



# *FOSSICKIN' ROUND*

THE SEEKERS BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS' CLUB INC.  
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May/June 2012

**Rob detecting  
at Wedderburn**

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## The Victorian Seekers' Club

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://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/seekers/web/index.html>

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:** Denise HEGARTY (Mrs)

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:** 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

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

# Events Calendar

## May

**Wed 2nd:** General Meeting.

**Fri 11th to Tues 15th:** Camp Kingower

## June

**Wed 6th:** General Meeting. "Show & Tell' Night

**Fri 8th to Tues 12th:** Camp Homebush, Avoca

## July

**Wed 4th:** General Meeting. **First Aid: CPR Video and practical demonstration.**

**Fri 13th to Tues 17th:** Camp Tarnagulla

## August

**Wed 1st:** General Meeting.

**Fri 10th to Tues 14th:** Camp Heathcote

**Fri 31st:** Theatre Night -"Woman In Black" Lillydale

# Editors Report

*by Ian Semmens*

There is a lot in this issue and I hope that you all enjoy it. Thanks for the extra photographers who took the snaps; Eric G, Ian G. & Geoff L. It makes it better if others can submit photos of club activities. I still need others to contribute articles for the newsletter. So put pen to paper, or nowadays , finger to keyboard , and send me some of your thoughts or experiences.

Happy hunting and stay safe out there!

# Almoner's Report

*by Virginia Lake*

We have a few unwell members at the moment. Paul Wilks has had a fall an injured his face, Herman has a bit of heart trouble and is waiting for an op and Graeme Silver is awaiting treatment. We wish all of them well and a speedy and full recovery.

## The Victorian Seekers' Club

Website: <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/seekers/web/index.html>

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

What a great time Easter is for our club. With all of the activities provided for members, then a successful event can be guaranteed. This year was no exception with over 60 members supporting the occasion. It takes a huge effort by our committee to organise, and I thank all those involved. As close to 200 small nuggets were found, it's no wonder we keep going back to Fryerstown. We were very worried about the bad weather forecast for the Sunday nights' event, which didn't eventuate thankfully. Every year we seem to be lucky in that regard and hopefully, next year's event will be equally as good.

Our outing to Mt Martha last month for a beach detect and barbecue was unfortunately not well attended with only 14 showing up for the day. It seems that coin detecting in the club is not as popular as it was 20 years ago when we would have had about 40 to such a day. Similar events in the future will need a definite commitment from members to be successful.

This month's Dr. G's sermon is CPR. When I did first aid a few years ago we told to first check for a pulse and then give 2 breaths then 15 chest pumps. It is now recommended worldwide that keeping the blood circulating is most important, and we should now give 30 compressions [at the rate of 100/minute] followed by 2 breaths in cycles to give the patient a greater chance of survival. It also advised that we shouldn't waste time looking for a pulse which can take some time. If a patient is unconscious and has no signs of life we should immediately apply CPR after checking for danger and ringing 000 for an ambulance. The old system is not considered to be wrong, it's just that the new way is better. The important thing is that any CPR is better than none to buy time until professional help arrives.

Lars, Ted, and Geoff are off to WA for a few months to try for a big one, the best of luck with the venture. Paul Wilks has had a bad fall at home, landing on his face receiving nasty lacerations. He is still at home looking the worst for wear after a few rounds with Mike Tyson. He would appreciate any visits from members.



Herman is having problems with a blockage in his ticker and looks like he will be requiring corrective surgery soon to rectify it. Good luck mate. Best wishes to all, Eric

Eric  
at Wedderburn

Fossickin' Round

May/June 2012

# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

## March

**Craig Weeks from CC Picks** gave a very informative talk about his business and the manufacture of his picks. The design of his pick certainly is unique.

It was also interesting to hear that over in Western Australia there are still areas where huge gold nuggets are being recovered by Prospectors who spend months at a time out in the bush. --- Our Good Wishes go out to them!

Thanks are also extended to Craig for his donation of gifts plus a pick. These were raffled off and the fortunate winners appreciated their prizes.



Ted is shown here receiving a pick donated by Craig of CC Picks.

## April

**Andrew Phillips** from RV Caravan Repairs came along and gave a talk about repairs to caravans and trailers plus products that are available for these vehicles.

