



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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Nov/Dec 2011

**Detecting near
Snake Gully
at Craigie West**

Inside This Issue

**Heathcote Camp Report
Craigie West Camp Report
A Bush Mechanic Storey**



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>

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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

December

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

Sun. 11th: Xmas Break up Party **Wicks Reserve**

Fri 26th to Jan Sun 1st : Camp **Mt Moliagul**

January

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Thurs 26th to Tues 31th: Camp **Fryerstown**

February

Wed 8th: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Mon 13th: Camp **Talbot**

March

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

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

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

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

Well, there has been a lot happening in the last two months and more coming up which means a lot to report on. Special thanks to the dedicated reporters out in the field submitting the camp reports.

HELP!

We do need for the Newsletter any articles of interest to members to be submitted to the Editor. Also if you are out on an outing, can you please think to take some photos for inclusion in this great publication? Don't just leave it to the few regulars to do it all.

Please email to Ian at:

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

Committee meetings for 2012: TBA

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Jeeze, it's hard to find gold these days. Is it because we are slowing down in our doddering age? or is it a fact today's detectors just cannot reach the remaining gold left in the ground? I think it is a combination of both. The average age of members is increasing which makes the effort of finding gold much more difficult as our stamina loses the get up and go we had in earlier years. However, at least we are still willing to put in a good days work and are happy to find the odd bit of colour, and that is good for our physical and mental well being.

Talking of mental, could members please wear their name badges at meetings and at camps, as many of us have trouble remembering names due to our approaching dementia. Our club have gone to a great expense supplying all members with ID badges. New members will receive a temporary one. For members, especially new ones, to integrate within the club it is important to have a name so as we can establish a more cordial relationship. It is annoying to call a member "Mate" or "love" due to a short term mental loss.

Talking of loss, how many of us have been geographically embarrassed out in the bush over the years. It is a worry when back to camp or car could be in any direction. The best tool in this case is of course a GPS. A simple unit can be bought for less than \$100. Most people have a mobile phone, and because we now have coverage to most of the areas we go they, should be carried at all times, especially for emergencies. Numbers of members at camp can be obtained from our mobile phone list [see a committee member]. A good UHF radio [2 or more watts] could also get you out of trouble. Most of us have these which should be switched on [Ch 18] during camps for monitoring. Our club will try and have a member back at camp with a suitable unit for this purpose.

On the success of the use of a gazebo at last camp [supplied by Ian Semmens] the club has now purchased one and will be brought to most outings.

Well, another year has almost gone, [our 32nd] and with Xmas upon us it's time to reflect on a great year it was .

The heavy rains early on filled our parched rivers and filled the dams and gave the bush a new freshness for us to enjoy. It's just a pity it doesn't make gold grow. No big nuggets but plenty of small ones to keep us interested. All camps were well attended. I look forward to another successful year and wish members good luck and good health for 2012. Happy Xmas to all.



Eric at Heathcote

Fossickin' Round

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

November

Bruce Johnston, who is a Club Member, gave a presentation on Murky Stories of Crime and Punishment plus executions and good old fashioned floggings with the Cat and Nine Tails that were conducted at the Old Melbourne Jail.

This was a very informative evening about what occurred behind those four walls, and the conditions that they endured while incarceration—compared to today's felons who get three meals a day plus a bed and air conditioning etc.



Members were "flat out" enjoying the talk.



Bruce making a point

December

There will be no guest speaker for this month as it is the Club Breakup for the year on this night.

From the Committee we wish all Club Members a Very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Find of the Month

Geoff L.
5.2 g nugget



Nov/Dec 2011

October Camp Report

Heathcote

by Geoff Lee

Photos by Ian S & Geoff L.

Well it is Spring so some showers were expected at Heathcote. As it turned out, we did have a short downpour on Saturday afternoon but otherwise the wet weather did not interfere too much with detecting.

We had a total of 18 camps and 21 people around the fire on Saturday (including new member Bill) and managed to raise \$84 from the raffle: so it was quite a good turn out.

Having said that, a few members were missing from the camp fire - busy rescuing Les who managed to spike a rear tyre on the way back to camp and then discovered his jack was kaput.

He may have been back in time for the raffle draw however it took rescuers extra long to locate him at Campbell's Lane, south of Heathcote, because as it turned out, there are 2 Campbell's Lanes, south of Heathcote!

