

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34 issue 4

July/August 2013

Robert S. detecting near Avoca



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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: \$10.00 single, \$20.00 family.

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

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

email: xxx@xxx

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Committee of Management

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email: xxx@xxx

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT: Graeme SILVER

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

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MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.. Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

RESEARCH OFFICER: Ted Cox

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob Shannon

Events Calendar

July

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

Fri 12th - Tues 16th: Camp Kingower

August

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

Fri 9th - Tues 13th: Camp Whroo

Sun 25th - Gold Museum, Ballarat

September

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Fri 13th - Tues 17th: Camp Tarnagulla

October

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri 11th - Tues 14th: Camp Talbot

November

Fri. 1st - Tues 6th: Cup Weekend Camp Craigie West

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Almoner's Report

By Virginia Lake

Currently I have only two things to report:

- Marty P, from South Australia, recently had a heart attack and underwent By-Pass surgery. He is recovering nicely and thanks the Club for our good wishes.
- Barry R, whom you read in the last newsletter was tossed around with Val in their caravan during the tornado at Mulwala, is quite ill and undergoing treatment. We wish him a speedy recovery

If you know of anyone who is ill or celebrating a milestone birthday, anniversary etc or has become a parent/ grandparent please let me know so I can convey the club's good wishes. My contact details are (03) 9999 9999 or email 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 2013: Feb 26, 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 sit here trying to keep warm, my mind is off to places that Bev and I visited last month that required tee-shirts and shorts as we travelled around the Kimberley in 30 plus temperatures. What a wonderful part of Australia that it is, with all of its' spectacular gorges and waterfalls. We travelled from Broome up the Gibb River Rd visiting Windjana Gorge, Tunnel Ck, the mighty Mitchell Falls, El-Questro, Kununurra, Bungle Bungles, Fitzroy Crossing, and back to Broome and everything in between these places. Helicopter rides over the Mitchell Falls and the Bungles was awesome. To finish off we took a float plane up to the Horizontal Falls, which is an area along the coast where huge 8 metre tides surge through a small gap in the cliffs. After a barramundi lunch on their barge we were taken through these falls on a fast boat for an exciting experience. All Australians should make the effort to travel to this region sometime, as it must rate one of the most scenic trips in the country.

Our club is a bit short of members this month, with many over in WA, and others scattered up north catching some sun. Regardless, we still managed a good turnout for Ararat (see Graham's report). Ten members joined one of Darren Kamp's tagalongs in WA for a great time on which nothing big was found, unlike a previous trip when one lucky participant found a 7 ounce. Most of our guys will be back in a couple of weeks, hopefully with some good stories and colour to show us.

The VEAC report on prospectors access to National Parks is now out and has been given to the government for a decision, which could take 6 months for them to make a determination. The report was partly supportive, in that it recommends that prospecting could be allowed in some designated areas with many restrictions placed on us, probably only allowing detecting and panning, but no sluicing, which is only of limited help for us. Beware, one of the VEAC recommendations is that park management should be given more authority to enforce conditions allowed under the miners right, and that more monitoring and reporting of any prospectors damage to areas granted under the Box Ironbark Investigation subject to 'management discretion'. We could lose prime prospecting areas in the Golden Triangle in the future if we do not maintain a high standard of practice. Since it is now up to the politicians, we now need to lobby them in the hope they will give us what we want. Write to your local State member and put him in the picture, as he probably isn't aware of the VEAC inquiry or our position on this matter. Those who wrote to VEAC could simply re-address their submissions to these MPs. For the VEAC report see www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation for additional prospecting areas in parks.

To those who know Marty P, we have received a note from him to say that he is now doing fine after his bi-pass operation and that we should see him soon in the fields. That's all folks ERIC

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

May & June

The Morris Reef DVD's were extremely interesting from the viewpoint that it demonstrated to all Club Members the reality of finding Gold.

It also goes to show that the majority of signals that we all hear when detecting in the Goldfields should be investigated. Who knows, it could be a very large nugget.

June

The Gold Geology Video that was shown was extremely interesting as it demonstrated how to understand rocky reefs and in what direction they extended to for mining purposes and also detecting.

