



# *FOSSICKIN' ROUND*

THE SEEKERS BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Committee of  
THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS' CLUB INC.  
FOUNDED 1980

Vol. 33, issue 2

March/April 2012



**Huge Specimen Found  
near Ballarat!**

Estimated 76 ounces  
of Gold!

**Inside This Issue**

**Fryerstown Camp Report  
Talbot Camp Report**

## 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;

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:

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:

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

# Events Calendar

## March

**Wed 7th:** General Meeting.

**Fri 9th to Tues 13th:** Camp Wedderburn

**Thurs 8th to Tues 13th:** Caravan Show **Caulfield R.C.**

**Mon 12th:** Australian Gold Panning Championship  
**Lake Wendouree**

**Sat 10 -Sun 11th :** Wedderburn Detector Jamboree

**Sun 25th:** Beach Outing **Mt Martha**

**Fri 30th to Mon 2 April** Panning/Sluicing - PMAV  
Yackandandah Branch **Buckland Valley**

## April

**Wed 4th:** General Meeting.

**Fri 6th to Tues 10th:** Easter Camp **Fryerstown**

## May

**Wed 2nd:** General Meeting.

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

## June

**Wed 6th:** General Meeting.

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

# Editors Report

*by Ian Semmens*

Hi All. We are off to a good start for a year of finding nuggets with a 10 and a 9 grammer being found so far.

Apologies but I have had to hold over the **History of the Metal Detector** series due to lack of space as we are reporting on the latest big gold find at Ballarat.

# Almoner's Report

*by Virginia Lake*

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 email

## 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

Since my last report we have had 2 field trips, both successful. Australia Day week was to our old haunt at Fryerstown, and even with temperatures of mid 30's predicted and received, a good attendance of 28 members were willing to have ago and were rewarded with some good gold, I was rapt with my 11g. On Australia Day Graham M and myself made good use of our free Seniors Travel vouchers to travel down to Melbourne and back to join in with the PMAV who were invited to march in the People's Parade through the city with thousands of others to Domain Park where we participated in the PMAV display, and also with the gold panning and detecting demonstrations for the children ably helped by Peter M, Francois', Francine, Lindsay T, Robyn and Murray H. It was so popular 5 kg of planted pennies disappeared from the detecting patch before the end of the day necessitating a whip around for more coins. A very exhausting day for the participants, but a great day for the prospecting cause. Next year I would hope members of other clubs can join in on this great day if the PMAV are again invited.

Our February camp attracted 40 members to Talbot creating an almost full house at the site. It's hard to explain the popularity of prospecting when it is so hard to find even a few specs for less than a gram these days. It just shows that we are a bunch of optimists who love the bush and good company and wish to be part of this life at any cost.

Dr. Grummett has been doing some more medical research this month and has come up with some more advice that may save losing some of our aging members from a heart attack. Heart attack is caused by a restriction of blood flow to or from the heart, the symptoms of which are usually rising pains from the centre of the chest to the shoulders, chin and left arm and accompanied by nausea, sweating, tiredness, coughing and a shortening of breath. Sometimes no chest pain may be evident. It is extremely important to have the patient placed in a SITTING UP position, call 000, and if the ambulance is likely to be more than 30 minutes away to give 2 aspirin tablets with water [unless the patient is allergic to them or is an asthmatic]. Aspirin may be our saviour, so it is recommend that we have a packet readily available in our first aid kits at home, in the car and in our vans. Now that I have saved some of you from a heart attack I am now off to find a cure from my arthritis.

Apart from our trips away there is a lot of other events coming up in the next few weeks to keep us away from home. The Caravan and Camping Show at the Caulfield Race Course on 8<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March, Australian Gold Panning Championship at Lake Wendouree Ballarat on Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> March, The Yackandandah branch of the PMAV is holding an event at Buckland River on March 30 to April 2 [see Eureka Echo for details], The Melbourne PMAV branch will be having a weekend on Donnelly Creek, Gippsland on 17-18 March. Call Mark Craig on 0418xxxxx for more info. Both these PMAV events are

# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

## February

**Chris S from Battery World** gave a very informative illustrated presentation about battery technology and how it has progressed to the present day.

Yes, the future is an exciting place where we will encounter greater technological advances than has already been achieved in the past.

These kind gifts of batteries plus containers and also back packs will be raffled off Free to Club Members in the near future.

It can be suggested that it is worthwhile considering a trip to Battery World for all your battery requirements.

## March

**Craig W from CC Picks** is our Guest Speaker for this months General Meeting.

He will be explaining how his design of pick came to be made into what it is today.

This promises to be an interesting evening!

## April

Either **Andrew P** or **Ken C** from RV Caravan Repairs will be coming along to give a talk about repairs to caravans and trailers plus products that are available for these vehicles.

This promises to be an informative evening.



Chris Stagg explaining the properties of a SLA battery.