In spite of Les' unfortunate incident, he was one of the lucky few who the Gold Gods favoured this outing. The lucky few managed about half an ounce between them whilst everyone else had to get by with another half.

Many members have fond memories of warm scones with jam, butter and cream; whilst enjoying the camp fire. This extravaganza has been put on for a few years now by courtesy of Peter and his friend Merle. Unfortunately Merle has some health issues and will no longer be up to the task; but many thanks to Peter and Merle for their efforts to date and wishing Merle a speedy recovery.

Panning was a popular activity and some colour was found. Eric also



A curious local resident

headed a team of two at the Victorian Gold Panning Championships at Bendigo. Eric managed a Certificate (not sure exactly what kind!), whilst Peter entered the Finals. Good effort guys!



Some members may recall that the last time the club was at Heathcote we managed to rescue a joey kangaroo from a mine shaft. At this camp Peter and Lars carried out a tortoise rescue! Yes, you read it right 'a tortoise rescue'.



Whilst merrily prospecting, Peter noticed four tortoises down a flooded mine shaft and enlisted Lars' help back at camp. On return, to the mine shaft Peter managed to lock himself out of his car and had himself to be

rescued by the RACV, whilst he and Lars rescued the tortoises.

Question: What's the difference between Turtles, Tortoises and Terrapins?

Answer: Although tortoises and terrapins are both also turtles, many people use the word turtle to refer only to marine turtles, terrapins to refer to freshwater turtles, and tortoise to refer to land-dwelling turtles.



Graeme M. detecting.



Geoff L. out detecting.



Claude working his two tiered sluice box .



Don P. detecting just below a major reef line near Long Gully



Seekers' Christmas Party

Sunday 11th December, from 11am
Wicks Reserve - The Basin (Mel 65 D8)
Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain
Highway, then 400m down The Basin -
Olinda road turn right into the Reserve.
(Electric BBQs and water in the premises)

- * Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (Minelab PI gold machines are a "no-no")
- * 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!

Note: due to the dwindling numbers of children attending this event in the last few years Santa will not be coming this year, however, if enough children do turn up on the day, we will conduct a treasure hunt for them.

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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November Camp Report

Craigie West

by Valerie L.

Photos by Ian S & Geoff L.

Barry and I arrived at the camp just after lunch on the Thursday to find a good large flat campsite with many members already settled in for the weekend, enjoying a beautiful day. Heiki and Peter arrived just before us in their new caravan and a very nice one too. They are looking forward to many more trips in it in the future.

Friday morning we all awoke to the sound of many birds and a fine day and many campers arriving but at that stage not much gold being found.

As the result of a freak accident, Herman required medical attention for a eye injury and was taken into Maryborough by John and Joan Bone. It was caused by a tree branch coming through an open window, flicked in by the windscreen, while driving in the bush. After coming back with a patch on one eye, he was known as Long John Silver for a time.

Very heavy rain came early Friday evening and had us all in our vans for the night with others still arriving during the deluge. Late arrival David N. had to sleep in this car while Ian S. had to just find a spot for the caravan for the night. Come morning there was very little water around and the dust was well and truly settled.

On Saturday we still had many camps arriving, in all I think there was 39 camps and many day visitors making up 65 in attendance, including 4 children which was good to see. On Saturday night the hot chicken dinner went down well by all, followed by generous servings of ice cream and sweets of a good variety made by members. Thanks to Ian for use of his gazebos to shelter the food. Dressing up for the occasion, we were lucky enough to have guest celebrities Mr. and Mrs. France showing us what one should wear to the cup. Also present were special guests Jennifer Hawkins and Dame Edna, much to

the delight of all. I don't know what happened to Nola and Geoff, but they missed out on meeting them.

Come Sunday and still not much gold but there was good weather to enjoy.

Many thanks are due to your wonderful President Eric who did not stop working for the club all weekend and was only able to go out searching for gold a couple of days. Also to Mieke and Francine for helping the large raffle which took \$200. Many thanks for the donations. Peter Muller won the \$100 BCF voucher. This was paid for by the club. Lars ran the cup sweeps and boy, does he know how to run it. I should know for I was lucky enough to win a first and second and my Barry a third in one of the sweeps. Other winners were Ted and Mieke Peter and Mieke were our hosts for the running of the cup.