It was interesting to discover that there are people out in the bush who are using quad bikes with extremely large coils attached to the rear of their bikes and by dragging them behind they are covering more ground than it is possible to do so by walking. Good luck to them!

July

Eric Grummett will be talking about his recent trip to the Kimberley. Knowing Eric, this promises to be an extremely interesting evening.

August

Lindsay Tricker will be our Guest Speaker for this night. His Topic will be of his own choosing and as we are all aware he will have done extensive research into whatever he will be talking about.

This promises to be a very interesting evening.

Special Outing to the Gold Museum Ballarat!



Sunday, 25 August 2013

Meet at the entrance at 10:00am for a guided tour

The Gold Museum has just expanded and has a large range of items that will be of interest to all members. As well as the extensive collection of over **900 nuggets**, including the **3.5 kg. nugget** found in February near Ballarat, there is the **Goldasurus nugget** and there is also a large collection of Gold Licenses and Miners Rights. There is also the Ballarat Historical Society Collection, Artworks relevant to the goldfields, and other collections.

Adult Price is \$11.20 or concession \$8.90.

Please call or email me to confirm that you will be attending. We may be able to organize a share ride. Contact Ian on 9999 9999 or xxx@xxx

Some members will be going up on Friday and camping at Creswick and then going on to Ballarat from there. If you want more details then contact Ian.

General Meetings

May Find of the Month

Robert S.
7.6g. nugget



New Members

- David & Carole SCHOLES
- Peter & Lorraine JOHNSTON



Welcome and Good Luck!

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Disclaimer:

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

Winter is back!



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May Camp Report

Mountain Hut

by Virginia Lake
Photos by Ian S. & Graham Mee

Bob and I left Melbourne very early Thursday morning arriving at camp around 9.00a.m. Just as we were nearing the campsite we were greeted by a welcoming committee, farmers and sheep. The sheep were so happy to see us they surrounded the car and van, but were quickly herded to the next paddock. On arriving at camp we noted four camps already set up and a steady stream of campers arrived as the day went on. In all there were 16 camps and a couple of day visitors.

The days were cool but sunny; the nights cold but nobody seem in a hurry to get indoors, happy to sit around the fire and exchange stories. Just as well there was an abundance of wood on the ground with lots of helpers to gather it up. "Thank you" to Sam for the wonderful hand-made chocolates he brought to camp and shared around the fire each evening.

Quite a bit of small gold was found and I believe just about all those detecting found gold. Some found multiple nuggets in one hole! Ken got eight nuggets, then from same hole Ralph found another three nuggets. Norma, who decided to detect after the batteries in her e-reader were low, found three nuggets from another hole. I think this is quite unusual these days.

While we were there the DSE were burning off in several arrears around Avoca. A couple of members went in to detect after the burn off but no gold was found.

Phone reception at this campsite is poor. To make or receive a call you had to climb a hill on the adjacent farmland.

As Sunday was Mothers Day, a few went home, us included, but one member arrived Sunday. Better late than not at all I'm guessing.



Herman detecting on the heaps.



Taking a break from detecting.



Around the campfire



Local wildlife near the campfire

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Gold Price Report

Price as at 25/06/2013

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Member Les was detecting on private land during the Easter camp when he picked up a deep signal. While digging a hole down to the target he came upon this old bottle with an embossed label on it. Great find, Les.



June Camp Report

Ararat

by Graham Mee

Photos by Ian S.

With a lot of our regular members having migrated to the warmer states for their winters detecting, an impressive turn out of 29 members plus one late arrival and 2-visitors made the first of the Winter camps a great event.

The days were short as it was around 7.30am before you could get around without any artificial light and it got dark around 6pm where you needed some. This meant that most operators were up and out detecting early in the morning, returning for lunch and out again in the afternoon. All the nights saw a great turnout around the huge camp fires, well done to the wood collectors.

Saturday night raffle went off quite well with plenty of prizes to be had. Well done to the organizers Peter M and Mieke or that one as well.

We had the opportunity to test out a few of the new "DETECH" coils thanks to member John B who managed to obtain several samples for testing. I personally tried a couple and was quite impressed with their performance, being well made, very light, sensitive and the price is very good I believe.

