

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 34 issue 5

September/October 2013

David detecting at Kingower

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Kingower Camp Report

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Is It Real? How to pick a counterfeit GPX

Detecting Gold with X-Rays



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

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

email; xxx@xxx

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT: Graeme SILVER

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Lindsay TRICKER

Correspondence, rules, meetings, admin. matters etc.

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

email: xxx@xxx

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.. Warren IBBOTTSON

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

Email: xxx@xxx

RESEARCH OFFICER: Ted Cox

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob Shannon

Events Calendar

September

Wed 4th: General Meeting AGM.

Fri 13th - Tues 17th: Camp Tarnagulla

October

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Sun 6th: Tarnagulla Detector Key Hunt

Fri 11th - Tues 15th: Camp Talbot

Fri 11th - Sun 13th: Laanacoorie Gold Bash

Sat 19th - Outing MCG Sports Museum

Sat 19th—Sun 20th: Ararat Gold Dig

November

Fri. 1st - Tues 5th: Cup Weekend Camp **Craigie West**

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

December

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Wed 25th - Tues 31th: Camp **Goldsborough**

January

Fri. 24 - Tues 28th: Camp **Chute**

No General Meeting.

Almoner's Report

There are a few members that are not well at the moment.

- - John B has had a crook shoulder for a while now.
- - Alex E is having some surgery to fix a wonky knee.
- - Tina W is a great grandmother to William J.
- Margaret T has had an operation to set three breaks
- Sophie M has been in hospital with an ongoing condition.

It is worth mentioning again that Barry R and Keith R are still unwell. We wish them, and any other members who are not well, good health and a full recovery.

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

Well, our club is now into it's 34th year and is as healthy as ever, with a strong membership and in a financially secure position, due mainly to the good work of well run committees over the years. The current committee members have done a magnificent job maintaining the high standard of management of our club for the enjoyment of members. Unfortunately, due to family reasons, we are losing our secretary Lindsay Tricker who has held that position for the last 13 years. Our club is indebted to the professional way he carried out that role, thanks Lindsay.

Our next meeting (Sept.) is our AGM, and we will require a replacement to carry on Lindsay's good work. We will give all necessary training for the successful applicant, to enable a smooth settling in. We also require a nomination for the position of vice president, whose job is to arrange speakers for our meetings and to stand in for me when I am not available. Again, all assistance will be given. If members wish to maintain the high standard of our club, we will need people to step forward to fill these positions. It's now a chance for those who have had a lot out of our club to put something back by nominating for a committee position and having a say in the club's administration. We usually have meetings at Tina's place, and she has great scones for supper, and Ted's curried egg sandwiches are something else.

This last year gone has seen great changes in the role of treasurer and membership secretary, with both positions taken on by Warren Ibbotson in a most professional manner, which reflects his accountancy background, now giving us a very efficient control of these aspects of our club. Thanks Warren for your input tying in these two very important positions.

A special thanks to Ian Semmens for a very informative Fossikin' Round which has doubled in size to 16 pages with the help of some great articles and photos (without jokes). Most newsletters are now sent by email which keeps the costs down. A lot of work by him is required to maintain its' high standard. It's advertising has become a great source of our income thanks to Ian's initiative. Can someone please supply Ian with prospecting jokes and he will put them in. A mention also to Mieke who still sends out the hard copies after many years, and as her previous role of membership secretary.

Part of our money raising and social interaction is the raffles which are enjoyed by all at camps and meetings, thanks to the efforts of Tina and Val.

Thanks Graham for the speaker line up at the meetings which added colour to the nights.

Others that also need a mention is Peter for the well oiled library operation, and Jimmy and the girls for the most welcomed suppers.

I have missed the last two trips due to my other commitments and the rain creating a lot of mud on the tracks that would have messed up my new truck which is wrapped in cotton wool at the moment until I work out what all the buttons do. No excuses from now on though. Till next time, good health to all. ERIC

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

July

Eric Grummett gave a very detailed illustrated talk about his recent guided tour of the Kimberley's.

The brochures, books and a DVD that he made of this once in a lifetime trip was exceptional in that it sold the region to everyone who attended on this Night.

