

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, issue 6

Nov./Dec. 2012

Big Nugget Found



Inside This Issue



Eaglehawk Camp Report

Eric breaking up
quartz on his red gum
anvil

Talbot Camp Report



"Claude's Claim"

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

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 IBBOTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

email: xxx@xxx

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

RESEARCH OFFICER: Ted Cox

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Please send your articles, ads, etc, to reach the editor no later than by the 15th of the month in which they have to appear in the newsletter. Articles need to be sent by email as a Word or similar file.

Please email to Ian at: xxx@xxx

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

November

Fri 2nd - Tues 6th: Cup Weekend Camp **Craigie West**
Wed 7th: General Meeting.

December

Wed 5th: General Meeting.
Sun 9th: Xmas Break up Party **Wicks Reserve**
Wed 26th - Tues 1st Jan: Xmas Camp **Ararat**

January

No General Meeting
Fri 25th - Tues 29th Jan: Camp **Chute**

February

Wed 6th: General Meeting.
Fri 15th - Tues 19th: Camp **TBA**

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

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

Almoner's Report

Murray H has had a prostate operation and is now recovering.

Peter M is about to start undergoing radiation treatment for a prostate condition as well.

We wish both of them a full recovery and look forward to seeing them back on the goldfields soon.

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 2012: Feb 1, Mar 7, Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, Jul 4, Aug 1, Sep 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5.

Committee meetings for 2012: Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, Aug 28, Sept 25, Oct 30, Nov 25.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Here I go again for yet another year in the chair. I thank members for their confidence in me. One day, you might like a change and nominate someone else who is willing to step up, you never know.

With all this rain we have had, I have not seen the bush looking so good at the moment, the abundance of wildflowers appearing all over the place it looks a treat. I've never seen so many wildflowers before. It's amazing how nature can recover so quickly after the many years of drought that this country has had recently. I have just returned from Qld, and everywhere we went new grass was long and lush. Farmers didn't seem to have sufficient stock that the land could cope with. Even in the usually totally barren area of Lightning Ridge has a good cover of new vegetation that locals hadn't seen for many a year. With all this dampness in the ground, digging our targets is now a breeze. It also makes metal targets more conductive. With all this good news let's all get out there and take advantage of our playgrounds condition (as soon as it stops bloody raining).

When is a sign not a sign? Answer- when a bureaucrat from Parks Victoria goes around plonking the wrong ones on our detecting areas [see article elsewhere]. When out prospecting, it pays to be aware of our rights. If it is still there next time I'm up at Wedderburn, my 4x4 and tow rope will immediately solve the problem.

What gold are we getting (or not getting) at the moment? Most of us are looking for the odd shallow small bit that sometimes cannot be weighed. To solve the problem, what are we doing about the nuggets below, say, 12 inches? Maybe we should be looking to make better use of our new wiz- bang detectors by using an 18 or 24 inch mono in deep ground that has produced big nuggets in the past.

While in Wedderburn, I observed an elderly gentleman (like me), digging very deep targets in Queens' Gully - which was a good producer in the past. Being the curious person that I am, talked to him about his operation. He was using a GPX 5000 with an 18" mono working VERY SLOW, and has been coming to that area regularly recently and had found several ounces in the worked out ground, all deep targets some of which were very small. Many would say that these coils are too heavy. Yes at our normal speed but not so at a slow pace. That has now got me thinking....

Don't forget that it is almost time to put pen to paper in support of the PMAV's push for access to more parks. It will not happen if we rely on someone else to do the work. We will need numbers to have any influence on the outcome.

Till next time, happy hunting. ERIC



General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

October

Geoff Lee explained the Basics of the Internet and your Personal Security regarding Emails and Banking Online. Also the hidden dangers of Social Media (Facebook, Twitter etc.) . *A hint from Graeme:* These can lead to Identity Fraud and Chat Rooms can be another danger if you do not incorporate Key Words into your chatting session to identify if the person you are corresponding with is in fact the correct identity.

It can be suggested that if you are upgrading your old computer to a new one DESTROY beyond recognition your Hard Drives (Cut them in half with a Hacksaw or Angle Grinder) as these do contain Personal Information that can be Resurrected and used for Identity Fraud especially if it has been used for Online Banking or other Business Transactions.



