

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 33, issue 5

Sept./Oct. 2012



Jan detecting  
at Tarnagulla

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## New Minelab Detector



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> of July each year.**

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

email: [xxx@xxx](mailto:xxx@xxx)

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley, VIC 3149

### Committee of Management

**PRESIDENT:** Eric GRUMMETT

email: [xxx@xxx](mailto: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:** Denise HEGARTY (Mrs)

Budget, finance matters ( other than subscriptions)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ian SEMMENS

email: [xxx@xxx](mailto:xxx@xxx)

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY..** Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

**RESEARCH OFFICER:** vacant

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

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### Disclaimer:

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

## 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](mailto:xxx@xxx)

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

# Events Calendar

## September

**Wed 5th:** General Meeting. **Annual General Meeting**

**Fri 14th - Tues 18th:** Camp **Eaglehawk**

**Sun 30th:** Detector Key Hunt **Tarnagulla**

## October

**Wed 3rd:** General Meeting.

**Fri 12th - Tues 16th:** Camp **Talbot**

**Sat 20th & Sun 21st:** Ararat Gold Dig **Moyston**

**Sat 27th - Sun 28th:** PMAV AGM **Clunes**

## 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**

# Editors Report

*by Ian Semmens*

A big issue again this month with news and outing reports and the news of another new model of detector from Minelab. This time it is a pin pointer and it will fill a gap in Minelab's range and will hopefully be of much benefit to prospectors.

Many thanks for those that have contributed to this issue and a reminder to those who are able to either write something down or direct us to an article that may be of interest to the members, to please let us know.

## 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

We all know how hard it is to find a bit of gold in the areas we regularly go to. Well, we now have some good news from the PMAV, who have been lobbying the various State Governments over many years for prospecting access to other gold producing areas of Victoria, within State and National Parks from which we have been excluded. The current government are now honouring a pre-election promise to look into the issue for us and have now committed themselves to the task (see the Press Release on page 10). The PMAV president and some committee members were able to escort the relevant ministers, Michael O'Brian (Minister of Energy and Resources) and Ryan Smith (Minister of Environment) on a trip to the goldfield at Creswick for a demonstration of what we do. They came away very impressed by what little impact we have on the environment. The opposition spokesman John Lenders was also taken out on a similar demonstration to Maryborough the week before with a similar conclusion. Let's hope that a satisfactory result can come out of this without being torpedoed by grenneis. It would be good to be able to try some new ground. Congratulations to the PMAV for the huge effort getting it to this stage. Other states must be envious of our recognition within the government of our hobby.

This terrible weather the last couple of months has had a disastrous effect on camp attendances with only a small representation at the last 2 camps of about 10-12 members. Some members have been away either in the West or up North. In July I attended a wet affair at Tarnagulla, but we managed to get out detecting between showers and find a few bits adding up to about 10 gram among us, which wasn't bad considering the conditions.

Our September meeting is also our AGM. The present committee is in need of some new committee members to help run the club and maybe they will have some new ideas. If members feel strongly about the club they should offer themselves for a position to help the club progress, otherwise we will have the same faces that have been on the committee for many years, and some deserve a break. To get the most out of the club you also need to put in, which is like everything else in life. I would like to personally thank the outgoing committee for all the good work that has been achieving in the last 12 months and hope the next year will be at least as successful.

Due to the fact we have a club website which goes world-wide, Ian Semmens was able to negotiate with our advertisers some good rates which has made a big impact on our income, thanks Ian, and also Geoff Lee for setting up the site.

This report as president may be my last if we can get someone that is prepared to give it a go. I won't hold my breath on that one. The best of health and luck.  
ERIC



# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

## July

The DVD that was shown at this meeting was extremely interesting --- It gave everyone present an illustrated hands on approach to what resuscitation method that should be followed if anyone of us is confronted with this scenario.

The lively discussion that followed was also extremely informative.



Eric practicing CPR using the Pillow Pal simulation.

## August

**Ian Haywood** gave a very interesting presentation about his hobby and he also had on display an extensive collection of coins and artefacts, plus gem stones, and photographs. He mentioned the dangers of detecting near disused mines as there could be some old detonators lying around and which if hit accidentally by a pick they could explode and cause serious injury to the person who is digging.



