.
2.8 g. nugget



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Disclaimer:

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

Are you interested in knowing more about:

- **Solar Power for Caravans**
- **Communications in the Bush**
- **Navigation**
- **Bushcraft**
- **Outback Camping**



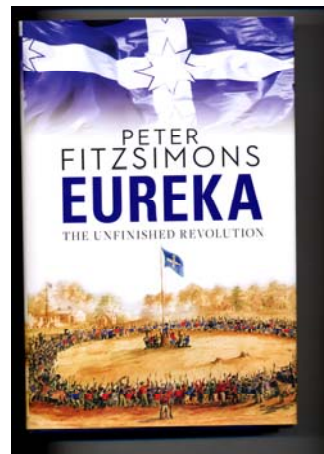
There are now articles on the Vic Seekers website written by Geoff Lee and these have a lot of valuable information in them and they will assist you in these areas. Go to <http://seekers.metapath.org/> Click on Articles then chose the one that you want to read.

New Eureka book

By Ian Semmens

There has been launched a new book on the Eureka Stockade, as if there aren't enough already, however this one seems to be well researched and is comprehensive in it's coverage. Written by Peter Fitzsimons it is 695 pages including 75 pages of notes, bibliography and an index.

It has a retail price of \$49.95, though it can be had for around \$29.95 in department stores and online such as Bookworld.com.au. From all accounts it is a great read and brings to light a large amount of information on a major event in Australia's history.



GPX Battery Recell

Lindsay Tricker was looking for a supplier to repair his Minelab GPX Li-ion battery after the existing one had been analysed as being exhausted by Minelab technicians. Previously the faulty Li-ion batteries were renewed by Minelab at a cost of around \$280 but now they have stopped doing this. New Minelab batteries are \$395.00.



The GPX Li-ion battery has 8 cells and you only need one cell to fail and then it and the remaining cells have to be replaced. He has come across HYE Trading Power in Croydon and they offer this replacement of the cells service. The cost is \$200.00 and if you mention the Seekers Club you will get a 10% discount. Their contact details are in the advert below.

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November Camp Report

Craigie West

by Eric Grummett

Photos by Geoff Lee & Brian Skews

This weekend is always a popular one for us, and this one was no exception, with 57 members and 7 visitors in attendance for a great time centred around a well fed campfire.

Festivities started on Saturday night with hot chicken, potatoes and ice cream supplied by the club, salads and sweets by the others, all served up under our gazebo. Also a special mention of the delicious trifle supplied by Joan. Fashions on the field was won by Emilie. Next was



Frank W. with deserts.

a giant raffle with most people winning something which raised \$240 for the club. While all this was going on Lars conducted the Cup sweeps that required 3 to satisfy everyone, and run in a very professional way. He is so good at it we let him do it each year, thanks Lars. Don P got the job of running the token hunt this time, and did such a good job of concealing them, the \$20 token could not be found, it just shows us

how we could be missing good gold. The minor \$10 tokens were found by Brian and Peter.

No big gold was found, I think the best pieces were found by Graham M were 3.0 gram and Paul H at 2.8 gram, and many sub gramers by the rest of us. A recent burn-off in the area built our hopes up, but not much resulted.



The Ladies in "Fashions on the Field".

Mystery surrounded a flat tyre on the back of Sam's old Cruiser. One morning Sam woke to a flat which he removed, and was helped by Geoff to locate the offending 2 inch self tapping screw and plug the hole. After pumping it up they discovered another leak and another identical screw. Now we wondered how anyone could possibly get two nice shiny screws the same in one puncture incident. We surmised he must have either run



Sam S. repairing his tyre for the second time!

over a packet of them to achieve it, or maybe that he had an enemy in the camp who impregnated the tyre during the night. Now Sam thought about it overnight and it struck him that he remembered repairing an indicator on the front of his truck before leaving home with similar screws, so on inspection in the morning, sure enough the light was swinging in the breeze, -- problem solved. They had fallen out and gone down under and into the tyre. If anyone is interested in a somewhat noisy 30 or 40 y.o. bush basher that runs well on cooking oil and missing a light or two, see the above owner.