We came home on the Monday and I believe all still enjoyed the following days except the walking girls who got a little lost returning to camp when they missed a turn due to the signs being removed on the last day. I heard they almost ended up in Talbot. We must talk to them about using a GPS.

Much small gold was found up to 3.5 gram, with all enjoying a great weekend.

May I finish this report with a little joke?

A little boy had just got home from an outing with his dad. "How was the zoo?" asked his mum.

"It was great" he said, "Dad got really excited when one of the animals won by a neck at 33 to 1"



Dame Edna and Jennifer Hawkins (Geoff & Nola) make a surprise visit to the camp for fashions on the field.

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Herman sporting his eye patch.



Enjoying the chicken dinner supplied by the club



François and Francine dressing up for the occasion.



Jan Detecting near some surfacing.

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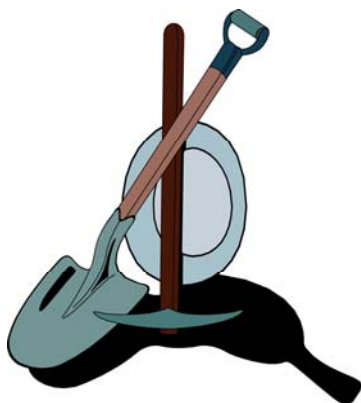
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Brian S. detecting

Members Take Note:

General Meetings



For anyone who has any surplus prospecting equipment that they want to sell, bring along to our general meetings where a 'For Sale' table will be available.



Our club has been warned, that due to new Monash Council bylaws, it is an offence to smoke inside, or in the vicinity, of any Council buildings. Heavy fines apply. We advise members who wish to smoke, please keep well clear of our entrance door, at least 15 meters, as smoke entering the hall is offensive to others.

A Bush Mechanic story

By Ian S.

As Les and Norma were leaving the Craigie West camp on Wednesday with only five other people left there, they discovered that their pin holding the TREG hitch to the tow bar was missing. It turned out that someone had found it and handed it in to Eric but he was now safely at home in Melbourne.

Not having anything suitable, the pair were facing a quick return trip to Melbourne when it was suggested that an old rusty rock chisel of a very similar diameter that Les had found earlier may well do the job. With a lot of hammering the chisel was forced halfway into the hole and made it back to Melbourne, with a few stops to bash it back in when it worked loose.



