



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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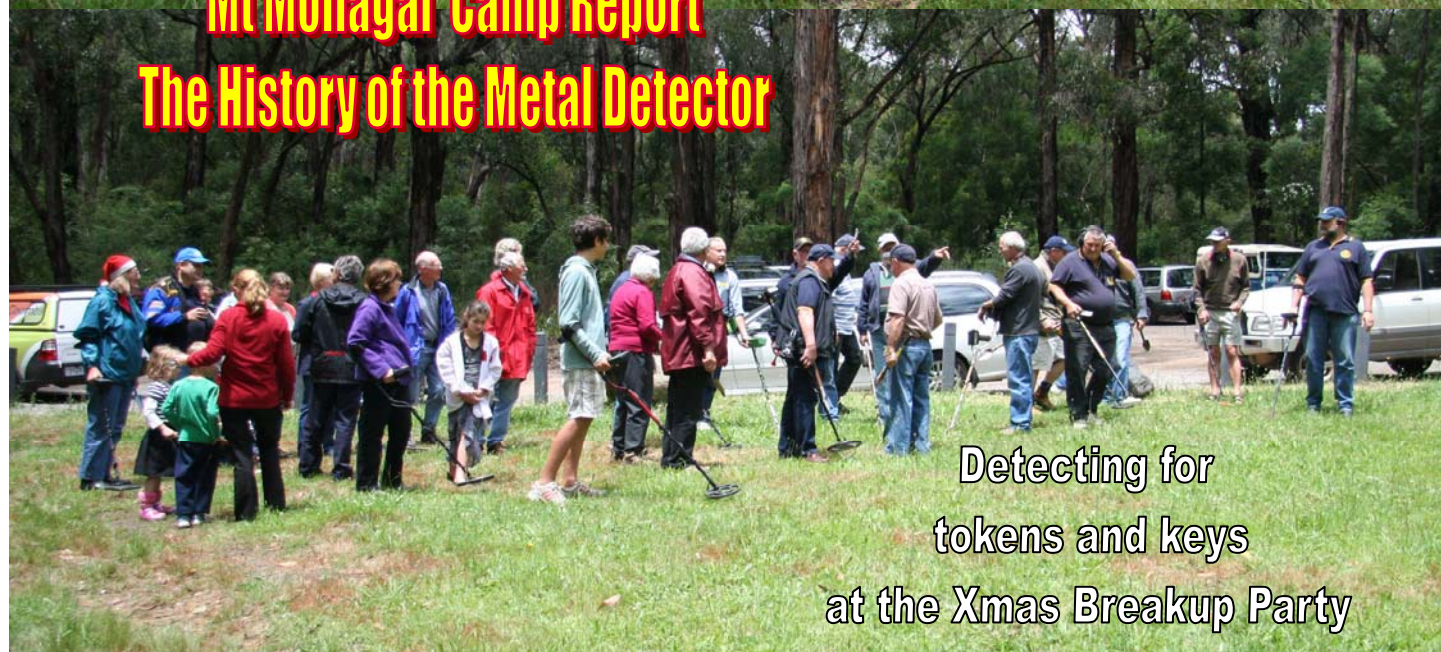
Jan/Feb 2012

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Detecting for
tokens and keys
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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 1st of July each year.

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

email: xxxx@xxxx

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email;

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

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President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Lindsay TRICKER

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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

February

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Tues 14th: Camp Talbot - Norbury Road

March

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

Fri 9th to Tues 13th: Camp Wedderburn

Sat 10 -Sun 11th : Wedderburn Detector Jamboree

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

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

Welcome to the New Year for detecting and may you have a great time. Here is the first of the year's newsletters and I hope that you enjoy reading it.

I welcome submission of "Letters to the Editor" for inclusion. Have your say in you club newsletter.

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 xxxx@xxxx

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 2011: 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 2011: 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

Christmas has now come and gone for yet another year and we don't need to be reminded that as the years go by our bodies begin to tell us of parts that show signs of wear and tear, hence all the hips and knees many of us have received in the last few years, and operations for this and that.