August

Lindsay Tricker gave a very interesting presentation about travelling over to Western Australia and how to be prepared for the majority of possible mishaps that could occur along the way to the goldfields.

All of his tips were extremely interesting and should be adhered to such as carrying fuel, food and a good supply of drinking water and if possible a Satellite Phone for emergencies.

Lindsay also mentioned that there is a severe penalty for those who are thinking of going over to the Western Australia Goldfields without any proper documentation and if they are caught the Maximum penalty for an individual illegally prospecting is \$150,000.00. --- There is no excuse for this sort of behaviour!

September

This night will be devoted to the A.G.M. and I will be standing down as Vice President after 4 years.

I will now take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support by offering names and phone Nos. for an excellent cross selection of Guest Speakers over this time --- without your support I would not have been able to arrange for these Speakers to come along to our Club for those General Meetings. --- I Thank You! Also no Guest Speaker has been arranged for this night

October

Ian Semmens will be our Guest Speaker for this Month's General Meeting as he has offered to give a presentation about solar panels in caravans etc.

This presentation is of interest to everyone who has installed or are thinking of installing or even upgrading their present Solar Panels.

This is a topic that is relevant to all Club Members!



Eric with his shiny new Ranger 4x4.
Just wait till it hits the first bog hole!

General Meetings

July Find of the Month

Robert S.
35 grams
of WA nuggets

Gold



FIND OF THE YEAR

Those who have won "Find of the Month" are invited to bring their finds to the September Meeting for Judging of "Find of the Year".

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July Camp Report

Kingower

by Peter Maffey
Photos by Ian S.

Weather forecast was for rain and rain it did, with showers commencing Friday night after we managed to consume one of Geoff's special Dampers during Happy Hour.

Saturday the rain became heavier and more consistent . The 25 campers - (17 camp sites) who had ventured to Kingower were unable to have our normal Raffle or camp fire as the rain continued. Those who managed to get some detecting in during the rain breaks had very little luck.

Sunday we were greeted by Fog and more showers, many gave it away packing up, by Sunday afternoon only 12 campers (9 camps) remained. The rain held off and we managed Happy Hour-hot scones, jam and cream.

After tea two small fires to keep us warm we had the Raffle and chattered away till another shower sent us back under cover.

Monday again Fog to start then the first sight of the Sun late in the morning. The rain had made detecting difficult and our results were poor, only 12 small pieces being reported. Kay managed 2, Robert 6 Ian 2 and the others were all singles. Rain again in the afternoon soaked one group , bogging a vehicle, soon extracted by Geoff and his big V8 power plant.

David and Carols new Camper Trailer was well seasoned after the rain ready for their trip to WA.

Tuesday morning found the leaky vans (two) and the wet and muddy campers packing up, leaving Ian and the Queenslanders, who were at the site when we arrived, to find what Gold was left after our wet weekend at Kingower.



Carole detecting in a very recently burnt off area.

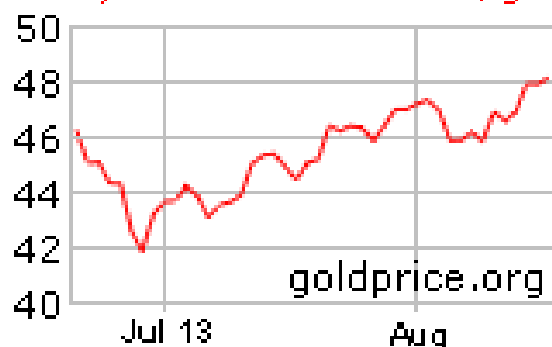


Gold Price Report

Price as at 23/08/2013

By Ian Semmens

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Eric giving the club members some valuable information of his trip to the Kimberleys at the last meeting.

August Camp Report

Whroo

by Tina W

Photos by Rob S. & Graham M

A Report from a Woman's Perspective

Valerie and I haven't been on a Camp Outing for months and the weather forecast was not good for this camp either.