No incidents for this camp so that just leaves the finds to report which was again an excellent result with the gold count being 125 recorded pieces for a total weight of around one and a half ounces and a few old coins to boot, once again proving the detecting skills of the club members.

All members enjoyed the camp although the rain finally put a damper on it on the last couple of days. Let's hope the next one will be a dry one. See you there.



Ken W. detecting in a burn-off area.



Warren detecting in some shallow ground.



Graham on the slopes of burn-off hill



Ian, Warren, Graham & Eric with their "finds".



Eric detecting at on an old river bed hill..

 An advertisement for the Minelab GPX 5000 metal detector. It features a large image of the detector with a circular inset showing a close-up of the coil. The Minelab logo and the model name 'GPX 5000' are prominently displayed. Below the image, there is promotional text in red and black.

Get the GPX Depth Advantage
Find more GOLD and DEEPER!
 To find out more about the Minelab range of detectors
 Phone 1800 637 786
 Or visit www.minelab.com
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WA Trip News

Currently we have about eighteen members in 5 separate groups detecting in Western Australia at the moment. Here's some photos from one of those groups as a catch up.

From the Gilberts & Company the report is the weather is OK, but the gold is very poor, however all are enjoying themselves and having a great time.



Murray, Robyn, François & Lindsay at the Leinster Races.



Alex with wooden "Hand of Faith" nugget .



François in the WA bush



Nola finding a 12gram nugget as Darren (the tour leader) looks on.



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Dubai Police seize \$1.6m in counterfeit metal detectors from raid

Thamer Al Subaihi and Caline Malek

From the National UAE, June 21, 2013

Counterfeit metal detectors worth almost **\$1.6 million** have been seized in a police raid.

The operation confiscated fake parts for Minelab GPX Series hand-held detectors, which are designed to find gold and retail in Dubai at more than Dh20,000 each (\$AU 5,800.00).

Police were tipped off about the fakes factory, being run from an apartment in Dubai, by staff from Minelab, who monitor the trade of fake goods bearing the company's name by liaising with employees, customers and industry figures. "This raid has come about following an intense period of investigation," said Peter Charlesworth, Minelab's general manager. "Minelab has had to develop innovative strategies against counterfeit manufacturers based in China that sell direct to our developing markets and through major hubs such as Dubai. "We are committed to our strategies and this significant result in Dubai reflects our intent." The raid was part of the company's "Stop Counterfeits" campaign.

The fake detectors were assembled and packed at the apartment before being sold on the open market. "Thanks to Dubai Police this is the greatest success we have had in our campaign against counterfeits," said Sheila Kelleher, general manager of Minelab, Europe, Middle East and Africa.

"We have had previous success in battling counterfeiting in Dubai with the help of the police and the Economic Department, but this is by far the highest value of counterfeit parts seized." She added that removing fake products from the market was essential, as although the counterfeit gold detectors do not function as well as Minelab's genuine devices.

"Miners across Africa rely on the quality of original products to successfully recover gold." Ms Kelleher said the company's efforts to combat the market for counterfeit goods in Dubai was likely to be ongoing, as the emirate was at the gateway to Africa, which has the largest reserves of gold in the world.

"Dubai is a great trading post, and the place you naturally gravitate to if you want to develop connections. As a lot of gold is traded through Dubai the counterfeiters are being drawn to the city. They just follow us there."

A number of people were arrested in the raid and have been referred to prosecutor.

NEXT ISSUE: How to identify a counterfeit GPX 4500

Stolen GPX-4500 metal detectors

Recently, (September 2012) Minelab have had a shipment of **GPX-4500** metal detectors stolen, and these units have now been appearing on the gray market and on sites like eBay. If you are not buying from an **authorised dealer**, please refer to our list of known stolen GPX-4500 serial numbers before making the purchase.

For more details visit <http://www.minelab.com/aus/consumer/where-to-buy/stolen-gpx-4500-metal-detectors>

While Minelab has a transferrable **warranty policy**, stolen goods are not covered by this policy. This information is provided to protect our legitimate customers. If you have any information about the stolen property, please contact your local police station or **Minelab**.