The chisel driven down into the TREG hitch



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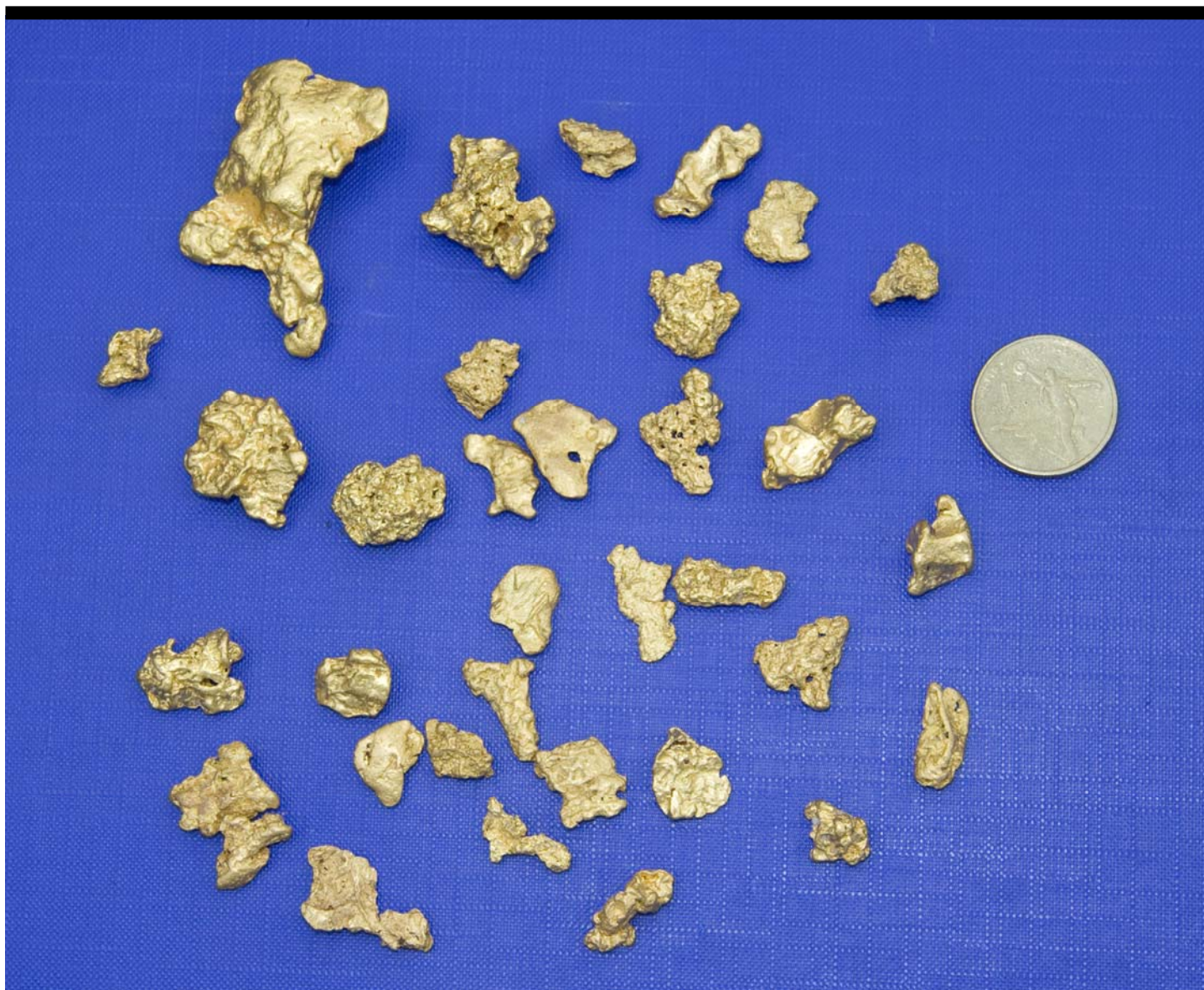
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A collection of some of the nuggets found recently in Western Australia by member Marty. All found with the Minelab GPX 5000 in the usual haunts there. He worked hard at it for 20 weeks! Thanks Marty for sharing the photo with us.

Photo By Ian S.

[An item from](#)

The Avoca Mail June 1983

Exactly 100 years ago today, the 'Avoca Mail' reported that "a very curious will had fallen into the hands of the police at Amherst".

"It is the last testament of William Nicholson, an old man who died in a hut at Amherst Flat last week of starvation, leaving a small fortune of 63 sovereigns in his hut and an account in a bank at Talbot.

The will bequeaths the bulk of his property to a friend in Canada and a nephew, and further as follows:

"To S----M---- and M---B---: one shilling to pay for a treatise on truth, honesty and morality.

To M---N---: the sum of sixpence, to keep forever to remind her of her untruthfulness, dishonesty, and

depravity.

I give to W---N--- sixpence to buy a tin whistle to blow on....a lying fool is fit for nothing else.

I give to R---M---the sum of sixpence, the father of lying rogues, to buy a rope. He knows the use I want him to take of it."

The will is duly signed and witnessed, but no executors are appointed. We may add that the deceased had a wife, but owing to his miserly ways she could not live with him, and is now at service in Melbourne. His property was claimed on her behalf, but the police have taken possession of it for the present. It is said that a Magisterial inquiry should have been held into the cause of Nicholson's death—he was found dead in his hut, apparently from starvation - but the Coroner gave an order for the burial of the body.

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**JANUARY
2012**

Friday 20th

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday 21st

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Sunday 22nd

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

All proceeds are used
for the upkeep of
Fryerstown's Historic Hall



Dec. Outing: Mt. Moliagul

Monday 26th Dec. to Tuesday 3rd Jan.



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No unattended fires.

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

Jan. Outing: Fryerstown

Thursday 26th to Tuesday 31st January
Australia Day Weekend

Feb. Outing: Talbot

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

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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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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The Prospector's Dream....





Cairn at Snake Gully to mark the finding of a 537 oz. nugget just 3 kms north of the Craigie West Camp



Photo by Eric

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