Driving out of Nagambie, a strange flapping noise seemed to be following us, and on investigation we discovered a very flat tyre on the Caravan. Thank God for the RACV. This camping business is fraught with danger. Warren fell over a guy rope in the darkness, which did not do his hip a lot of good, and Francois had a gum tree leap out and damage his van.

The roads going into the Camp site at Whroo had rivers either side of the track - not rivers of gold unfortunately. We all had a great time, two markets at Gigaree and Violet Town and a garage sale down the main Street at Stanhope. The Camp Raffle had lively donations. There were twenty of us and sponsor John Hovig from HYE Trading came on a visit. He has a holiday farm not far away from our Camp. He demonstrated and spoke about a new portable solar Panel Battery Bank which can charge your laptop computer and/or your Mobile Phone.

There were two Fires, one in front of us and one behind - magic. Not much gold was found. Peter M found the biggest piece. Leslie braved the cold in his tent on two Lilos which kept on going down. He too was disappointed gold wise.

The company was great and we all had the best time, except we did miss Eric, our revered Leader. Tina.

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Full information at <http://golddetecting.4umer.net>

Call Peter 0417 010069

Call Bill 0419 008 548



The remains of the shredded tyre.
Have you checked yours recently?



Around the campfire



The campsite at Whroo



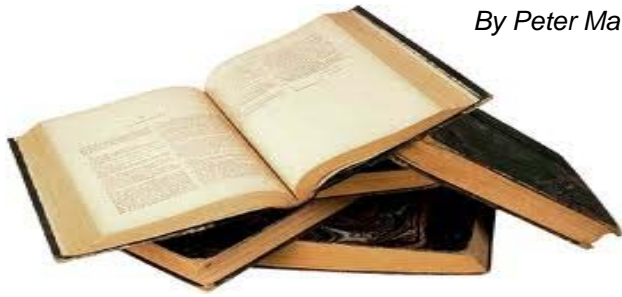
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Club Library Report



By Peter Maffey

We have **11 books** that have gone missing or return is overdue.

The last recorded borrowers will be contacted and asked to check their libraries, as no return has been recorded in the Tracking book. One book has been taken with no record of the borrower.

Missing Book List and the book number:

- 2 Gold: Where to go. How to find it.
- 8 Gold and Relics.
- 65 The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria.
- 80 Victorian Goldfields.
- 90 Metal Detecting.
- 98 Finding Gold Nuggets.
- 106 Diamonds in the Surf.
- 107 Advanced Coin Shooting.
- 108 Goldfields and Mineral Districts of Victoria.
- 138 Minerals Maldon Goldfields.
- 145 Secret Places up Yarra.

The dollars don't really matter but the books are an important asset as a reference for **all** Club Members. If you find a book return it to the Library. An entry in the Tracking book would be appreciated, no questions asked, it will save rechecking our entire Library again before a Lost Book is written off.

News

NEW PRO-SWING 45 ERGONOMIC HARNESS FROM MINELAB



At last - a revolutionary new detecting harness that increases time and comfort in the field. Introducing the new **PRO-SWING 45** from Minelab, this ergonomic harness features a unique weight distribution system (W8) that evenly redistributes the weight of the detector around the body. No more sore arms!

The harness features versatility for left or right handed users, guarantees a perfect fit through 8 adjustment points and allows you to carry your complete detecting kit with you through 8 attachment points. It also fits any Minelab detector thanks to the universal S-cuff so this is the only harness you will ever need to buy. Price \$149.00

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Special Outing Report

Ballarat Gold Museum

By Ian Semmens

This outing was to the Ballarat Gold Museum and we had a total of 11 people turn up to enjoy a great day in Ballarat.



We were treated to a guided tour of the museum and learnt a lot of extra facts and stories of the area and the formation of the museum. There were some goldfields items, relics and machinery. Also on display were a lot of photos of mines and streetscapes that, upon close examination, revealed more information of the way of life back then.

The highlight for us was the gold section with a display of the large replica nuggets like the Welcome Stranger and the Hand of Faith. There was also a large collection of

“smaller” genuine nuggets ranging in size from one ounce to 4.5 kilograms. There was also a display of panned gold with the location where it was found marked on a map.

We then took a break for lunch which we had at a restaurant on the banks of the Lake Wendoree.

