



# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 32, issue 6

Sept/Oct 2011



## Inside This Issue

**Avoca Camp Repot**  
**Talbot Camp Repot**  
**Detector Settings Part 2**  
**Ozi Explorer Review**

This month's cover shows  
some of the gold found this year



**7 oz. of gold  
in quartz**

## 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:

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.

## This newsletter is copyright.

The entire contents, including the advertisements, of this newsletter is protected by copyright. No part may be reproduced by any means without written permission from the VSC committee.

### 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

## October

**Wed 5th:** General Meeting.

**Fri 7th to Tues 10th:** Camp Heathcote

**Sun 9th:** Victorian Gold Panning Championships  
**Bendigo**

**Sat. 15th & Sun 16th:** Ararat Gold Dig **Ararat**

**Sat 22nd:** PMAV AGM **Rushworth**

## November

**Wed 2nd:** General Meeting.

**Fri 28th Oct to Tues 1st Nov.** Camp **Craigie West**  
**Melbourne Cup Special Event**

## December

**Wed 7th:** General Meeting.

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

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

## January

No General Meeting

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

# Editors Report

*by Ian Semmens*

I would like to inform members that I have been terminated from my position of manager of the Miners Den. I have not retired, as stated by staff at the Miners Den, but I am still actively working and will be for many years yet, unless I find a monster nugget. I would like to thank members of their support in the shop over the last two years.

Special thanks the Graham Mee and Geoff Lee for their articles. We have the final part of the series on Detector Settings for the GPX 5000 and we have an article by Geoff on Ozi Explorer. There is some good information to be had from these articles.

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

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

**Committee meetings for 2011:** Feb 1, Feb 22, Mar 29, May 3, May 31, June 28, July 26, Aug 30, Sept 27, Oct 26, Nov 28.



# President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Well, I'm still here, our club decided that they were not quite finished with me yet, So here we go for another year. Our new committee were voted in at our last meeting, and with the exception of a research officer, all positions were filled, so anyone who can take that role on will have the most interesting job in the club, -no experience is required, as we will give on the job training.

WOW, gold prices are the only bright thing in investments at the moment as people around the world are buying into the only commodity that has a real chance of surviving these troubled times. As I write this, the gold price is hovering about \$US1900. This time last year it was \$US1290, which is a rise of 50%, a very good return in 12 months. According to predictions, as long as financial problems exist in America and Europe it will continue to fly for some time yet, and might surpass its 1980 peak-adjusted to inflation of \$US2467. It's nice to know our club is doing its bit to help the economies of the world, - well members anyhow.

Talking of gold, has everyone seen the giant Ausrox gold nugget on display at the Melbourne Museum that weighs in at 748 oz. [as shown in Eureka Echo] which is nearly as big as the Hand of Faith [870oz]. It will make your eyes pop at the sight. We only have a few more weeks to see this monster, as it will be going back to its WA owners at the end of Oct., you will not be disappointed at the sight.

This year, the PMAV AGM meeting will be held at Rushworth on Saturday 22 October 1pm in the Shire Hall. There will also be another auction similar to last year which will include another GPX5000 up for grabs. Please support this auction as it's the only money raising event they have for the year.

BEWARE - members who have computers, -scams are rampant at the moment. If someone rings up and says they are from Microsoft and tells you have serious threats to your computer and that it will likely crash if they don't get in there and clean it up for you. It is just a scam as they will try and talk you into paying for another security package for \$130 or so even if you already have one.

They are very slick in their operation and try to convince you with false information. Microsoft don't ring anyone to

discuss these matters. If anyone rings out of the blue to talk about your computer just hang up on them. Check out Microsoft Australia/News Centre/phone scams. The above happened to me.

I finish off with a sad note to say that Ian Semmens mother died suddenly last week. On behalf of the club we pass on condolences to Ian and his family.