Yes --- it was a most interesting discussion about caravans in general and how to go about finding out how to weigh your caravan over a weigh bridge loaded and unloaded to arrive at the towing weight of your caravan.

It was also informative to learn that they also make Coronet Caravans and they will also make custom built vans for their customers. I stand to be corrected but it was mentioned by Andrew that if push bikes are carried at the rear of caravans it will tend to make the van chassis flex and this could in the future crack the chassis welds leading to severe structural damage.

## May

**Simon Purssey** who is the Marketing Manager for Yellow Cabs will be present to give us an insight into the Taxi Industry that I believe very few of us knows about. This promises to be a very interesting talk.



Andrew Phillips explaining the finer points of towing.



# General Meetings

## Find of the Month: March

Eric G.  
Tag Heuer watch



## Find of the Month: April

Rob s.  
2.5 gram nugget



# New Members

- Robert Shannon
- Emmanuel (Manny) Grech



*Welcome and Good Luck!*

# March Camp Report

## Wedderburn

by Virginia Lake.

Photos by Ian S. & Geoff L..

Bob and I arrived at the Bocca Flats camp site around lunchtime Thursday to find quite a few camps already set up. I believe the first campers to arrive were John and Marilyn from Wangaratta having arrived Monday. It is good to see that members enjoy our camps so much they stay a week or more. Altogether we had about 30 camp sites and rumour has it one couple, who are experienced campers, tried to erect their toilet tent on the wrong side of the support poles. It was also good to see new members who couldn't come to the camp but still made an effort to visit for the day. The weather was good, we had beautiful sunny days with cool nights.

I must admit we were spoilt this camp by Graeme Mee who provided us with hot party pies for Happy Hour and Meike who brought around trays of scones, jam and cream for supper around the fire. Thank you to Graeme & Meike (and everyone else who I have missed mentioning).

Most detector operators found gold although only small gold was found. New member, young Rob, was over the moon having found 2 nuggets, one being 2.5 grams. His enthusiasm is contagious.

The walking group tried out the new GPS and found it easy to operate, so hopefully this will alleviate any concerns about getting lost. It would still be advisable to be aware of the direction you have taken.

The Wedderburn camp coincided with the Detector Jamboree which was held at Hard Hill in Wedderburn. I believe it was well attended and I am told the Moorabbin and Ivanhoe clubs camped 'on-site'. I have it from good authority the Saturday night dinner and entertainment was good. One of our members won a minor prize at the Jamboree.



Peter S. digging a target.

## CC Picks



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Discoverer	1300gm	6mm	900mm
Prospector	950gm	5mm	750mm
Faith	500gm	4mm	600mm
Jewel	450gm	4mm	450mm

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The town coordinated Garage Sales for Sunday morning, anyone who wished to check them out could get a map from the Tourist Information Centre. There was also a small market in the town.



The Sunday morning Treasure Hunt.



Is it a nugget or rubbish, Ken?



Lunchtime break out on the diggings.



Ian S. detecting on one of the hard hills near Frenchmans Gully



Rob digging up his 2.5 gram nugget



Relaxing around the campfire in the evening after a long day detecting.



Alex in the Treasure Hunt.



# April Camp Report

## Fryerstown

Story & Photos by Geoff

The Fryerstown Easter Camp started off ominously! As soon as I arrived on Wednesday I was bombarded by issues about a non-club camper who was more-or-less, a semi-permanent resident and who took offence to the club 'invasion'. His two (Pitt Bull?) dogs did not help the situation. Anyway things settled down and Eric managed for Parks to visit the next morning. Subsequently a respectful co-existence endured the rest of our stay. It was also fortunate that this year's Easter Camp was not as large as some previous ('only' 60 at Sunday Dinner) so our guest was not too crowded out.

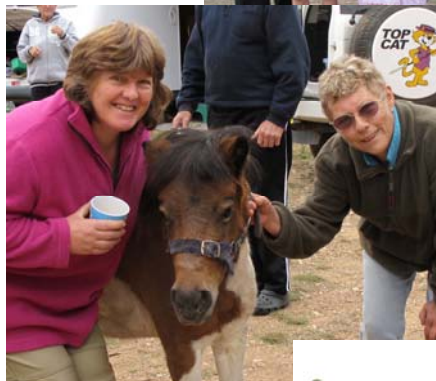
Weather-wise, this camp was a definite move into Autumn. Temperatures were mild to cool with one morning dropping down to less than 2 degrees (according to *my* thermometer). The week started off with a couple of warmish afternoons and these were followed by a couple of showery days. Overall it was pretty good and thankfully we were past the summer bugs (insects).