We returned to the museum for a another look for several hours.

All present remarked that they really did enjoy the day and as there are other attractions there that interest us we may arrange another visit to Ballarat.

New Members

- Alan B
- Tony and Nola P



Welcome and Good Luck!

Special Club Outing to



**NATIONAL
SPORTS
MUSEUM**
MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

at the MCG
Saturday 19th October

Meet at 10:00 am for visit to the museum.

Price: Museum only \$20.00 (con. \$16), Museum and MCG Tour \$30.00 (Con. \$24). Bring a picnic for lunch out in the park (weather permitting).

Then for those who wish they can take part the tour of the MCG Grounds.

Please call Val 9999 9999, 0999 999 999 or Tina 9999 9999 to confirm details and to book.

Heard around the Traps...

A nice nugget of 68 grams found by a member recently in the Kingower area. About 14" down with a GPX4500.



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”.

West Australia 2013

Getting there

by Geoff Lee

Being the dedicated Seeker that I am ☺ only a couple of months before leaving I had bought a new Toyota Hi-Lux fitted out with 4x4 gear and a camper on the back tray - just the thing for WA prospecting! So naturally, I was really eager to try it out. My only real concern was I had only taken it to camp at Mountain Hut and had only done the 1,000 kms inspection. As it turned out - not a problem.



I left Melbourne and met up with Herman at Charlton, VIC, before we made it to Baroota Rodeo Camp Grounds, just north of Port Germein, SA, that night. It was dark when we got there, there was no lighting and in the morning, discovered there were no working toilets - not recommended!

The next day we made it all the way to just before Border Village on the WA border, then Kalgoorlie the next day. Petrol-wise, across the Nullarbor, we filled up our tanks and (3) jerry cans, at Penong, SA, and made it all the way to Norseman, WA - just. (Mind you, I do carry an emergency reserve). A total of 1,128 kms.

The only thing that went wrong getting this far, was the driving lights that I fitted before leaving - the relay kept 'sticking' so I couldn't turn them off for approaching traffic. I later fixed that with a new relay.

Kalgoorlie at last?

Ahhh.... Kalgoorlie, at last! In Kalgoorlie we availed ourselves of the free camping near the corner of Hannan St and Patroni Rd (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=loc:-30.7625,121.4578>); nothing flash, just a city park, but close to a serviced toilet block. After provisioning we headed off to Sandstone.

Sandstone

We were so relieved getting into Kalgoorlie that we didn't realise that Kalgoorlie to Sandstone is actually quite a drive, about 500 kms by road; and didn't leave Kal till just before lunch.

At Sandstone (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=loc:-27.9881,119.3007>), we met up with a couple of Herman's forum friends - Dutchie and Aussie (natives of Holland and Austria); and they showed us around Sandstone for a couple of days.

I didn't do any good here but at Tin City, an old miner's camp absolutely littered with rubbish and popular with locals and tourists; Herman managed to find a patch of 10 grams - to the disbelief of Aussie who took a while to come round.



We spend almost a week around Sandstone including a couple of days north at Sebastopol, a Doug Stone location (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=loc:-27.6381,119.4437>) - not recommended.

Towards the end of our stay around Sandstone, I was quite disheartened as I was not collecting as much heavy metal as I would have liked and I was just wandering around with another gold deposition theory in mind. *You know where this is going but I'll tell you anyway.* The only signals I was getting were ground noise. I was not far from a highly mineralised, large circular area when WHAM - I've swept a large piece of junk? So I left it! ...but only for a moment.

I scrape the surface with my boot. Hmmm, a bit deeper. Hmmm, scrape a bit more with my pick, then a couple of inches. Ohhh, this is looking good! Then at about 6 inches I have this heavy lump in my hand that looks like rubbish. But wait... what's that yellow dot? Oh yeah! Come to Papa.... a nice 24 gm specimen - about 10 gm gold.