## Find of the Month

Geoff L.  
9.7gram nugget  
"The Hook" nugget



(President's Report continued)

for panning and sluicing. Don't forget also that we will be having a beach detecting and barbecue day at Mt. Martha on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. [details in this newsletter]. That's all from your fearless leader this month. ERIC

# January Camp Report

## Fryerstown

by Graeme Mee

Photos by Eric Grummett.

Yet another great summer camp was had by all the 28 members and 2 visitors that attended one of the clubs most popular spots. The forecast was for some hot weather and this turned out to be the case. Low thirties during the day, but luckily for us, the nights were a lot cooler.

Eric and myself arrived at the camp earlier as Eric had some new places that he wanted to check out. This involved some tricky negotiation of quite a few "goat tracks" but with Eric's persistence and lack of respect for the paintwork on his vehicle, this method paid off as a new area was located that gave us most of the gold on this camp. Well done again Eric.

January 26, was of course Australia Day and what a day it turned out to be. Eric and myself left camp early in the morning to catch the train from Castlemaine to Melbourne for the celebration march along Swanston Street. The club had been invited to join in with the PMAV organization and it was here that we met up with other VSC members at the PMAV group area. I was amazed to see hundreds of clubs and organizations from all over the country and have never seen such a large gathering of people of all nations and dress.

After the usual speeches by the Premier, Lord Mayor and Governor of Victoria, the march proceeded along Swanston Street to the Kings Domain where the entertainment began. It was here that the PMAV had a good display area which included a gazebo with a replica of the "Hand of Faith" nugget, two large water tanks for gold panning demonstration and a large fenced off area for detecting. This attracted a great deal of attention from the general public as members were kept busy all day giving demonstrations and advice on gold and related subjects.

For the rest of the holiday we did what we all like doing best and that is chasing the gold and this turned out to be a good camp for that with well with over 100 pieces for around 1.5 ounces, seeing the light of day.



Eric's nice find of 11 grams of nuggets.

On a lighter note, on one of the outings, one particular member was seen rushing back to camp for a quick change of undies after being confronted by a very large tiger snake !

Most evenings were spent sharing each others company starting with our customary "HAPPY HOUR" and on one occasion we were entertained by a very unusual bird call. Further investigation by our resident Ornithologist, revealed that it was a CLIMATERIS PICUMNUS (or for those among us not in the know) a BROWN TREE CREEPER. Thanks for that one Eric, keep up the good work.

Same time next year folks ?



Murray H. showing some children how to pan in the park .



Peter M. showing some children the art of detecting .

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# February Camp Report

## Talbot

*Report & Photos by Ian S.  
Assisted by Ted C.*

By Thursday at the new Norbury Road campsite there were already 6 camps, and 4 of these were real "early birds" having arrived on Tuesday. Included amongst this lot was Eric who was due to leave early and then go with his wife Bev for another week away down at Lorne. I am sure that Eric is not missing his old job now! The camp itself adjoins the long Liverpool Lead and is fairly flat, no grass - only leaf litter, and well shaded with plenty of medium sized trees. Across the lead was a paddock and we had pleasure of watching a mob of 12 kangaroos grazing on the grass each morning and afternoon.

There was a very good show out of campers considering that this is usually one of the hottest months of the year with 28 campsites and 1 couple staying at a motel. The weather was quite cool on some evenings with others being fairly warm. During the day it was mostly fine and in the mid 30s and at times humid. The last few days (Thursday & Friday 17th) it was mainly lightly overcast to relieve the heat.

On Saturday evening we did not have a main campfire due to the dry, windy conditions but Geoff L kindly supplied a citronella candle in a small bucket and we had 40 campers gathered around that. There was the raffle draw ran by Eric and ably assisted by Francine with many good prizes. Thanks also for those that donated prizes for the raffle. Some members may not realise that \$30.00 of the raffle profit went back into prizes for the treasure hunt the following morning. This is giving the members some of the benefit of their raffle contributions. There was a cake supplied by Virginia originally for Peter S for his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday, but as he was not there, Peter M got to cut it as it was the 19<sup>th</sup> time that February 29<sup>th</sup> - his birthday - has come along in Peter's 78 years.

As far as gold finds go there where the usual lot of sub-grammers found with one member getting 20, and most found some gold. Barry S. found one nugget of about 1½ grams but highlight of the camp was Les who found a 8.9 gram nugget along with several others of a few grams each. Well done, Les!



Peter M. cutting the birthday cake.

Driving around the camp while looking for a site to set up his new caravan, Don T was unfortunate enough to hit a tree leaning out at a low angle and damaged the front right corner of the van and the inside corner. Being a fiberglass van there is a lot of work in repairing it. Fortunately it is insured. This may be a timely reminder to others to consider caravan insurance if they have not yet got it. Also look carefully as where you plan to take your van. Regarding selecting your campsite; don't forget to look up and avoid any large overhanging branches which may crack and give way in the still heat (which they are notorious for) or the strong winds, with serious consequences.