Geoff Lee explaining computer security to the members.

November

December

As it is the Club's Christmas breakup there will be no guest speaker for this night.

Find of the year:

Peter M.
19g. nugget



Some large nuggets have been found through out the year but they were not presented on the night for the judging. Don't be modest about your finds, bring them along to the meetings and let others enjoy looking at them.

Detecting News

A SIGN OF THE TIMES? *By Eric G.*

While recently in Wedderburn with the PMAV we where confronted with this sign in the Beggary Hills area which states "NO PROSPECTING", which is wrong. As anyone familiar with Wedderburn knows, Beggary Hill is a permitted prospecting area which is clearly shown on Parks Vic own information sheet "Prospecting Around Wedderburn" printed in 2007, which is widely distributed in the area to guide prospectors around the Wychitella Nature Conservation Reserves.



I rang PV about this issue, and they admitted it is wrong. I finally got onto the ranger for the area who was familiar with the sign which has been in place for several years, and promises to change it. How many people would have been put off by this wrong information, resulting in a loss in visitors to the area?

Treasurer's Annual Report

by Denise Haughety

The accounts have been audited and statements have been sent to the relevant authorities in accordance with government requirements for incorporated clubs and sporting bodies. The investment account has been maintained to cover the liability under the club's current insurance policy. Bendigo Bank continues to provide a wonderful, friendly and supportive service to the club and the treasurer. A new account has been opened to facilitate on line direct deposit payments by advertisers; money will be transferred from this account to the club operating account, leaving \$50 to maintain the banks required minimum.

The club has had a very successful year financially and turned a deficit of last year into a surplus this year: in part due to increased advertising in our outstanding newsletter (thanks Ian editor and Geoff web manager) and a reduction in distribution costs; and your support for the wonderful work of Val and Tina in making the raffle and swindle so successful – which covered the costs of our activities at special camps. The Monash raffle and Ted's Christmas hamper also contributed to the successful year. Members fees are the backbone of the club. Special mention must be made of Mieke for the remarkable work she does in collecting the fees and maintaining the membership register, she also collates and distributes the newsletter. Virginia's club uniforms (smartest prospectors in Victoria' history) are selling well (Francine and Robyn sales and marketing) and defraying the cost which occurred in last year's figures. A Presidential gazebo was purchased last year for the bush camp activities and has proven its worth already.

I have enjoyed my time as treasurer and am sure the club will continue on a prosperous path into the future with Warren as your new Treasurer.
Denise

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May Camp Report

Eaglehawk

by Graham Mee

Photos by Geoff Lee

Yet another wet camp but this did not put off the 24 members and 7 visitors that turned up for the event. Also, it was good to see our secretary back on the gold trail with his long awaited new van.

Just the 2 incidents to report for this camp –

Incident No 1.

This one put a big hole in my detecting day. Out on the diggings and I was unable to find my mobile phone. A thorough search of the surrounding area, then the car, then the caravan, failed to locate it. A quick trip into town was made to cancel my mobile account, only to find the phone later in the day. This meant a further trip into town to re-activate my mobile account.

Incident No 2

Dave N arrived at camp on Friday night and on setting up his pop top van, was shocked when the wind-up cable broke and was forced to spend the night in the back of his car. The following morning however, with the help of a few members, the roof of the van was manually lifted and temporary supports were fitted so that he could enjoy the rest of the holiday in relative comfort.

All members were out early detecting during the day with the evenings being spent around the camp fire enjoying the usual nibbles, drinks and gossip with Saturday night and the raffle (thanks to Virginia) being the most popular night.

Finds for this camp were 80- pieces of gold and 12- specimens once again proving the detecting skills of the dedicated club members. All in all, a great camp and a good time was had by all. See you at the next camp.....be there.



Main Camp fire of the camp.



John F. detecting on the surfacing.

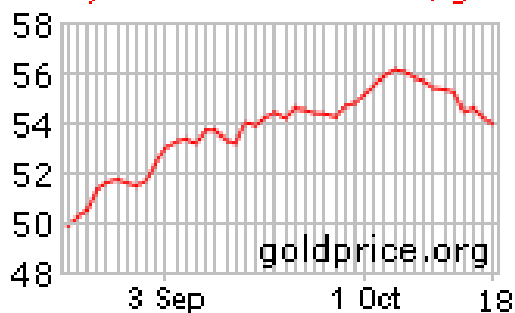


Ralph D. detecting on the surfacing

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 steadily risen with a tapering off in the last week. per gram . Price as at 19/10/2012.