We had our customary Easter activities: Chewton Dance, Chewton Market, Easter Bunny, Sunday Dinner and Monday Egg Races. See pictures—special mention to Geoff and Nola aka Steve and Terri Irwin.

One morning we also had a very special visitor. Apart from the Easter Bunny, we had a visit from a stray PONY! No doubt she enjoyed the feed we gave her before we sent her back off into the bush to find her way home.

Now, onto the serious stuff - **gold**! Gold was plentiful for some but not so for others. *One nameless member managed almost 20gms!* [In 71 nuggets! - Ed.] Les found the largest lump of about 9gm. Well done Les but you're make this a bit of a habit ;-)

Many Thanks and Congratulations to the Club Committee and helpers who once again, pulled off another Easter well done. Also not to be forgotten, many thanks to all club members who attended, including day-trippers, and who made for such an enjoyable camp.





# More Fryerstown Photos

Photos By Ian S. & Ian G.



Marius near Browns Reef



Peter S. chasing a deep target. It turned out to be a horseshoe!



Disastrous finish to the Egg & Detector Race. In the race for second place both eggs fell just before the finish line.



Bruce as a lamington with Kay and Claude.



Nice 9 gram nugget "Sharks Tooth" found by Les.



"Well, I reckon the gold should be here!"

Fossickin' Round



Geoff and Nola aka Steve and Terri Irwin.

May/June 2012



# 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 initially dropped to around AU\$51.00 per gram and then hovered in the range from \$50.50 to \$52.00 AU per gram. Currently AU\$51.10/gram. Price as at 25/04/2012.

## Show & Tell Night

For the June General Meeting we will be having a "Show & Tell"

where you can bring along any finds that you think would be of interest to other members.

Coins, relics, artifacts, or anything else.

There could be a story to the find or an unusual find.

So dust off those old finds and give a chance for others to see them.

This meeting is on the Wednesday 6th June.

## From the Photo Album



Another good find by Les.  
A 7.8 gram nugget "Lego Brick" found at the recent Talbot outing.



### Shaun the sheep goes Metal Detecting.

An amusing video clip.

See it at:

[http://www.dankowskidetectors.com/amusing\\_video.htm](http://www.dankowskidetectors.com/amusing_video.htm)



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# More Fryerstown Photos

Photos By Eric G. & Geoff L.



Ian G. detecting in a gully with "Ranger".



There's real determination to win the Egg and Detector Race.



The kids enjoy it as well.

## This gold bar is worth its weight in ... tungsten

A gold bar that should have weighed 1,000 grams, weighed 2 grams too little. The owner had it cut in half to reveal that the certified, stamped bar with serial numbers had tungsten rods inserted all the way through it. Tungsten, has a density of  $19.35 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , so is a near-perfect match for gold ( $19.32 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ) and it sells for just one ten thousandth of the price. You don't need to be a conspiracy theorist to find this worry-



The gold bar was cut in half to reveal the tungsten rods.

ing: a 1kg gold bar, certified as 99.98% pure by XRF (X-ray fluorescence) tests, turns out to have been drilled out and largely replaced with tungsten. This bar was discovered only because it was 2 grams lighter than it ought to have been: the forgers failed to add quite enough gold to the outside of the bar to make up for the weight lost when they replaced gold with tungsten. But if they'd gotten the weight right, it would probably still be circulating today.

For more info see:

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/03/this-gold-bar-is-worth-its-weight-in-tungsten-corruption-is-everywhere/>

Article submitted by Geoff L.





# The History of the Metal Detector: Part Two - The Rise of Fisher Labs

From the Fisher Labs website.

Compiled by Ian Semmens.



In the late 1920's, Dr. Gerhard Fisher, a German immigrant who studied electronics at the University of Dresden, obtained the first patent ever issued on aircraft radio direction finders. He was working as a Research Engineer in Los Angeles, California at the time and his work attracted the interest of Dr. Albert Einstein. After a demonstration of Dr. Fisher's equipment, Einstein enthusiastically and correctly predicted the world-wide use of radio direction finders in the air, on land and at sea.