By Cup day most had gone home but the remainder watched the event with great excitement on TVs outside my van with champers and plenty of good cheer. A wonderful time was had by all even though there was bugger all gold to be had.
ERIC



Emilies surprise at winning the "Fashions on the Field".

Nov. Camp Report cont.



Jimmy and Maureen unloading the chickens



Eric, Francine and Fransios.

Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Over the last 60 days (since the last issue) the price of gold in AU\$/gram has dropped from a peak of \$53.90/gram to \$50.06/gram. Price as at 07/01/2013



The treasure hunt at the Xmas Break-up Party.



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Xmas Break-up Party

By Eric G.

Well, the day started out with rain threatening, which thankfully, cleared by 9 am giving us a great day for our activities, enjoyed by about 50 members.

Due to a lack of participation by members with younger children over the last few years, Father Xmas by-passed us this year, leaving us to eat the jelly snakes and icy poles not needed by children.

This year we decided to handicap the regular winners of the treasure hunt [Peter and Ted] by 5 minutes to give the others half a chance, which almost backfired with Peter still finding 17 tokens, just 3 behind the winner Brayden C [the Laundry's grandson] The lucky \$50 key was found by Peter R.

Our major Xmas Hamper was won by Ron W, and the minor ones by John C, Mieke S and Jim L.



Detecting for the tokens and keys at the reserve.



The winners of the Xmas Hampers.



Winner of the lucky key was found by Peter R.
The lock was opened by his son.



Victorian Gold Panning Association

19th Annual Australian Gold Panning Championships

Sunday March 24th 2013
Blackwood Cricket Ground
Blackwood - Victoria



For more information contact :
Victorian Goldpanning
Association Inc.

C/O Marcus Binks on
Mobile 0418 474 427

Email: marcus.binks@bigpond.com

Xmas Camp Report

Ararat

by Graeme Mee

Photos By Francine, Eric G. & Geoff L.

Well what another fantastic New year club camp at Ararat. I arrived on Boxing day thinking that I would be the only one there, when to my surprise, found that quite a few members had beaten me to it and by the next two days the camp had grown to 18 camps with 26 members and 2 visitors.

As expected, the weather was in the plus 30's on most days, but luckily the nights were a lot cooler thus making recovery for the next days slog a lot easier.

Everyone was up and out early in the mornings exploring the surrounding bush for the elusive yellow and this camp, like all the others, did not disappoint us as it came up with the goods, once again proving the detecting skills of the club members.

There were two main area's, one being a recent burnt off area nearby and the other being a new location on private property that was found and researched by John & Joan B. John managed to talk the owner into allowing the club access and with permission granted, a great time was had by all searching this new spot. Well done John & Joan for this one.



"It was This Big!" - Dave B describes the size of his nugget to Herman & Rob.

Just the one incident to report for this camp and that is the prickly gauze bush that was encountered when out detecting. The damn stuff was everywhere and was very hard to avoid. I don't know the botanical name, I have my own..... and it's unprintable, but this one should be on top of the removal list of obnoxious weeds. On second thoughts though, maybe it should be left alone, it must have a place in the order of things somewhere. Anyway, I know that I will not be the only one removing prickles and dressing sores and wounds for a few more days to come.

Most evenings turned into a very relaxed event with everyone being in holiday mode. There could not be the usual fire to sit around of course, but this did not prevent members from sharing their drinks, nibbles, jokes and tall

stories into late in the night with New Years Eve "Trivia Night" being the most popular

Finds for this camp were very good with quite a few coins and artifacts being found and the gold count being very impressive totaling just a tad over 90 grams with the largest being 33 plus gram beaut nugget found by Dave N. Well done Dave. Now who was it said that all the gold is gone ?

Same time next year folks ? You betcha!



Marie detecting with Sheena & Sarah



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Bill all kitted up about to start detecting



Cracker time - New Year's Eve.



Graeme M being fitted out by Robyn H. - New Year's Eve.