Ian Haywood demonstrating an old Garret coin detector.

## September

This Month is the Annual General Meeting --- There will be no Guest Speaker. Stay around for tasty treats. Though there may be a prospecting video to watch.

## October

Geoff Lee will be explaining the basics of the Internet plus the benefits of using Email for contacting people etc. This promises to be an extremely interesting evening!

## General Meetings

### Find of the Month: May

Ted C.  
12.8gram nugget



Nugget

## Almoner's Report

Please let Virginia Lake, the club Almoner, know if you think a card should be sent due to sickness or major event (age milestone, marriage etc). Virginia can be contacted on 9999 9999 or xxx@xxx

David Grummet is still recovering slowly from his fall. Herman has had a heart bypass operation and is now recovering.

It is with sad news that I have to announce the passing of former member Geoff Mathews. Although he has not been a member for a while, Geoff was well known and liked in the club and will be sadly missed. Commiserations to the family.



### Remember:

to be considerate of others  
when using a generator.  
Please use battery power  
in preference to generators.  
Consider charging these  
batteries with solar panels.

Winter is back with force!



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The editor welcomes comments of any type  
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newsletter.

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# The History of Bendigo

By George McKay 1891 *Compiled by Ian Semmens.*

*An Extract from "The History of Bendigo":*

It has been settled beyond doubt that gold was first discovered on Bendigo at a place known in 1851 as "The Rocks," at Golden Square ; but it is not likely that the question as to who was the discoverer will ever be decided definitely. It has been claimed that a man named Johnston picked up a piece of gold in October, 1851; also, that shepherds in the employ of Messrs. Gibson and Fenton found gold at the locality mentioned and again it has been claimed that Messrs. Gibson and Fenton were themselves the first discoverers. Mr. Fenton states that they saw the gold in the roots of a large tussock of grass which the wash of the flood waters of the creek had laid bare. Whoever discovered the precious metal, the news spread, and there was a rush, which, however, proved unsuccessful. A few prospectors remained, and did a good stroke for their pains in Golden Gully.

In a short time the news of their good luck got wind at Forest Creek, and the second and permanent rush set in. By this time the news of the earlier discoveries at Ballarat and Forest Creek had reached Great Britain, and before many months elapsed thousands of the sons of the old land, and of the population of the neighbouring colonies were flocking to Victoria. The population of the colony rapidly increased from 97,000 in 1851 to 168,000 in 1852, 222,000 in 1853, and 364,000 in 1855.

The valley of Bendigo was changed as if by magic, and after the winter of 1852 almost all of natural beauty that Bendigo had possessed had disappeared, and "Ichabod " had been written on its sadly mutilated face. Persons approaching the diggings were made aware of their vicinity by an incessant discharge of firearms by the diggers, and the continuous ringing of axes on the butts of the trees. One was thus prepared to meet with scenes of excitement and industry, and there was noise and hurry and bustle enough, goodness knows — an immense waste of energy — a vast useless consumption of gunpowder. It was a stirring scene, with the swarming mass of active, hardy, and vigorous young men who had been driven to the colony by the fever into which the discovery of gold had thrown them. Among that splendid band of pioneers were men of all grades of life — the artisan, the lawyer, the doctor, and even the nobleman, mingling together in the common throng, striving for the possession of the precious metal which was to secure to them wealth and fortune.

And amongst all these mad, wild, novel scenes, the abominable dust fiend held high revelry. Earth and clay, reduced to an impalpable powder, lay on the roads ankle deep at least, and the slightest puff of wind raised it in blinding clouds. In the midst of all this dust and heat, and clamour and confusion, it was not a good thing, as can be imagined, to be unable to get a drink of water. But there was little or none on Bendigo in March, 1852, and a very considerable portion of the population were compelled to fly to Bullock Creek, the Sheepwash, and other

adjacent water courses. As a natural consequence of the want of water, the heat, the dust, and the unaccustomed hardships and exposure, sickness in various forms was prevalent.