More Sept. Outing Photos

Photos By Eric G.



Whipstick wildflowers



What **not** to do.

A large detector hole left unfilled in the Whipstick Park by a lazy, irresponsible gold detector operator. It is holes left like this by some senseless bush vandal that give us a bad name. The hole was filled in by a Seekers member.

WIN A US\$150 COILTEK VOUCHER!

Welcome to the Coiltek Manufacturing Latest Discoveries competition. The winner of the monthly competition will win a US\$150 COILTEK VOUCHER.

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1. Each find must have been made whilst using a Coiltek product.
2. Include both a fascinating story (making sure you capture the excitement of your find) and an interesting find.
3. Images of the finds to accompany the story.

We always love to hear about the finds that are being made out in the field with Coiltek products and look forward to reading your stories. The three areas outlined above are only for a guide for those that would like to maximise their chances of winning our Latest Discoveries competition.

So now is the time? Submit your story now!

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October Camp Report

Talbot

by Geoff Lee

Photos By Eric G. & Geoff L.

The Talbot Camp started off a bit damp but turned out well. Leading up to the camp the weather forecasts seemed to be changing every day but generally improving. Apart from clouds and the occasional misty sprinkle, we only had a half hour of actual rain. So overall the weather and tracks were good and only the occasional bug!

Unfortunately gold was pretty ordinary. Whereas at the previous Bendigo camp, lots of little bits were found; at Talbot not nearly as many bits were found although there were a couple of larger nuggets(?) of 3 and 5.6 grams.

'M' found the 5.6 grammer. Apparently he went for a poo and figured the ground looked pretty good. So as any good operator does, he then started detecting around; so lo and behold, we now have a Poo Nugget! Something to remember next time you're scratching about in the bush.



5.6gm Poo Nugget

Of course, when you are scratching around, you probably don't want to dig a 2m diameter by 1m deep hole as Claude did! Yes, the search for panning colour can be hard work. Also, I have it on good authority that reasonable colour was found and the hole was filled back.

We had about 40 people around the Saturday Camp Fire and about 25 vans/camps. Young Rob showed up with his new van - very nice. Unfortunately we didn't have a Christening for it. Maybe next time? Eric donated a nice Coiltek vest to the raffle and as I'd been looking for a new vest for a while now, thought I'd better try it on - just in case my numbers come up. First number up was visitor John's, then OMG, my number did come up - unbelievable! After everyone had seen me trying it on, denials of 'rigging' were the order.

It was also good to see Herman and (Eric's brother) David up and about. Herman, 3 months after his by-pass and David, about 6 months after his bad fall.



Claude and François at the "Claude's Claim". Claude was sieving off the larger stones and panning off the gravels at a nearby dam. The hole was later filled in.



Herman taking it easy and watching the F1 race on TV at the camp.

I don't think that the early diggers had it this good.



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Compiled by Ian Semmens.

\$500,000 gold nugget found in the Ballarat region

By NEELIMA CHOAHAN Aug. 31, 2012, midnight

From the **Ballarat Courier**

A GOLD nugget worth about \$500,000 has been discovered in the wider Ballarat region.

Weighing a whopping 3.66kg (118 oz troy for all you prospectors out there-Editor), the nugget named Destiny was found by three unnamed prospectors in the Golden Triangle region of Ballarat, Bendigo and Stawell last month.



Sovereign Hill Museums Association deputy chief executive officer Tim Sullivan said the nugget was most likely to have been discovered towards the centre of the triangle.

"It was most likely found somewhere between the Bendigo and Ballarat leg of the triangle," he said.

"These discoveries show that there are still big nuggets out there in central Victoria."

Sovereign Hill Gold Museum curator Roger Trudgeon said the discovery was a life-changing event for the prospectors.

"This is a major discovery in the history of gold nuggets found in Victoria and proves there is still gold to be found, even in areas where others have prospected many times," Mr Trudgeon said.

The Destiny nugget, which is one of the largest to be dis-

covered in Victoria in the last 10 years, is currently on loan to Sovereign Hill.