Heard around the Traps

A nugget of 25 ounces has been reported being found recently near Dunolly just 2" below the surface.

If you hear of any finds that are of note, please let me know and we can let other members get enthused about finding the "Yellow Stuff".

FOR SALE



Member Frank W. has **TWO** Minelab GPX 4500 for sale.

They comes as purchased.

Backpack, battery, charger and 11" DD coil.

Both in excellent condition

Price \$4,500.00 each.

Phone Frank W, Creswick

Phone 03 9999 9999

Australian gold output down 5%, China up 7%

by: *Rhiannon Hoyle* From: *Dow Jones Newswires*

GOLD mining output in Australia, the world's second-largest producer of the precious metal, dropped 5 per cent in the first half of 2012 compared with a year earlier, international metals consultancy GFMS said.



Ore truck at Oz Minerals' Prominent Hill gold mine, WA.

Production fell as mining companies recovered less gold from processed ore and some operations neared the end of their lifespans, according to the consultancy, a unit of Thomson Reuters Corp.

Australian gold production was 122.5 metric tonnes in the first half, down from 129.1 tonnes a year earlier, GFMS said. It added that a key contributing factor to the decline was lower output at Newcrest Mining's Cadia Valley operations, after the company processed lower-grade stockpiles. Recovery rates at Australia's two largest gold mines - Newmont Mining and Barrick Gold Corp's Kalgoorlie Super Pit, and Newmont's own Boddington mine - also declined, it added. Production at other Australian mines, including Ramelius Resources' Wattle Dam operation, slowed as they neared the end of their lives, GFMS said.

The world's top gold producer, China, meanwhile continued to race ahead, with production growing by 7 per cent in the first six months of the year, taking output of the yellow metal to 182 tons. More than half of the top-10 gold producers worldwide reported a drop in production as grades declined across the industry, construction and commissioning was delayed, and amid a slower-than-

expected ramp-up of operations in key producing nations such as the U.S., South Africa and Russia. Gold production globally was flat at 1366 tonnes, GFMS said.

The consultancy said mining costs in Australia also remained under pressure. The average cost of producing a troy ounce of gold in the first half of the year was \$US856, up from \$US756 a year earlier. "General inflationary pressures, a skilled labour shortage and lower output at a number of properties drove costs higher," GFMS said in its report. Still, Australian producers benefited from a small increase in the gold price relative to other countries. In Australian dollar terms, the gold price rose 1.2 per cent in the first half of 2012, compared with an 0.03 per cent increase in US dollar terms and a 1 per cent rise in yuan terms.



Gold Pour at Octagon's Union Hill mine, Maldon VIC.



Gold bars from an Western Australian gold mine. This is one week's production.

Drama at Golden Point

The dramatic news that a man had fallen into a Chewton mineshaft on a Saturday evening was splashed across Victorian media in the days following. A party attending Castlemaine's Swap Meet had taken their vehicles to the Deadmans Gully area and found a tunnel opening. Adults and children went exploring with terrible consequences for one of their party.

The tunnel was only part of the Merthyn Syndicate Tunnel complex at the head of Deadmans Gully. This comprises two tunnels and a shaft that not only connects the two but extends below the lower tunnel. The exploring party had entered the top tunnel and proceeded about 50 metres to almost the end when one man lost his footing at the edge of a shaft and fell a distance estimated later to be about 35 metres. Fortunately a wooden platform prevented the fall from being even greater.

Emergency services were summoned and police, CFA, SES, ambulance and DSE units were mobilised. Part of the CFA response was the Bendigo based Oscar 1 mine rescue team, and a spectacular rescue in the late evening began. Oscar 1 member Kylie Davis was lowered to the badly injured man and had the difficult task of treating his serious arm, leg and head injuries and then transferring him to a stretcher in a shaft about 1.2 metre by 1 metre. The lower tunnel was then used to complete the extraction from the mine. A 5 metre lift to that tunnel, then a 70 metre haul to the mouth of the tunnel was completed.

Use of the lower tunnel meant the patient surfaced well down the hillside and the ensuing difficult lift up the steep and rugged hillside necessitated safety ropes on the stretcher in case one of the carriers stumbled. At the top of the hill a 4-wheel drive ute was used to take the stretcher to a waiting ambulance, and the ambulance conveyed the patient to an ambulance heli-copter waiting in Chewton.