The results of the rush were astounding. Ironbark turned out a vast quantity of gold, and numerous holes in that gully were appropriately called "jeweler's shops". All the way out to Eaglehawk, Sailors' Gully, and the neighbouring diggings, men were rapidly realising fortunes, which most of them managed as quickly to dissipate. Gold was dug up almost in bucketfuls on Bendigo Flat. Two young men one morning sank a shallow hole at the foot of the first White Hill, and from one pocket in the slate took up 50lb. weight of the precious metal. The White Hills yielded enormously ; and some pretty piles were made on Epsom Flats. Those who have only known Bendigo as it now is, will fail to recognise a faithful picture of the district before its invasion by the great army of diggers. An immense amount of work was performed in an incredibly short space of time. Vast areas of ground were turned over to the bed rock, and rifled of their treasures. Whole forests of great ironbark trees, with the dense underwood growing among them, quickly disappeared.

It may be difficult for many to believe that the forest between the First White Hill and our railway station, and, indeed, up to Golden Gully, was so thick and dark that people often lost their way in attempting to get through it, from any one of the points named to another. The range dividing Sandhurst from Ironbark was so densely timbered that no glimpse of the valley of Bendigo could be obtained from it, and many robberies were committed there. Men who ventured to bring their gold into the township, as Sandhurst was then called, did so at great risk. Mr. Joseph Holloway, who used to visit the gullies for the purpose of buying gold from the diggers, was stuck up one evening on Ironbark Hill, but being on horseback he got away, and was fired at twice as he galloped off, though fortunately without effect.



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## 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 had dropped slightly to around the AU\$49-50 per gram. Price as at 19/08/2012.

## July Outing Photos

Photos By Eric G.



Geoff, Nola Jan & Geoff at the "Patch".



Even Minnie wants to get in on the action!

## Events

### OUT 'N' ABOUT IN TARNAGULLA

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Of interest to members is the Naturally Loddon

"A Wonderland in Spring"

festival which features a **Detector key hunt**.

Registration for the Detector key hunt starts at 9am at the Community Centre, which is at the back of the Victoria Theatre, and the participant will be taken to the site at 10:25am for a 10:30 start. The hunt finishes at 2:20pm and coil size is to be no more than 11 inches. The cost is \$10.00 per person. First Prize is a Minelab X-Terra 705 Dual.

Also other activities include a historic walk, goldfields bike ride, photographers, wildflower walk, all ages "Scavenger Hunt".

LOCATION: Tarnagulla Community Centre - 8 Sandy Creek Lane, Tarnagulla

CONTACT: Loddon Visitor Information Centre  
(03) 5494 3489

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# August Camp Report

## Heathcote

by Geoff Lee

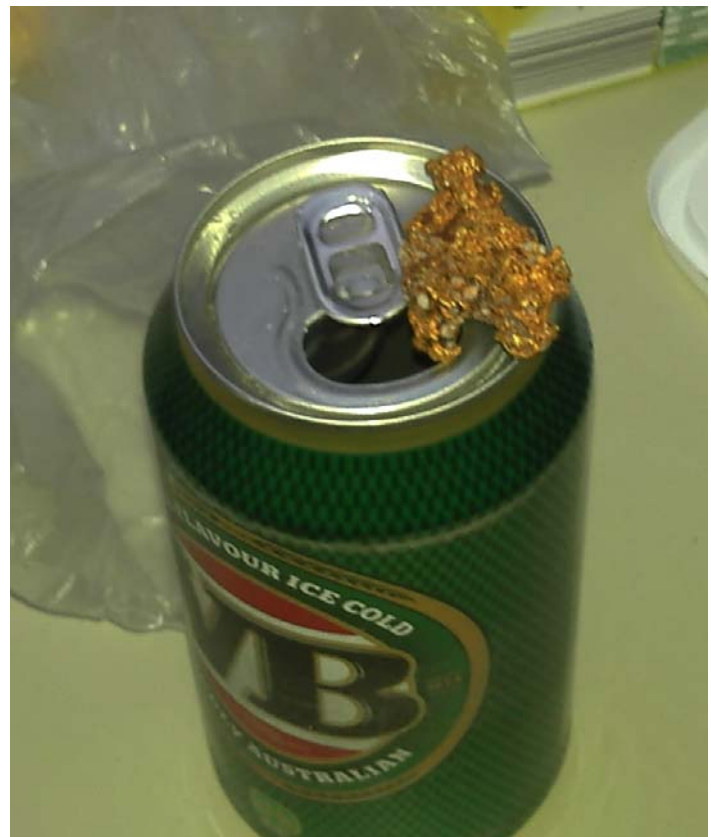
The previous camp at Tarnagulla was not well attended due to the wet weather and the Heathcote camp suffered likewise. This was somewhat unfortunate because although the days leading up to the weekend were looking pretty miserable, no detecting time was lost due to rain; and the ground was relatively dry.