When using such direction finders during those early years, aircraft pilots found that errors would occur in their bearings when metal objects came between the transmitter and receiver, or whenever they passed over certain areas. Different pilots flying different planes always observed the same errors over the same places. When Dr. Fisher investigated this phenomenon, he found these errors to be the result of highly conductive, mineralized areas. Dr. Fisher concluded that a portable electronic prospecting instrument could be developed that used the same principle to detect the presence of small buried objects and ore deposits.

He continued his research into this phenomenon, and in 1931 he founded Fisher Research Laboratory in a garage behind his home at 1505 Byron St. in Palo Alto, California. He and four employees began producing the "Metallascopes", starting each unit as a new order came in. The "Metallascopes" were a rugged, easy-to-use metal detector. By today's standards, it was perhaps an ungainly device: two large, flat wooden boxes containing simple copper coils, five vacuum tubes, and a few assorted components. It soon captivated the imagination of the country, and within a short time, the world.

## USS MACON CRITICAL TOOL FOR DR. FISHER

Around 1933, the U.S. Navy hired Dr. Fisher to install a radio direction finder aboard the dirigible, the USS Macon.

It was aboard the Macon that Dr. Fisher discovered that large metal buildings and mineralized mountains cancelled out the instrument's direction finding capabilities leading him to the discovery of the first metal detector. Dirigibles served the U.S. Navy as floating bases for scout planes during the 1930's, but the program was eventually abandoned. It became obvious that the highly touted U.S. Navy lighter-than-air program had a fatal flaw: dirigibles had a tendency to crash during severe weather.

By 1936, sales had increased to the point where the garage was no longer large enough. Fisher Research Laboratory moved to a small building at 745 Emerson St. in Palo Alto. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Fisher was granted a patent for his "Metallascopes". The "Metallascopes" were soon nicknamed the M-Scope, and as such, became an accepted standard for all types of electronic metal detection: geologists located ore, treasure hunters found treasure, utility companies located buried pipes, lumber mills located metal inclusions in sawn logs, and law enforcement agencies used it to locate abandoned or hidden weapons.

In 1939, just prior to World War II, Fisher moved to an even larger building at 1961 University Ave. in Palo Alto. During World War II and the subsequent Korean Conflict, the company was called upon to contribute its technical competence to the war effort, but the M-Scope business was never neglected. With the increasing popularity of the M-Scope, and with Fisher's patent rights expiring, numerous competitors began producing similar equipment. Due to relentless efforts to incorporate every available technical advancement - and in particular, by keeping close contact with countless users to utilize their vast fund of field experience in the design of new models - Fisher maintained its position of solid leadership. Over the years, Fisher has designed and produced such sophisticated products as geiger counters, radio communication systems, voltage detectors and cable fault locators.

In 1961, Fisher moved to an even larger production facility in Belmont, California. In 1967, Dr. Fisher retired, having firmly established his name in the annals of electronic history. The company continued to grow, and in 1974, Fisher Research Laboratory moved 90 miles southeast to Los Banos, California. In 1990, Fisher built a spacious, modern manufacturing plant in the Los Banos Industrial Park, where the world's oldest metal detector business resided until it was acquired by First Texas Products in 2006.

## Social Outing

### Theatre Night

#### "WOMAN IN BLACK"

Friday 31st August 2012  
Athenaeum Theatre, Lillydale  
Tickets \$22.00.

For tickets see Val at the meetings or  
call on 9999 9999 ASAP  
We will meet beforehand for a meal  
at a nearby hotel.



One of the latest Fisher Metal Detectors, the F75 suitable for coin & relic hunting.



## May Outing: Kingower

**Fri. 11th to Tues. 15th May**

## June Outing: Homebush, Avoca

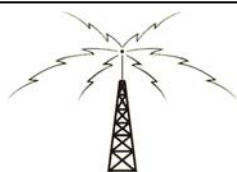
**Fri. 8th to Tues. 12th June.**

**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.



***Vic Seekers  
are now on***

***Vic Seekers***

**U  
H  
F**

**18**

**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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