Leinster

After Sandstone we headed back to Leinster and stayed overnight at the caravan park camping grounds (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=loc:-27.918762,120.697630>) - great laundry and showers! For dinner we went to the Miners' Canteen (<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=loc:-27.914001,120.700508>). If you're ever in Leinster around dinner time, this is a 'must'. As Guests, a full 3-course, all you can eat, dinner costs \$15. And the food is absolutely top rate. I had roast beef and it was super tender, best I've ever had! After stuffing ourselves silly, we went next door to the Traven to ease-up for a bit... but that's a different story.

The following day we headed towards Leonora but diverted into (geologically) gorgeous bushland on the way.

Secret Location 1

After traversing k's and k's of incredible geology with rough and indiscernible tracks we arrived at our planned location.

This little known area has reportedly been *highly* rewarding to detector operators over the early years. Surprisingly, the known (detectable) deposits are in pale clayish flats, not quite pipe clay, and stretching back to hills where reefs are located. Unfortunately, we must have been about a decade late getting there as, we found *zip*.

We did however manage a few crumbs in some surrounding areas; one being a nice 2.4 gram.

Although this location was disappointing, as they say, the journey is more important than the destination; and some waypoints may well be on next year's trip. 😊

Secret Location 2

After provisioning in Leonora, we headed East to another little known area. Unlike Location 1, this area was much more rewarding. Again, getting there was not for the faint-hearted. Without OziExplorer in my car, I doubt we would have got there.

Initially at this location, treasures appeared to have been concentrated around a broad creek, actually more like a large, elongated, flat area where water flows from higher up. But after a few days exploring, it appeared that over eons, the 'creek' must have done a lot of meandering and deposits were found in some most surprising areas. Overall, the area stretched 2 or 3 kilometres. It was generally sparse but in broad pockets.



After we first arrived and picked a camping spot, I headed out with my detector towards the creek. I had only gone about 20 meters when I hit a target. It was not a large bit but nevertheless, a good sign of things to

come. Unfortunately that was about it for the day.

Over the next few days, I zoomed around exploring the area and was quite disappointed. Herman on the other hand, concentrated on the area around camp and he was picking up bits all over the place. My bad!

For such a small area, few kilometres either way, there was surprising geological diversity: There was a large plain/slope to the east, the broad creek to the west, deep grounds at the bottom end of the creek, small flats to the west of the creek (Max's Patch), Blue quartz and brownish quartz reefs in the creek, an ironstone hill to the mid-north, a collection of calcrete mounds to the north-east and plains further north. There were also a couple of larger creeks from well-known areas flowing past to our south.

It took a few days of exploring, after which targets started flowing. On one particular day, I was detecting around

the bottom end of the creek. I knew from old detector holes that gold *was* there but I wasn't finding any. On my way back to camp I took an easterly approach. Then WHAM out of the blue, a target nearly blew my headphones off! Because I knew the area had already been detected, I figured 'yeah, more junk'. And maybe that's what other operators had also figured but there it was; only just covered by dirt - a nice 12.5gm specimen.

It was getting late so I hurried back to camp but the next day I returned to check out the rest of the area. Just 2 meters

away, I found another nice 3.1 gm'er.

On another occasion, I was poking around near Max's Patch. I wasn't doing much good and was quite despondent. I had been around here before and there was some recent rubbish discarded by other low-life operators. Around this was other old timer's rubbish. I swept under a bush and another WHAM. But this time I could see part of an old horseshoe. I thought 'Strange... that didn't sound right' so I pushed away the horseshoe and there was this beautiful mellow sound. Hallelujah! A 4.3 gm'er and all my troubles faded away!



Trouble in Paradise



Not everything went to plan. One day I drove towards an old mine along one of the larger creeks south of our camp - alone! Big mistake - don't try this at home. Anyway, I had

crossed the creek a few times and at *this* crossing, when I got out and checked, I saw that getting up the other side could be a bit slippery. Not to worry. I'll see how it goes when I get there.

Problem was, I never got there. As soon as I entered the creek my back wheels sunk through the sand onto a wet, muddy bottom - almost up to my axle! My stomach tightened into a small knot as I kicked myself and thought 'You idiot! And you're all alone! You're in deep sh..t!'. I should have taken some pics but that was the last thing on my mind. Anyway I packed a stack of branches under my tyres and eventually managed to turn around and drive back up the bank; only to get stuck again. So back to packing more branches before returning straight back to camp. No more driving around like that!