All together we had 6 caravans and 1 car, for a total of 11 people plus 1 who stayed at the caravan park. This included new, old members Geoff and Kay (Welcome back, guys).

Peter M supplied scones around the camp fire each evening. However, because not many members attended, we had about 2 scones each every night - talk about appetisers! Nice, lovely, warm scones. Yum.

Unlike the scones, gold was mostly, relatively scarce with mostly only the usual bit although some members did quite nicely. In particular, one member managed to turn up a 34gm'er (plus other bits and pieces).

About half the camp went home Sunday and by Monday evening only Peter M and myself remained (I almost didn't need dinner after that evening's scones).  
Geoff



Nice 34 gramer speckled with quartz grains.



Some of Eric's clay pipes on display at the July meeting.

## Ararat Gold Dig

20th & 21st October  
Greenacres Road, Moyston



MAJOR PRIZE:

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

Presentations will be at 1:30pm Sunday.

For more information:

Murray Woods 5352 1683, 0418 671 095

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## Western Australia 2012

by Geoff Lee

I had been to Tibooburra to detect a few times but not to WA so I was really looking forwards to this trip; with Lars and Ted C. Ted hadn't been for quite a few years and Lars usually goes with Barry S, who declined this year. We also had the pleasure of Lars' son, Per, for the first few weeks of the trip.

Lars did all the Section 20A permits for WA (Thanks, Lars). He set us up with 4 areas - Kurnalpi (about 100km east of Kal), Yandal-Barwidgee (about 80km east of Lienster), Billies Bore (about 80km further east) and Hootanui (about 80km further east again, or about 100kms north of Laverton).



Lars had his camper van whereas Ted bought himself a camper trailer for the trip, and Herman lent me his 'pop-up' box trailer (fitted out with single bed, etc) and which was surprisingly warm and comfortable.

We left Melbourne early Anzac Day and got to Crystal Brook SA that night; then Nullabor Road House and just past Baladonia the following nights. We got into Kalgoorlie for lunch on Day 4.



I didn't think we'd brought Murphy along on the trip but when I checked my email at Kal, I learnt that the Seekers web site was going to be shut down, end July - great (not)! But that's a different story. After lunch and shopping at Kal we then headed off to Kurnalpi.

### Kurnalpi

Whilst unhitching Ted's camper trailer at Kurnalpi, we discovered that a weld in the (4x4) trailer hitch had parted company and was only holding only by virtue of downward pressure. As soon as it was jacked up, the coupling parted company. OMG. Thank Goodness it hadn't happened on the road!

Well that was a problem because it could no longer be towed but it was a good thing Ted had RACV Total Care.

After a couple of days (no rush here) Ted drove back to Kal and arranged for a tray truck to cart the camper back to Kal where a standard 2x4 hitch was fitted. I guess it was a nice couple of days break, back to civilization, for Ted. We were all wondering what Ted got up to by himself in Kal and although he told us how he scored 1/2 dozen Emu Beer tinnies for free; I was



left wondering. Not to be out-done, I also had the misfortune to stake the sidewall of my tire. Fortunately (?) I was able to repair it with some bush plugs without returning to



Kal. As it eventuated, I ended up putting in 3 bush plugs, and they held all the way back to Melbourne. (They didn't have my tire in stock at Kal.)

The (gold) pickings and prospects at Kurnalpi were 'slim' and accompanied by "No Detecting" signs at choice locations. Since grass on the other side of the fence is always greener, we left Kurnalpi earlier than originally planned.

### Yandal-Barwidgee

It was back, west, to Kalgoorlie, then north past Leonora before cutting back north-east to Yandal-Barwidgee (about 10km north of the Yandal Homestead).