This was an incredible rescue that was accomplished in dark and dangerous conditions – thanks to a co-ordinated response from many agencies. And it was pointed out at the time that the majority of the people on the scene were volunteers. That evening was actually the 40th wedding anniversary of Castlemaine SES's Bob Pratt - which he spent with colleagues on a dark hillside in Deadmans Gully!

Chewton and surrounding areas are littered with mines and tunnels. Entering them is fraught with danger. Old structures can collapse, shafts are often unseen in dark areas and pockets of stale air and toxic gases can be encountered. Not a place for humans! Chewton is one part of the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park and this national park gets its status because of the remarkable gold mining heritage that is so well preserved. This is also the basis of the push for world heritage listing of this area. Mines and tunnels exist, are part of our environment and we need to exercise caution when out and about.

The involvement of the Oscar 1 Emergency Response Team puts a focus on a remarkable group of people. Currently comprising about 15 members the unit came about after a need was identified by a mines inspector in the mid-1990s. It was established in 1997 and Reef Mining at Tarnagulla was one of the first mining companies to come on board. CFA members from many brigades were recruited and the specialist and intensive training saw the initial large numbers reduce to the current 15. Training transferred to Bendigo Mining when it began operations and the need for insurance support saw the team become part of the CFA. In the last few weeks the team has achieved the status of a stand-alone brigade within the CFA. With many operational mines and disused workings in Central Victoria the service they offer is invaluable. They are recruiting because the nature of underground rescues is very teamwork dependant. Teams of 6 going down in an emergency mean more than 15 would be ideal, but the emphasis on extreme teamwork for survival underground makes graduating very difficult for many recruits.



Photo: The upper tunnel entrance looks innocent enough, but is actually an opening into a dangerous mine complex as the plan in the 1902 Underground Survey of Mines in Castlemaine clearly shows. Thanks to Clive Willman (Geological Consultant) and Castlemaine Goldfields for providing this information.

A video of the rescue and rescue scene is posted on the CFA website at <http://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/news/difficult-rescue-from-mineshaft.html>

In August 2012 a dog walking with his owner was reported missing at that same mine in Golden Point. The dog had fallen down the shaft and could be heard in obvious distress. The Oscar 1 team was called in and team members entered a tunnel with BG4 BA sets, ropes and gas detection equipment. Fifty metres along the tunnel they found a vertical shaft but could not see the dog due to a slight bend in the shaft and timbers which partially obscured their view. Setting up lighting and ropes they descended to where the dog had fallen. A second tunnel was found further down the shaft. The dog was hauled to this level by rope then carried out through this tunnel which exited further down the hill. Charlie the border collie spent a few days with the vet before going home. Oscar 1 is obviously becoming familiar with the ins and outs of this mine.

Technical Tips: Towing

What you need to know when Towing a Caravan *Part One*



Important points for the safe set up and use of a caravan.

Based on a talk by Andrew Phillips from **The RV Repair Centre** to The Vic Seekers Club on April 2012. Compiled by and with additional information by Ian Semmens. In this article the term trailer is generic and includes caravans.

1. **KNOW YOUR WEIGHTS:** Back in the 1970s most people did not take caravan weight too seriously. As long as you got there in one piece, all was fine. Now in the safety conscious, more regulated 21st century the driver is legally responsible not to exceed the weight limits as specified by the manufacturers. Each vehicle, tow bar and caravan has a maximum weight rating which must not be exceeded so you need to know yours. For the towing vehicle the maximum **Towing Capacity** and **Ball Weight** are stated in the vehicle owner's handbook. For the tow bar it will be on a plate on the tow bar and may also be on a sticker on the driver's door frame. In August 1989 compliance plates for all new trailers were introduced and, among other items, the **Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM)** must be stated on the plate, which is fixed to the drawbar. The **GTM**, Tare Mass (or Weight) and Ball Weight may also be listed.

Aggregate Trailer Mass (ATM) is the maximum weight of the caravan and its load when not coupled to the tow vehicle.