Homeward Ho!

Altogether I picked up just under 2 ounces. Less than my previous trip but in a much shorter time. It covered my travel expenses and made a nice profit; plus this year I didn't have any punctures - a big bonus!



Gold Miners Could Use X-Ray Technology to Detect Unseen Nuggets



Gold miners may be getting a bit of help with some advanced technology. Scientists have revealed that gamma-activation analysis (GAA) offers a faster and much more accurate way to detect gold than traditional chemical analysis methods. The findings could lead to saving the minerals industry in Australia hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

So how does GAA work? It scans mineral samples weighing around half a kilogram using high-energy x-rays, similar to those used to treat patients in hospitals. The x-rays activate any gold in the sample and the activation is then picked up using a sensitive detector. This allows researchers to easily see whether the sample is worth further processing.

Yet actually detecting this gold and creating this method wasn't easy. "The big challenge for this project was to push the sensitivity of GAA to detect gold at much lower levels—well below a threshold of one gram per ton," said James Tickner, the project leader, in a news release.

Usually, a gold processing plant only recovers between 65 and 85 percent of the gold in mined rock. Since a typical plant produces around \$900 million gold each year, this means there are hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of gold going to waste. Yet this latest technique may help stop this particular issue. Since it's easily automated, GAA is also far quicker than other analysis methods.

"Fire assay usually involves sending samples off to a central lab and waiting several days for the results," said Tickner in a news release. "Using GAA we can do the analysis in a matter of minutes, allowing companies to respond much more quickly to the data they're collecting. A compact GAA facility could even be trucked out to remote sites for rapid, on-the-spot analysis."

The next step for the researchers is to partner with local and international companies to get a full-scale analysis facility up and running in Australia. The new technique could eventually help with keeping gold loss to a minimum. This could, in turn, revolutionize the way we mine gold.

Warning!!!

If you have not paid your renewal fees by September 1st then this is the last newsletter that you will receive.

To renew:
See the renewal form in the last issue.
The Membership Secretary is
Warren Ibbotson and you can contact him
on (03) 9999 9999 or email at
xxx@xxx



VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER For the year 2013-2014

I,
Nominate

For the following position:

Seconded by.....

Accepted by

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

Vacant positions:

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

by Ian Semmens

How to identify a counterfeit GPX 4500

Around five years ago the news stated to come out of Africa of massive nuggets being found with detectors by the locals in the northern deserts of Sudan. This generated a gold rush and a huge demand for gold detectors. Other countries were to follow like Congo, Nigeria, Mali and Ghana. Manufacturers, particularly Minelab, could not keep up with the demand to produce gold detectors and so, in order to join this new gold rush, buyers were paying between 50% and 100% above new price in order to secure one of these detectors. The detector in most demand on the Sudanese goldfields (and most others as well) was the Minelab GPX 4500. With a high selling price and a huge demand for this model, this then created an opportunity that a number of criminal opportunists could not ignore. Using unscrupulous manufacturers, usually in China, they produce counterfeit copies of well known detectors including, of course, the GPX 4500 and now the GPX5000. They also produce copies of coils including the Minelab Commander, Coiltek and Nugget Finder coils.

The genuine detector and coil companies are now using security labels and serial numbers to help customers to determine if the product is genuine or a fake. Details of these steps to counter the counterfeiters are at:

<http://www.minelab.com/consumer/knowledge-base/news?article=19205>
<http://www.minelab.com/aus/consumer/where-to-buy/counterfeit-update>
<http://coiltekmanufacturing.com.au/counterfeitcoil.html>

(At present Nugget Finder does not have a website).

Having a serial number that checks out with the manufacturer is not enough to prove that it is genuine as the counterfeiters are using genuine serial numbers in the copies and they are changing them. With a new detector from Minelab they now have special labels and viewers to read them and a SMS verification scheme. If you buy from an authorized dealer then you are assured of getting a genuine product. If you are buying second hand privately then check the credentials of who is selling it, Insist on an invoice to verify if it was purchased from a dealer, avoid sellers who will not let you inspect it or who will not give you the serial number and do not agree to pick up from a place that is not the sellers residence. Do not buy from EBay if the seller does not have a high rating and it is best to avoid GumTree altogether because they have no rating system at all.