Eric at Hawaii

Fossickin' Round

# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

## September

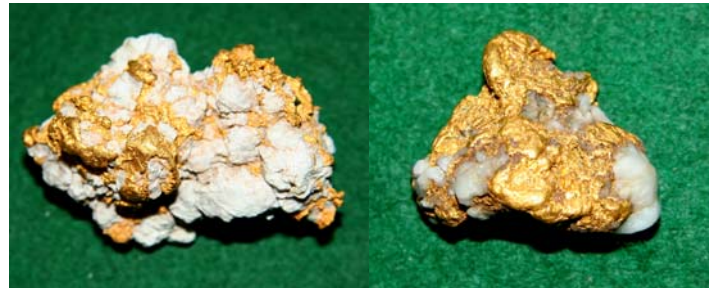
It was the Annual General Meeting for the Club plus election of Office Bearers for the next 12 Months [2011/2012]. At this meeting the new committee for 2011/2012 was elected and a vote of thanks must go to everyone who **volunteered** for these positions. I believe that by volunteering to help the Club, it can go forward.

## October

**Club Member Ian Semmens** has offered to show a video which shows three methods of how gold was deposited in America. This is well worth seeing.

## November

**Bruce Johnston, who is a Club Member**, will be giving a presentation on Murky Stories of Crime and Punishment plus executions that were conducted at the Old Melbourne Jail. Also he will talk about **Cat and Nine Tail Floggings** that were conducted within the Jail.



Nuggets on display at the last meeting found recently.



Ted receiving the FOTY trophy from the President

**Find of the Year**

Ted Cox  
1/2 Sovereign



Sept/Oct 2011



# August Camp Report

## Avoca

The weather forecast was 'wet' but clearing when I got into camp on Thursday. But the poor weather hadn't held back two other eager beavers (Grahame M and Lars) who were already there.

The cloud was low hanging and it was raining the previous day. Everything was damp. Fortunately there was little water underfoot and for most of the following days, good detecting weather prevailed.

Not long after I arrived, Peter M and Ted C rolled up. All told we ended up with 12 campers, 2 new members, 2 visitors plus David and Marie in the caravan park. (James also made an appearance in his new Toyota van; replacing his written-off Troupie.) Not a big camp but pretty good given the poor conditions.

We had a beaut camp fire with lots of wood. Being a smallish camp there was lots of space to huddle around and keep warm, whilst enjoying the banter.

Tina and Robyn turned up Saturday afternoon for the raffle (well done girls!). Because there were not that many campers they left early (no reports of untoward kangaroos!) and Peter M ran the raffle. The raffle did surprisingly well for the number of campers. For some reason nobody wanted the overalls prize (except me) and which I scored at the very end - way to go!

On Sunday night, Ian S put on one of his multi-course camp fire cooking dinners. It took some doing but he did eventually manage to finish it all. One wonders how he keeps such a trim figure (all those vegetables?).



Gold was particularly scarce except for Anonymous Member who managed 10 grams over 2 days. (Note to self: it's still out there!)  
Geoff



## West Craige Camp Melbourne Cup W/E Hot Chicken Dinner



**Free Hot Chicken Dinner.  
Saturday 29th Oct Evening  
Dinner.**

**Bring yourself, salad and/or  
desert.**

**Plus: Special Cup W/E Raffle.**



Marius—"I have got it!"

# Gold Price Report

By Ian Semmens.

Continued uncertainty in the US economic recovery and easing of production in China combined with the financial pressure that the euro is under - chief among this is the likely imminent collapse of the Greek currency - have meant that investors are retreating to gold, thus pushing the price upwards.

## One Year Gold Price !

The price of Gold in AU dollars has risen sharply since July and although it has dipped off by around 10% in the last week it is still trading at AU\$ 1647 per ounce. To put this in perspective this is more than double the price it was trading at in AU \$ in August 2008. It was around \$800.00 an ounce then.

### 1 Year Gold Price in AUD/oz

Last Close: 1647.31

High: 1806.08 Low: 1321.54 ▲300.08 22.27%



Monday, September 26, 2011

## Ararat Gold Dig

15th & 16th October  
Greenacres Road, Moyston



**MAJOR PRIZE:**  
**MINELAB**  
**Metal Detector**  
*Plus many other prizes*

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

## New Members

- John and Sue Johnson
- Peter and Margaret Gazan
- Mark Craig
- Theo Vacy
- Barry and Bev McDonald
- Peter and Christina Bailey



**Welcome and Good Luck!**



# Sept. Camp Report

## Talbot

by Mieke S.

Photos by Ian S & Geoff L.