One item that I have received some new information on recently is about stroke. We have all heard about the 3 steps to recognise symptoms of stroke 'S.T.R', [SMILE, TALK, and RAISE BOTH ARMS] . Well the new one is to stick out your tongue, if the tongue is crooked or goes to one side, it is a definite sign of stroke. The patient needs to get to hospital in less than 3 hours for a hope of survival and hopes of a full recovery. That's enough from Dr. Grummett this month.

Paul Wilks has completed his round of radio therapy for his tumour, but is not travelling to well just yet . He apologises for not sending out Xmas cards like he normally does as his illness hasn't allowed him the strength to write. He will be 92 this month [27 th Jan] which makes him our oldest member. Val Lippingwell is off to England to visit her son for a few weeks this month. As this is her first trip over there, she is very excited. In Landsborough there is also two very excited members, Jan and Robyn Have, who are celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, born just before Xmas. It is a girl and is named Poppy [it was nice of them to name her after me, which is what I get from my grandchildren]. Robyn will get confused when Poppy and her Poppy are together and one is called. Still on births, Peter Maffey was born on 29 February 1936, and so will be celebrating his 19th birthday this year. He can now legally drive a car, vote, buy a beer and enter a sex shop. Dale and Shirley Johnson had the pleasure of having their son Jeremy home from Afghanistan for Xmas after an 8 month stint with the army over there. He is now on his way back to his base at Townsville after a brief holiday in New Zealand. We extend our best wishes and a big thank you for serving for our country in such a dangerous place.

Good wishes to all members for the coming year.



Eric in his element, panning at the Craigie West camp.

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

February

Chris Stagg from **Battery World** will be our guest Speaker for February's General Meeting. He will be talking about Battery Technology plus Solar Power and how it has advanced up to the present day.

March

Craig Weeks from **CC Picks** is our Guest Speaker for this month's General Meeting. He will be explaining how his design of a pick came to be made into what it is today. This promises to be an interesting evening! Come along and you can pick his brain!



VSC POLO SHIRTS

The Club's new Polo shirts are great for this summer.

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Xmas Breakup Party Report

The Basin

by Eric Grummett

Photos by Ian Semmens.

Two inches of rain overnight was not going to deter us from this day, luckily for us it eased off by 8am with the sun eventually showing itself for a perfect afternoon on our special day. With about 60 members and 4 children in attendance, much socialising was had.

The kids were entertained with treasure hunts, while the adults participated in their token and key hunt. All 200 tokens and 48 of the 50 keys were found – a good effort considering how wet the ground was. Ted Cox won the Bluey Crawford Trophy with a tally of 22 tokens - edging out Smitsey who has won it most years—thank goodness. Well done Ted. The lucky \$50 key was won again by Thomas Mameletzis, which he also won 2 years ago.

Ted Cox organised a very successful Xmas hamper raffle, with the big hamper won by Peter Maffey, and the minor ones by Sue Hodges, Graeme Silver and Janine Cox [nothing like keeping it in the family].

A big thanks to Jimmy Laundry, Peter Maffey and Francois for getting up early in the pouring rain to secure and set up the site.

A most relaxing day enjoyed by all.



Hopeful members hunting for tokens and keys



Peter Maffey receiving the Xmas Hamper from Ted Cox.



Ted receiving the Bluey Crawford trophy from the President for the most tokens found.



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Xmas Camp Report

Mt Moliagul

by Erika H.

Photos by Geoff Lee

On arrival at the campsite on Xmas day, 3 camps were already set up, and as the afternoon progressed, the weather turned very hot, however a welcome cool change arrived during the night which made it much more pleasant for everybody, especially the detecting enthusiasts.

Boxing Day saw a few more arrivals. A gas smell was noticed around Peter Mueller's caravan, and with the involvement of 5 men it was discovered that the connection to the gas bottle had to be replaced [small problem]. A slightly bigger problem was a flat tyre on Murray's van on the way to camp. The mechanic in Maryborough didn't have one in stock but was very generous to lend Murray his own for a couple of days. This a "good news" story worth printing. Gerd had a bit of bad luck, he was bitten by 2 bull ants and had a bad reaction either from the bites or the antihistamine or both. After a good night's sleep however he was fine the next morning.

As the days progressed, temperatures steadily rose and with the threat of 38-40°C days some left for home. Many stuck it out, and by New Year's Eve we still had 22 members to see in the New Year around our new gazebo, compete with balloons, ribbons and suitable music supplied by Eric who arrived on the Thursday.