It had been showering a bit and the dirt roads were a bit 'soft'. So with some trepidation we hunted around, with campers in tow, for a good camp site. We managed to find a nice spot on a hill but was this close to the gold? Being on a hill meant I was able to get an Internet connection via Lienster and make headway in moving the Seekers web site. (Picture on right

shows my accommodation with a antenna sticking up.) Moving the web site, itself, was not hard. The hard part was navigating the administration and procuring disk storage rights. But at last, over a couple of weeks, the new web site was up and running.



Prospecting a new site always takes time and although this area is shown in the Doug Stone book, his mud maps leave much to be desired. His maps had what one would describe as a 'variable scale' and features that could be matched to a number of real locations; it was really only after fully exploring the area that the DS maps made any sense. In any case, this was something of a blessing as we managed to 'discover' a number of prospects not shown on his map. Camping on a hill meant we had million dollar views of the area, and likewise, all the night life had views of our camp fire. Every night as we sat around the fire, we were visited by bats that chirped and swooped down on moths, etc, circling and occasionally, kamikazing the fire. We had incredibly clear views of the night skies. Star gazing, spotting satellites and watching bats feeding were popular past times.

One night after Lars went to bed, he was awoken by a strange noise in his camper -

spooky! As he moved around to turn on the light and investigate, all went quiet... Then he spotted it! A bat had taken up residence with him in his camper. As he approached it, it would shoot



5gm of gold in one pan!

across the other side and crash

## WA Trip Report... continued

land perfectly upside-down. At last he managed to shoo it out. Good thing we don't have vampire bats in Australia. If you've ever visited a bat cave, you know the last thing you would want is for a bat to take up residence in your bedroom.

Whilst at YB, Lars' son Per had to fly home so Lars had to drop him off back at Kal. Originally the plan was to stay at Kurnalpi and drop him off on the way to YB. So unfortunately Lars had to stay overnight at Kal.

As it turned out, gold-wise, I did well at YB, picking up well over an ounce. But it was never easy and by this time at week 5 of the trip, the grass at Billies Bore looked greener.

### Billies Bore

Billies Bore is another location in the Doug Stone book but this time the map even had south-westerly roads shown heading north-west! Naturally on arrival we ended up in barren bush. We were never really able to decipher the DS Billy Bore map.

Billies Bore seemed very well hammered. All the likely prospects had old detector holes and new prospects seemed remote. After a few days of this we decided to look for Biddies Patch. We eventually found Biddies Patch, with a bit of help from the folk at Banjawarn Station, but nowhere near where we expected it.

Finding Biddies Patch was something of a God-send as pickings were otherwise very slim. Ted managed to find a couple of nice 6gm and 12gm nuggets.

We only stayed at Billies Bore for a week then it was off to Hootanui!

### Hootanui

Hootanui is relatively close to Billies Bore and the map showed a nice 'major' dirt road (Bandy-Banjawarn Road) cutting diagonally through to there. Having a good GPS set up in my car, I led the way. Strange how the road did not seem that well used? Yes, well I soon found out why. As soon as I hit what was apparently the Bandy-Banjawarn Road, I got bogged in deep, dry sand. This was easily done as the road (at this stage, really only a



Me, at Billies Bore

narrow track) was pressed in by thick vegetation. After Lars and Ted managed to turn around we managed to unhitch my trailer and man-handle it part way out. We then used branches to un-bog



my car and reverse it out before retracing our path and taking the long way to Hootanui. Memo to self: keep your wits around you whilst travelling country roads.

We had the same issue with the Doug Stone map of Hootanui as we did elsewhere. Even GPS locations were no where close to travel directions (i.e. Larrys Patch). Oh well, more exploring!

I found Hootanui to be very 'remote' and potentially treacherous due to the rugged terrain. One day, we decided to look for Wilson's Bore. Obviously the DS map



Ted, myself and Lars (L-R) at Hootanui

was wrong but the NatMap was right. However finding our way there showed that even 'in use' main country roads can really be nothing but a bad track.