"We have it for six months," Mr Sullivan said. "It will be on display during the spring school holidays at the outdoor museum."

Mr Sullivan said nuggets as large as Destiny were marvels of nature.

"They are rare, precious and exciting to behold," he said. "And the price goes up simply because of its artistic value and interesting shape."

"There is more interest in the nugget when there is a story behind its find."

The prospector who found the nugget is said to have been searching for gold from a young age with his father. In the past few years, the man and two of his friends started seriously looking for gold a couple of days a week. According to Sovereign Hill, on the day that Destiny was found, the prospector had given up the search due to bad weather.

But during a lull in the rain the prospector gave it one more go. He soon literally struck gold under a clump of foliage around a tree.

Initially, he thought it was a large piece of rock but once he held it in his hands he realised by its weight that it was much more.

He held up the dirty mass in his hand to show his friends but dropped it by mistake.

One of his friends called out "Is it bigger than 10 ounces?" The prospector said, "It's bloody bigger than 10 ounces".

Mr Sullivan said the museum had been experiencing a rush of prospectors recently.

"Every couple of months somebody comes in with a piece of nugget," he said. "The growth in the quality of technology in detectors has helped increase the chances of success quite significantly."

Mr Sullivan said the Destiny nugget would keep the folklore about gold in the region alive.

"A lot of the stories are about ordinary people discovering gold by fairly ordinary means," he said. "There are lots of opportunities out there."

Gold History

Largest (known) Nuggets found in Victoria

By Ian Semmens



0 10 20 30cm
Welcome Stranger Nugget

Name	Size	Found
1. Welcome Stranger	2284oz (71.03kg)	1869, Moliagul
2. Welcome Nugget	2217oz (68.95kg)	1858, Ballarat
3. Blanche Barkly	1743oz (54.21kg)	1857, Kingower
4. Precious	1717oz (53.40kg)	1871, Rheola
5. Canadian	1319oz (41.02kg)	1853, Ballarat
6. Lady Hotham	1177oz (36.60kg)	1854, Ballarat
7. Sarah Sands	1117oz (34.74kg)	1853, Ballarat
8. Viscount of Canterbury	1114oz (34.65kg)	1870, Rheola
9. Unnamed	1034oz (32.16kg)	1855, Maryborough
10. Unnamed	1011oz (31.44kg)	1853, Ballarat



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to be considerate of others when using a generator.

Consider charging batteries with a solar panel instead of a generator.

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Social Outing



Theatre Night

"CALENDAR GIRLS"
Friday 9th November 2012
Athenaeum Theatre, Lillydale
Tickets \$22.00.
For tickets see Val at the meetings or call on 9999 9999

We will meet for a meal beforehand at 6.00pm at the Dorset Hotel, Dorset Rd., Croydon.

Special Event

West Craigie Camp Melbourne Cup W/E Hot Chicken Dinner



Free Hot Chicken Dinner.
Saturday 3rd Nov. Evening Dinner.
Bring yourself, salad and/or desert.

Plus:

- **Special Cup W/E Raffle**
- **Cup Sweepstakes**
- **"Fashions on the Field"**

Dress up for judging of this fun event. We have had some great appearances in the past events.

Nov. Outing: Craigie West

Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th November
Melbourne Cup Special Event Camp



Seekers' Christmas Party

Sunday 9th December,
from 11am

(Electric BBQs and water in the
premises)

- * Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)
- * Drawing of the **Christmas Raffle**.
One huge hamper plus two more hampers.
- * Door prizes
- * Bring along your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket from Mieke on arrival. Electric BBQ available, BYO table, chairs, food and drink, don't forget the AEROGARD. and sun cream!

Please make an effort to come to this break up party and support the club and also have a great time !!!

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No unattended fires.

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

Dec. Outing: Ararat

Wed. 26th December to Tue. 1st. January

DIRECTIONS - Ararat is 203 km from MELBOURNE via the Western Highway (A8).

Jan. Outing: Chute

Friday 25th to Tuesday 29th January

DIRECTIONS - From Melbourne travel via the Western Highway (A8) to Beaufort. At Beaufort turn right at the

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.

Prospecting is an enjoyable activity however there are some inherent dangers on the goldfields. Members are reminded to take care to avoid the danger of falling around 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 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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