The early fake detectors, coils and Li-ion batteries were cheap and nasty and you could pick the difference with a casual examination. Now some of the copies are very close to the original and it is only subtle differences to give away the fake one. Where it is obvious is in the performance of the fake detector and coil. The fake ones perform poorly, if at all.

Please note that The fake detectors pictured here are just one type of fake. There are a number of different fakes out there, some better copies than these here.



Genuine Minelab GPX 4500 front panel



Fake Minelab GPX 4500 front panel

Note: Knobs instead of switches
 No Auto Tune, Smart Point switch instead of socket,
 different graphics



Genuine Minelab GPX 4500 rear panel



Fake Minelab GPX 4500 rear panel

Note:
 Different graphics
 Different knobs

An Open Letter from the PMAV reproduced here for the members benefit:

Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria Inc.

GPO Box 1706 Melbourne Vic 3001 Phone: 0408 176 496 E-mail: pmav@pmav.org.au Website: pmav.org.au

August, 2013

Dear Member and PMAV Supporter

The VEAC Report has been released. It contains mixed news for prospectors.

While it is recommended that we have access to over 20,000 hectares of national and state parks where we are currently prohibited, this comes with unacceptable conditions.

The report proposes further limitations on what can be done under a Miners Right. This includes only being able to dig one cubic metre of dirt, no sluices, having to backfill holes the same day they are excavated and much more.

Detector operators might say, not a problem. It is! If we accept these conditions, we are taking an unnecessary step backwards. We must stand our ground and not accept any further limitations – otherwise what will be next?

Oh yes, they are talking about making it illegal to even carry prospecting equipment through a national park.

The full report is available online at this link: <http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/investigation-into-additional-prospecting-areas-in-parks> or a printed copy can be obtained by phoning VEAC on 03 9637 9902 or 1800 134 803 (Free call outside Melbourne).

All this is unacceptable and we strongly urge you to join us to ensure these restrictive proposals never become law.

The Napthine Government has 6 months to respond to VEAC's Recommendations and the clock is ticking.

Now is the time to act.

What you can do – contact your local Member of Parliament. If you don't know who they are visit this website: <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/lookup/LocalityFinder.htm>, enter your address and you will find out.

If you don't have web access – phone the Victorian Electoral Commission on 131 832 or 03 8620 1100.

Please also contact the Environment Minister – Ryan Smith on ryan.smith@parliament.vic.gov.au and the Resources Minister – Nick Kotsiras on nicholas.kotsiras@parliament.vic.gov.au

We suggest you tell your MP and the Ministers that you are not happy with any proposals to further limit the Miners Right and that there is absolutely no reason not to allow prospecting in most of the national parks, rather than a very small percentage.

Be proud of what you do, you are continuing an important heritage and doing absolutely nothing wrong.

Remember our predecessors laid down their lives at Eureka to obtain the rights we enjoy today and remember the oath to 'stand truly by each other to defend our rights and liberties'.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Rita Bentley, PMAV President E-mail: xxx@xxx

Out 'n' About in Tarnagulla

Bendigo Bank Detector Key Hunt Sunday 6 October 2013.

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 8 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 - 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



Sept. Outing: Tarnagulla

Friday 13th to Tues. 17th Sept.

Oct. Outing: Talbot

Friday 11th to Tuesday 15th Oct.

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.

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.

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Prospecting is an enjoyable activity however there are some inherent dangers on the goldfields. Members are reminded to take care to avoid the risk of falling in any open shaft, trench or costeen. Avoid water hazards such as dams, streams and rivers especially if rapidly flowing. Use care when walking through the bush and 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, spiders ants and scorpions. It is not advisable to prospect alone. Team up with a mate.

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Ararat Gold Dig

19th & 20th October
 Greenacres Road, Moyston

MAJOR PRIZE:
MINELAB
Metal Detector
Plus many other prizes

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.




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