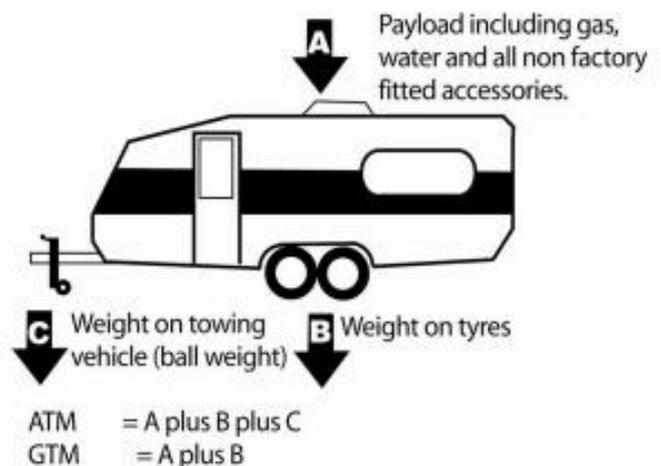
Gross Trailer Mass (GTM) is the maximum weight of the fully loaded caravan that is imposed on the caravan's axle or tyres when coupled to the tow vehicle. It does not include the **Ball Weight**.

Tare Mass is the weight of the caravan as manufactured. This may be stated on the compliance plate and the registration label although sometimes, especially with older vans, it is not correct or it is simply not there. So it pays to check it by weighing the caravan with it empty on a weighbridge. That is with no water, gas bottles, or any added item.

Next weigh the uncoupled caravan with a full load - all the items that you normally carry in it- to get the total weight of the caravan. This weight must not exceed the **Aggregate Trailer Mass** as marked on the compliance plate. If it does, then reduce the **Payload** till it does. Also, as noted above, it must not exceed the vehicle's or tow bar's maximum towing capacity. If it does, safety, balance, stability and the durability of the mechanical components can be affected. The caravan may become unstable and harder to control due to increase weight, additional stress will be placed on the tyres, bearings and frame of the caravan and towing vehicle, it could make the caravan un-roadworthy and liable for a fine and if you make a claim on your caravan insurance policy it may be rejected.

Payload is anything that you add to the caravan including gas, water, food, and any non factory fitted accessories. It is easy to keep adding things without realising how much weight you have added. To work this out you *could* weigh each item and total it but you could also do it with math. Once you determine the weights, you can deduct the **Tare Mass** from the total weight of the caravan to get the **Payload**. For an average sized single axle caravan the **Payload** is around 300 kg and for a dual axle it is around 400kg. The main point here is not to exceed your caravan's **Aggregate Trailer Mass**.

2. **DETERMINE YOUR BALL WEIGHT.** This is the weight that the fully laden caravan places on the tow ball of the towing vehicle. Caravan accessory retailers sell these scales or a caravan dealer /repairer may be able to weigh it for you. This weight must not exceed your towing vehicle's maximum **Ball Weight**. If the tow ball weight is too much it can be detrimental to the tow vehicles durability as well as affecting its stability, handling and braking and conversely, too little weight can make the caravan unstable causing swaying. As a rule of thumb the ball weight is around 10% of the **Aggregate Trailer Mass** of the caravan.



3. Caravans above 2,000kg weight must have a "brake safe" electric brake that is automatically engaged if the caravan becomes separated from the towing vehicle.
4. You should change the tyres every 5 years whether or not they are worn because time and sunlight will deteriorate the tyre resulting in cracking of the sidewall and there have been instances where the tread has lifted off the tyre resulting in damage to the caravan.
5. Do not under inflate the caravan tyres. Under inflation can cause the caravan not to track correctly when being towed. If you use light truck tyres on the caravan then have your pressure around the 60 psi level. Do not exceed the maximum pressure stated on the side wall of the tyre.
6. The fitting of ride levelers will level out the towing vehicle for better handling and braking performance. Ride levelers can transfer some of the weight on the towing vehicle from the rear axle to the front wheels. When set up properly you will have a similar amount of weight on the towing vehicle's front and rear wheels and the vehicle and caravan will both be level. This will improve stability, steering and braking.



VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB

Application Form for Membership Renewal July 2013 ~ June 2014

Membership fees of the VSC becomes due on the **1st of July 2013**.

Members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible. For members who have not renewed their membership by the **1st of September 2013** it will be considered that the membership has expired and they will no longer receive the newsletter nor be able to attend camps until the membership renewal is paid. If it is paid after the 1st of September 2012 a re-joining fee of \$10.00 (single) or \$20 (family) may be payable upon renewal. This form is for renewal only.

You can fill out this form, attach the payment and post it in to the Membership secretary: - Mrs. Robyn Ibbottson or hand it to her with your payment at the next general meeting, or to a committee member at the next camp. The postal address is: The Membership Secretary, VSC, PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

OR

A new method of payment is to make an Internet Direct Deposit into the Clubs Internet Banking Account. For this to work you **MUST** put your **Name** and **Initials** in the reference section and print out and retain a receipt of your payment for later confirmation if it is needed. Failure to do this may mean that we cannot verify that a payment has been made.

We also must be notified by email if you pay by an Internet Direct Deposit

Alternatively a payment may also be made at a bank or Post Office.

Banking Details:

Bendigo Bank - Account Name: Victorian Seekers Club, BSB No.: 633000, Account No.: 140771171

Name(s).....

Address.....

Suburb/Town..... State Postcode

Telephone Home..... Mobile

Email Tick this box if you would like to receive the newsletter by email.
(Do not tick if you are **already** receiving the newsletter by email.)

Single Membership \$35 Family Membership \$40.00

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of membership of the VSC.

Signed.....Date.....

Signed.....Date.....

VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER (year 2009-2010)



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

I,

Nominate:

For the following position:

Seconded by:
.....

Vacant positions:

President,
Vice president,
Public officer,
Secretary,
Treasurer,
Membership secretary,
Social secretary
Research officer,
Newsletter editor,
Newsletter distributor,
Almoner,
Librarian,
Catering supervisor
Field officers



National Health
SERVICES DIRECTORY

Find a health service when and where you need it

You can now find national health services - such as General Practices, Pharmacists, Hospitals and Emergency Departments – anytime, anywhere from your mobile phone.

You will need:

A web-enabled modern smart phone (the service has been built for handsets released in the last 2 years)

A data plan with your mobile provider

Mobile Internet coverage (or WiFi coverage)

How to access the service:

If you have an internet enabled mobile device you can enter the following into your browser <http://m.nhsd.com.au/>

Alternatively iPhone and Android users can **download the app from the Apple App Store or Android Market.**

Turn the phone GPS and location services on.

Provide consent for the NHSD application to use location services.

Now you have instant access to find health services anytime, anywhere.

This service is free however your mobile phone carrier data costs may apply if not part of your package. Your mobile telecommunications provider can provide further information.

NOTE:
*This service is very important
if you are out in the bush with a
medical issue.*

July Outing: Kingower

Fri. 12th to Tues. 16th July

August Outing: Whroo

Fri. 9th to Tues. 13th August

- ◆ Detecting in the **Kooyoora State Park** is restricted in certain parts. Essentially this is an area west of the Inglewood-Rheola (sealed) Road which runs through Kingower. Check with President, Eric Grummett, if unsure.
- ◆ Vic Seekers Camp will be in the **Kingower State Forest** and normal restrictions apply:
 - * No detecting on any active mining leases
 - * No detecting on private property without permission.
 - * No digging of targets on roads or tracks.
 - * No disturbance of Aboriginal artefacts or removal of relics.

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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Registered till may 2014
Full additional front awning – including floor
Access to trailer under mattress
Large windows
Zip & Velcro road cover
Gas ring
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Snap –up jockey wheel
Heavy duty ultra fine mesh on doors and windows
Price **\$ 3500.00** or nearest offer
Any questions please ask (Adam,
xxx@xxx) 9999 9999
Cash on pick up
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Detecting to
the Next Level*



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Advantage Coils offer improved stability and sensitivity.

- Fully potted winding
- Epoxy reinforced polyurethane shaft mount
- Superior Litz wire
- Fully bonded construction
- 2 year warranty

If undeliverable return to:
VSC
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Mt Waverley BC VIC 3149