Dave with a big smile after finding the 33 g. nugget

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Park and Forest Closures on Code Red Fire Danger Rating days

Many of Victoria's parks and forests are in bushfire prone areas. While they are great places to enjoy, during some weather conditions they are not safe places to be.

You need to read this information carefully, as fires that start under some weather conditions may be fast moving, unpredictable and uncontrollable. You may not receive an official warning of a bushfire and you should not expect a fire truck.



Victoria has adopted the national system of Fire Danger Ratings. On days of forecast Code Red Fire Danger Rating, the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria will close parks and forests (including State Forests and National Parks) in the bushfire prone areas of the relevant weather district for public safety.

For more information on the Fire Danger Ratings system and Total Fire Bans visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on **1800 240 667**.

Bushfire safety is a personal responsibility and anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions and remain alert to signs of fire such as smoke or emergency vehicles.

On Code Red Fire Danger Rating days, parks and forests are not safe places to be and they will be closed to the public.

For your own safety, do not enter parks or forests and if you are already there you should leave the night before or early in the morning.

You may not receive a personal warning or see signage that the park or forest is closed.

Will a ranger come and tell me to leave?

Due to the sheer size and geographic spread of Victoria's parks and forests, it will not be possible for every visitor to personally receive a warning. It is your responsibility to remain alert and aware of the current weather conditions. DSE and Parks Victoria need to focus on being prepared for fighting any fires that begin.

When preparing to leave ensure any campfires are properly extinguished – using water, not dirt – so they cannot start a bushfire.

Will all parks and forests be gated or fenced off to stop access on Code Red days?

Gated entries will be closed at relevant parks or visitor sites. However, it is not possible to gate or fence off all parks and forests, as these are often vast areas of land, sometimes with roads running through them. People need to act responsibly and safely, and stay out of parks and forest areas on these days.

How do I find out what the forecast Fire Danger Rating is?

Fire Danger Ratings feature in weather forecasts on radio and television and in newspapers. You can also check online at www.dse.vic.gov.au or www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

Note to members:

As we are camping in the bush this smartphone application may be worth installing on your phone to view any alerts and warnings current for your area.



FireReady app

The CFA FireReady smartphone application provides access to timely and accurate incident and fire safety information on your smartphone or compatible tablet device.



The FireReady app was developed by Victoria's fire services and the Department of Justice to deliver critical emergency information and community safety advice to smartphone and tablet devices.

Since launching in 2010, the app has been downloaded by over 70,000 users and has delivered millions of push notifications of emergency incidents. The app also allows users to share photos of emergency incidents tagged with location details to help improve situational awareness of the community and emergency agencies. Easy access to CFA's social media channels and news updates is also available via the app.

Problems with the app? Some people have experienced problems with the latest version of the app. See the '[Updated FireReady app](#)' story for advice or email firereadyapp@cfa.vic.gov.au

Download the FireReady app:

For Android: <https://play.google.com/store/search?q=cfa+fire+ready>

For Blackberry: [CFA FireReady for Blackberry](#)

For iPhone: [CFA FireReady for iPhone / iPad](#)

For Windows Phone: [CFA FireReady for Windows Phone](#)

- See more at: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fireready-app>

Big Specimen Found

Sourced from **Gold Detecting and Prospecting Forum** at <http://golddetecting.4umer.net/>

Found in Central West NSW about 6 weeks ago.

G'day People,

Luck and the Gold Gods smiled upon me a few weeks back in a big way. I guess the Odds of finding something like this was kind of like winning Lotto, and I was basically in shock for 7 days afterwards.

For the last 10 years I have been digging whopping great holes with nothing but disappointment at the end....until this day.

The day started like any other; working flogged out ground that even though had produced plenty of nice Species and Big Nuggets, had gotten fairly quiet due to a total lack of targets around all the sweet spots. I started off around some Mullock piles near an area that had been semi surfaced, but soon enough thought "Bugger this, I've seen that same rock about 30 times....I'm outta here", so I bailed off up to a set of reef Mines about 400 meters away.