On the very hot days prospecting was finished by lunch time and we resorted in the afternoon to what we know best, socialising and partaking in much of God's golden amber. By Wednesday it was time to go, just as the weather was improving.

Quite a lot of small gold was found, notable pieces were a 10 gm by B.S. and a 9.6 gm by G.L. H.S. managed a nice 4.5 gm, and Don T. a 3.5 gm. Talking about H.S. – the smoked snapper he put his pumpnickel bread tasted very nice.

A great week was enjoyed by about 40 members regardless of the weather.



New Year's Eve round the new gazebo.



Mt Moliagul group photo December 2011

(Names removed)

The History of the Metal Detector

Compiled from sources by Eric Grummett & Ian Semmens

Part One: The First Metal Detector

Alexander Bell, the founder of the telephone, is also credited with the invention of the first metal detector in 1881. The device was hastily put together in an attempt to find the bullet in the body of US President James Garfield, shot in an attempted assassination. The metal detector worked flawlessly in tests but did not find the assassin's bullet partly because the metal bed frame on which the President was lying disturbed the instrument, resulting in static. The president's surgeons, who were sceptical of the device, ignored Bell's request to move the president to a bed not fitted with metal bed springs. Alternately, although Bell had detected a slight sound on his first test, the bullet may have been lodged too deeply to be detected by the crude apparatus. Garfield died a few weeks later from an infection caused by the probing for the bullet with non-sterile instruments. Bell's metal detector was an electromagnetic device he called the induction balance. Bell was familiar with electrical principles having invented the telephone in 1875.



An newspaper illustration from the time showing Bell operating the first metal detector.

This series continues next issue.

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Important Notice to campers

If you use a Generator...



...it is important to be considerate of other campers who may not appreciate the sound and the exhaust fumes of a motor running near them on a camp, especially in the evening. Before setting up camp, check with those around you that a generator is OK in that area. This is applicable at all times, but more so in confined camps such as Fryerstown.

We strongly encourage all members to use other methods for lighting and power such as 12 volt lead acid batteries. Also when charging batteries consider using a solar panel in preference to a generator, where possible. When 240 volt equipment is to be used, and the load is low, use inverters to run it off a battery. Nowadays with 12 volt lighting, 12 volt TVs and CD/DVD players there is little need for 240 volt power.

If there is an absolute need to run a generator, mitigate the sound as much as possible by using a quieter brand such as a Honda, placing it away from the campers as far as possible, in a trench or diggings hole or place a sound baffle around it and run it for the **shortest time possible**.

By following these steps and being considerate of others we will all be "Happy Campers".

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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 . . .

Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Over the last 60 days (since the last issue) the price of gold in AU\$/gram has dropped from a high of AU\$55.00 to a low of AU\$49.00 and has now recovered to AU\$52.57/gram as at 01/02/2012.

Letters to the Editor

To the VSC committee,

A big thank you to all involved in organizing the "Saturday Night Do" (at the November Outing).
The Chickens were lovely so were all the salads and deserts.

From Gerd & Erika.

To the VSC committee and members,

I was suprised and thrilled to win the clubs major Xmas Breakup Party Hamper Raffle. I wish to thank all concerned; the members for their support, the Committee and Ted for putting together such a wonderful Hamper. With such a selection of goodies the next couple of camps Happy Hours will give me a chance to share some of the Nibbles, and save my waist line.

From Peter Maffey.

Thanks form your positive comments, Gerd and Erika, and Peter. The committee does work very hard to try as best as they can to give the type of outings that the members want.

We need feedback from the members. If you think that there is something that the committee can do or if you feel that we have not got it right then don't just grizzle to someone else, let us know and we will see what we can do.

The editor welcomes comments of any type
to publish in the newsletter.
It's your newsletter ,so have your say!

From the Photo Album



The girls stop for a break during their walk at the old quartz battery on the Craigie West camp November 2011.
L-R; (Names removed).



Marty detecting near Snake Gully on the Craigie West camp, November 2011.



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Feb. Outing: Talbot

Friday 10th to Tuesday 14th February
NOTE: Different Campsite

March Outing: Wedderburn

Friday 11th to Tues. 15th March





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Contact: Ian on 9999 9999

Email: xxxx@xxxx