We stayed at Hootanui for 2 weeks. By this time we were into Week 8 of the trip and we decided to head about 1 hour south to Palliard Find (just north of King of Creation). We had been doing 2 hour fortnightly trips south to Laverton so this put us 1 hour closer to civilization (assuming Laverton is civilization).

### Palliard Find

When we got to the area, prospects looked scarce but somehow we managed to camp right on the best detecting area around; even though it had been hammered hard. We met up with Frank and his lovely wife Nola, who brought along their dry blower. Unfortunately 'dry' was something only to be hoped for; as was the gold.

### Laverton

I left Palliard Find before the boys and headed down to Laverton, for better prospects and arrange servicing for my car. After a few days there, I met up with Marty, at Hawks Nest, just before he headed home.

I spent about one week in Laverton (many thanks to Paul S, John B's detecting mate, and his wife Liz for showing me around) before heading back to Kal for servicing my car then Home. Not quite 10 weeks all up.

### Home Again

I ended up with about 2 1/2 oz so it covered my costs, which I was pleased about. I also managed to lose about 10kg which I was also pleased about. It only took a couple of days back home then it was straight into planning next year's trip.



## First Look!

Compiled by Ian Semmens.

**PRO-FIND**  
Precision Pinpointing



## A NEW DETECTOR FROM MINELAB A PIN POINTER !

Available now from Minelab dealers is a pin pointer called the Pro-Find 25 designed by Minelab to assist the gold and treasure hunter pin point those elusive and deeper targets. The price is \$185.00 and comes with a built in LED light and pouch and upon sensing a target it vibrates and makes an audible sound. In looks and operation it appears very similar to the Garret Pin Pointer Pro except it has a sensitivity setting and you can turn the audible signal off for silent pin pointing. This feature is ideal for the beach and parks.

### Advantages:

- Adjustable sensitivity
- Two Mode operation
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- LED flashlight
- Detector Interference free (DIF)

More info from: [www.minelab.com.au](http://www.minelab.com.au) or your local dealer.

## Carat and Karat

**Carat** abbreviated "ct." and spelled with a "c" *is a measure of weight* used for gemstones. One carat is equal to 1/5 of a gram (200 milligrams). Stones are measured to the nearest hundredth of a carat. A hundredth of a carat is also called a point. Thus a .10 carat stone can be called either 10 points, or 1/10 of a carat. Small stone like .05, and .10ct are most often referred to by point designations.

**Karat** with a "K" is *a measure of the purity of a gold alloy*. Pure gold is 24 karat and 12 karat gold is 50% gold.

24K is 100% gold	12k is 50% gold
22K is 91% gold	10K is 42% gold
18K is 75% gold	9K is 38% gold
14K is 59% gold	6K is 25% gold

## Victorian Government Press Release

Tuesday 7 August 2012

## More prospecting in parks to be considered

The Victorian Coalition Government will ask the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to investigate under what circumstances it is appropriate that greater access be provided for low impact prospecting, while still protecting the heritage and environmental values of our national parks.

Minister for Energy and Resources Michael O'Brien said recreational prospecting was already allowed in several national parks supporting the fact that this activity is low-impact on the environment. "It involves the use of hand tools only, the most common being metal detectors. Prospecting does not include commercial mining," Mr O'Brien said.

Areas subject to the VEAC investigation may include Alpine, Baw Baw, Croajingolong, Errinundra, Lake Eildon, Lind, Mitchell River and Yarra Ranges National Parks as well as Lerderderg State Park.

Mr O'Brien said there was a strong recreational prospecting community and history in Victoria and many individuals and families enjoyed fossicking for gold and gemstones.

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith said VEAC's independent investigation process would ensure consultation across government and with stakeholders, including key conservation groups.

The Government will seek public comment as part of the VEAC investigation.

The VEAC is due to report on the completed investigation by 30 April 2013.

Terms of Reference are available DSE website: [www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)



## Sept. Outing: Eaglehawk

Friday 14th to Tues. 18th Sept.

## Oct. Outing: Talbot

Friday 12th to Tuesday 16th October

**THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. No Dogs allowed at this camp. No unattended fires. FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.**

**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.

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.



Geoff & Geoff at the Tarnagulla Outing.

*Photos By Eric G.*



The "Piggie" fireplace of Geoff & Nola.



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