Around the Mines was all the usual junk...bits of tin plate, curly wire, huge nails etc. Some parts you couldn't even get the coil on the ground for the crap was everywhere. So I went just below the mines into a shallow Gully where the old timers had started to test hole looking for a run. The reef crossed this gully about 30 meters above the test holes, and the hard rock miners had sunk shafts either side, but not in the gully itself. The ground was fairly buzzy through the Gully, and I dug a few ground noises straight up. Being a warm day, and in the semi shade, I wasn't too worried....it comes with the territory. Walking between two test holes I got a faint target beside a couple of Biddy bushes. At first I thought it was the coil falsing on the bushes as I hit it against the stems, but no, this was a definite target. It kind of sounded like a shotty pellet at 6 inches. Chopping out the bushes and about 4 inches of ground gave an improvement, so I widened the hole. Digging down another foot I came across the first big lump of Quartz; levered it out, a quick test then kept digging....target getting louder. The next foot saw me hit more quartz, cemented in a grey orange clay. The hole was getting too small so I opened it up to the size of an old green garbo bin, mainly so I could get the Coiltek 18 elliptical Goldstalker in without any dramas.

The target was fairly screaming by now, even though it was loud it was still smooth. Another fair lump of Quartz was unearthed and I was nearing the 3ft mark by now. The hole was still too narrow and I was hitting my knuckles on the side trying to get through the clay, so I opened it up some more.

The next scrape I touched rock and exposed a narrow band of Orange in the bottom of the hole, just visible through the clay.....I paused and

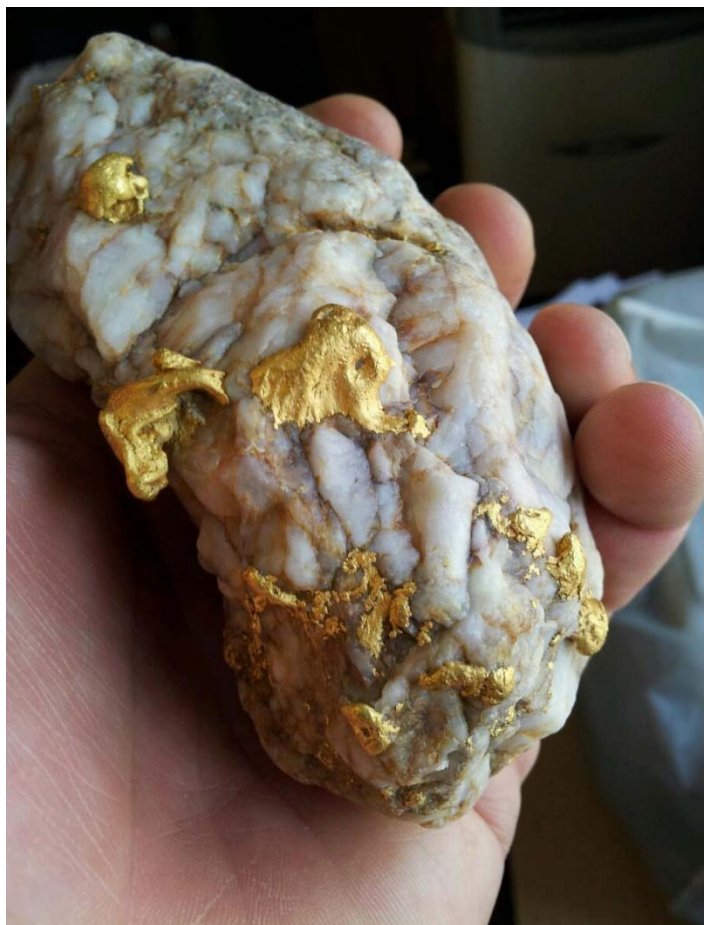
stared 🤪

The next 20 mins were a blur.....

I ditched my harness and the detector, danced about like a fruitcake and then the realisation set in so I sat down for a few smokes on a fallen tree. Taking my time to carefully dig around the target, and rubbing off the clay revealed what I had. I dug down both sides of it and carefully prized it from its resting place. OMG!