As we arrived at camp on Friday, several members were already there. During the day we had several showers and very cold winds. The camp fire kept a few people warm but most opted for the warmth of the vans and watched the footy at night. Saturday was again windy but mostly sunny and everyone went out detecting. The raffle at the campfire was a success and everyone enjoyed the night talking and keeping warm with a nice warming drink.



Some nice nuggets found by a member



The camp scene at Talbot

**COILTEK**  
MANUFACTURING



Get superior performance and  
Maximum depth penetration with Coiltek coils.  
Find your nearest dealer at  
[www.coiltekmanufacturing.com.au](http://www.coiltekmanufacturing.com.au)

Sunday morning saw the last of the overnight rain and detecting was on the agenda for the day. Everyone managed to find gold over this weekend, with one 9 grammer and one 8 grammer being the biggest nuggets found, most of the finds were rather small. Happy hour had some great food provided by Peter Maffey (scones and sour bread with jam and cream) and sausage rolls provided by Graham Mee. Thanks Guys .  
In total we had about 14 camps and 6 car sleepers and 2 day trippers. A very enjoyable camp was had by all.

### I wuz rong in the last issue!

- John Douglas had his knee operated on, not his hip
- It was Norma on the cover, not Nola
- Graham Silver won find of the month, not Peter R.

Any more mistakes, then tough luck, we're stuck with them! Regards, Your hard working editor.



## Sept. Camp Photos



Ian S. detecting just north of the camp

A item on **Gold Prospecting** on the George Negus 6:30 program which was broadcast on Channel 10 on September 6th. Cordell Kent sent us this email:

Hi All,  
Please find below a link to a site where there is the FULL story of a gold rush around here. You might see some familiar faces (for the first time for a long time for some).  
I hope you enjoy it, it was fun doing it.  
All the best, and thanks to all involved.  
Cordell Kent

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gu8jg4eulkQ>

## More Meeting Notes

### September General /AGM Meeting

As well as electing in our new committee on this night we also held the judging of the Find Of The Year, which was won this year by Ted Cox with his nice half sovereign found at Castlemaine.

This award was overshadowed by large gold on display by members returning from interstate which were entered in the Find Of The Month. The first entry was Ralph's 7oz including some 200 small nuggets from WA. This was then trumped by John G.'s 7oz specimen from Tibooburra, so John wins for September.

The night was complimented by mountains of cream cakes with our supper. A special thanks to Sam Suemer for the large box of cream slices.



Good sized nugget of 7 oz. found By Ralph recently.

### CC Picks

**latest design & features**

**30 day money back guarantee**

Wing shape design

Spring steel heat treated to 50 rockwell c

All Australian hardwood handle

Single piece of tempered spring steel (no weak welded joints)

Heavy gauge 2.6mm handle spigot

- 4, 5 & 6 mm picks heads
- Australian design, materials and manufacture
- Innovative design (patent pending)
- High quality, industrial strength heat treated spring steel
- 4 unique models

**Pound for pound, the world's best pick**  
Available from prospecting shops  
[www.ccpicks.com.au](http://www.ccpicks.com.au)

# GPX 5000

**Get the GPX Depth Advantage**

**Find more GOLD and DEEPER!**

To find out more about the Minelab range of detectors  
**Phone 1800 637 786**  
**Or visit [www.minelab.com](http://www.minelab.com)**

World's Best Metal Detection Technologies



# OziExplorer

by Geoff Lee

## What is it?

Quite simply, OziExplorer is "GPS Mapping Software" (<http://www.oziexplorer.com/>). It runs mainly on Windows PCs but also some hand-held devices (more about that later).

The idea behind OziExplorer is that you give it an image (presumably a map), tell it the GPS co-ordinates of the corners (and/or other points); and you're ready to go.

By and large, maps are available where the co-ordinates have already been predefined (MAP format files) so you can skip the above step of plotting how the image overlays GPS co-ordinates; also known as 'calibrating'. However, being able to create your own maps from, for example, something you've found in a magazine, is an important feature.

Once you've got a map loaded into OziExplorer, it will then allow you to easily get GPS co-ordinates of any location on the map. Just move your mouse on the map and the co-ordinates appear in the Status Bar.