All up, a good campsite, fine weather, good company and a few nuggets made this a good camp.



Graeme, Joan, John, Ralph & Rob relax round the "campfire".



Francine is excited about finding a token in the Treasure Hunt.

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## More Talbot Camp Photos



Relaxing on Saturday night..



Ted on the diggings.



Some of the Treasure Hunt participants.

L. to R.: Eric G., Francois G., Murray H., Robyn H., Bob L., Don P., Peter M., Norah, sitting Francine G.

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Lars on the diggings.

Fossickin' Round



## Big gold find near Ballarat

From the Ballarat Courier:

### Ballarat prospector finds \$120,000 worth of gold

BY NEELIMA CHOAHAN

14 Feb, 2012 12:09 AM

A LOCAL prospector hit pay dirt when he found gold worth \$120,000 in an ancient river bed near Ballarat.

The prospector, who only wants to be known as "Caz" said he was surprised at his find especially as he had many other false starts.

The Mining Exchange Gold Shop owner and gold dealer Cordell Kent, who spoke to Caz, said the gold was one of the largest to be found in Ballarat in recent times. "It was found a few weeks ago just north of Ballarat," Mr Kent said. "It was one of the most

amazing pieces we have seen for a while."

Mr Kent said the gold was found in a "sluiced area" of an ancient river bed that was blown out with high pressure more than 100 years ago.

Caz got lucky when he hit a quartz weighing 156 ounces with an estimated gold content of about 76 ounces.

"It was a really hot day and the prospect of digging a deep hole, in hard ground, 'just to find rubbish' was annoying," Caz said. "At about 45 centimetres depth the ground was still looking great and the target was still down 'there' in the bottom. I half

heartedly hoped it might be gold."

Instead he found a "small dinner plate quartz rock".

"As soon as my finger tips wrapped around the rock and I started to lift, I knew it was way heavier than just stone," he said. "Clay stuck all over it, and when I rubbed some of it away, I got my first glimpse of gold."



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## Special Outing

**Mt Martha  
Beach Outing  
25th March**





Bring along your coin detector and find some buried treasure!

Meet at

There is a Electric BBQ so bring your own food and drinks and have a BBQ for lunch.

## AUSTRALIAN GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



**12th March 2012  
Lake Wendouree,  
Ballarat.**

**Major Prize:  
Trip to 2012  
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5 Categories, Novelty Events**



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## Gold Price Report

**30 Day Gold Price in AUD/g**



goldprice.org

Over the last 30 days (since the last issue) the price of gold in AU\$/gram has hovered in the range from \$51.50 to \$52.50 AU per gram. Price as at 22/02/2012.

### Easter Camp at Fryerstown

**April Friday 6th to Tuesday 10th**

**Another exciting camp. Fun for everyone!!**

**SATURDAY:**

- ☺ Chewton Market - handicraft and produce from local stall traders; all day, next to the Albion Hotel.
- ☺ **Egg race** - 5pm. Ladies' event followed by Men's. Balance a hard boiled egg in a holder on your detector and run a short course through camp.
- ☺ **Chewton Old Time Dance** - After dinner in hall behind the Albion Hotel. Supper will be provided.

**SUNDAY:**

- ☺ Easter Bunny - Sunday morning visit by the Easter Bunny with Easter Eggs.
- ☺ Men's and Ladies' **Easter bonnet (hat) competition.**



**Fancy Dress competition** - Dress in the style of an

### “Australian Character”

from Folklore, History, Movies, Literature, Fiction or Real Person or even an animal!  
Please make an effort and dress up for the occasion. This will be held Sunday evening before the dinner.

**Roast Dinner - 6.30pm.** ☺ Choice of 3 different meats: pork, lamb or beef. The cost is \$5.00 per person.  
**Please bring salads and sweets.** Keep your dinner ticket for the Door Prizes.



- ☺ Games for all ages and genders.
- ☺ **Songs, sing along, sketches, jokes, etc.** This is your chance to present an act. Go on, Have a Go!

**MONDAY:**

- ☺ Special Easter treasure hunt. Men's and Ladies' events.

**Be there and join in the fun . . .**



## March Outing: Wedderburn

Friday 9th to Tues. 13th March

## April Outing: Fryerstown

Friday 6th to Tuesday 10th April 2012

**THIS IS A BUSH CAMP. BYO water, power and toilet, strictly observe park and fire regulations. Dogs must be on leash and under constant supervision.**

**No unattended fires.**

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

Under current Government requirements fossickers should be trained in first aid; they should carry water, a mobile phone, a list of contacts in case of emergency and a basic first aid kit; any incident or injury should be reported to a Committee Member ASAP.

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10th & 11th March 2012

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