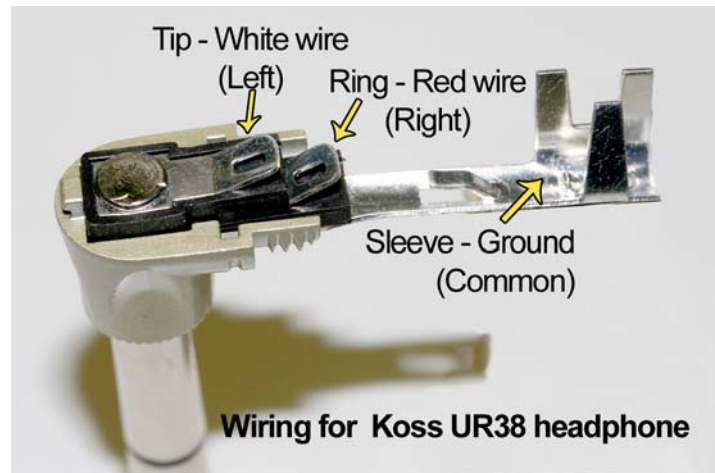
I was pretty well fried after that, and didn't detect much for the rest of the day. My first estimate was it had about 10-14 Ounces in it, but later tests showed the weight at 1.228 kilos and a SG weight of between 820-840 grams of the good stuff, or 26.4--27 Ounces of Yellow.

Thanks to Adrian SS for assisting me with the correct weight and Emailing the pictures from my phone so I could share it with you all.
Gus.



Wiring Headphones and Speakers

Over time and through use the fine wires of the headphone and speaker cables can break and it will be either crackly or stop working altogether. If you need to replace the plug on your headphones due to wear caused by constant movement and pulling, then here is the wiring layout. Before you start it is recommended to replace the straight plug with a right angle plug as there less leverage force on the socket and it is more out of the way and less likely to get bumped and damaged. Jaycar and Altonics sell the Amphenol brand plug and it is a good quality plug.

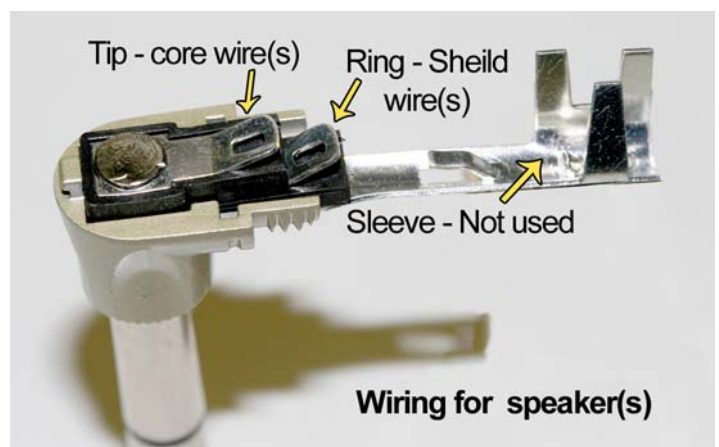


For a Single Speaker :

When using a single core cable with shield: Solder the core wire to the **Tip** tab and the shield to the **Ring** tab. The sleeve is not used.

For a Twin Speaker :

When using a twin core cable with shield: strip and twist the two cores together and solder the core wires to the **Tip** tab and the two shield wires to the **Ring** tab. The sleeve is not used.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

PROSPECTING IN PARKS INQUIRY

Notice of Investigation

Investigation into Additional Prospecting Areas in Parks

On 25 October 2012 the Minister for Environment and Climate Change requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an investigation into additional prospecting areas in parks.

The purpose of the investigation is to make recommendations on which areas (in general terms) of the following parks could be made available for recreational prospecting:

Alpine, Baw Baw, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Lake Eildon, Lind, Mitchell River and Yarra Ranges national parks and Lerderderg State Park.

In addition to the considerations in section 18 of the *Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001*, the Council must take into consideration that the overall objective of the investigation is to increase the number of parks under the *National Parks Act 1975* where prospecting may be permitted.

The investigation into additional prospecting areas in parks will include one submission period with a final report to be provided to the Minister by 30 April 2013.

The Minister's request including the full terms of reference is available from www.veac.vic.gov.au or by calling VEAC on 1800 134 803 (toll-free).

SUBMISSIONS AND REGISTRATIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

Written submissions are invited from interested groups and individuals for consideration in the development of the final report. You may make an online submission via VEAC's website at www.veac.vic.gov.au or send your written submission to VEAC by post or by email (see contact details below).

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
PO Box 500 East Melbourne, Victoria 3002
Email: prospecting.investigation@veac.vic.gov.au

This submission period closes on **18 February 2013**. Submissions will be published on the VEAC website after the close of the submission period. All submissions will be acknowledged.

If you do not wish to make a submission you can **register your interest online** or by calling VEAC, and you will be kept informed of progress of the investigation.

www.veac.vic.gov.au

1800 134 803

Jan. Outing: Chute

Friday 25th to Tuesday 29th January

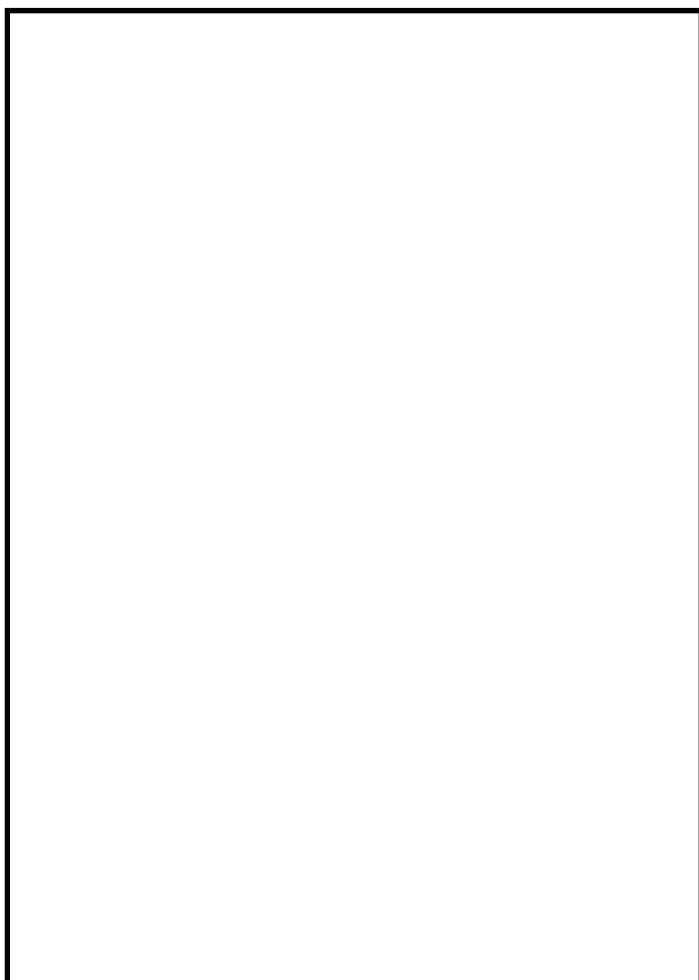
THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. Dogs must be on leash and under constant supervision. FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times. No Fires.

Feb. Outing: Goldsborough

Friday 15th to Tuesday 18th February

March Outing: Wedderburn

Friday 8th to Tues. 12th March



Wedderburn

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. FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times. No Fires.

GEOLOGY FOR GOLD PROSPECTORS

A TWO DAY GEOLOGY FOR GOLD PROSPECTORS COURSE

Weekend Course is taking place on the 9th & 10th February and again on 23rd & 24 February 2013 at Creswick and 9th & 10 March at Beechworth.

Presented by a geologist and a full time prospector.
Maximum group size is 6 persons.
Detectors are provided.

You get to keep a Geology for Prospectors Handbook.
The cost of \$300.00 and \$75.00 deposit is required.

For more details please contact Trent & Jacki at
trentkinggold@gmail.com



Wedderburn Detector Jamboree
9th & 10th March 2013

At Hard Hill Tourist Reserve

Sunday Major Draw

GPX 5000 Detector

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