You can also connect a GPS to OziExplorer and it will then locate an appropriate map and show where you are located on the map. Additionally, if you are moving, for example, you have OziExplorer running on a laptop in your car with a GPS connected (if you want to run a laptop in your car in Victoria and stay legal, you need a commercially manufactured attachment; check out <http://www.ja-gps.com.au/RAM-Mounts> ), then OziExplorer will plot a 'track' on the map showing where you are as well as where you've been. The picture of OziExplorer on the right, shows such a track running roughly north-south through the middle, in purple. The current location is not visible, but if it were, it would be shown as an arrow pointing in your direction of travel.

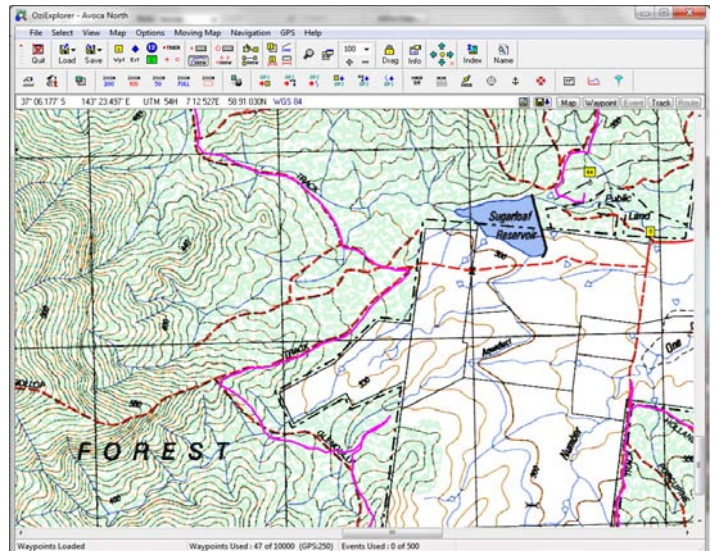
The picture on the right also shows two 'waypoints' as little yellow markers in the top-right corner (just to the east of Sugarloaf Reservoir). Waypoints are locations on the map that you can 'drop' wherever you like. Normally these would be at road intersections, camp sites, gold working, etc. These are numbered by default but you can name them whatever you like.

Obviously, tracks and waypoints can be saved and re-loaded next time you're in the area.

OziExplorer also has quite a large number of other capabilities that complement these main functions however we will not discuss these in this article.

## What it is not

In OziExplorer, you can also create a 'route'. You do this by connecting together, in sequence, a list of waypoints. OziExplorer can then be used, as you drive, to direct you to the next waypoint. This routing mechanism is quite different to the automatic routing/navigation that is available on popular GPS devices, such as, Tom Tom, Navman and Garmin. The fundamental difference is that OziExplorer is not aware of roads and similar features on its maps. All it has is an image that has GPS co-ordinates on it.



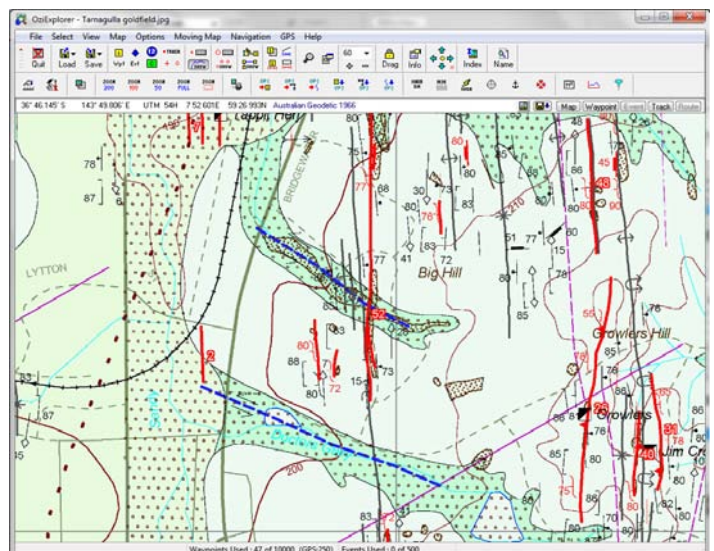
**OziExplorer: Showing part of VicMap 7523-1N Avoca North. Tracks driven over are shown in purple, and two waypoints in yellow near top-right.**

In contrast Tom Tom type devices 'know' about what it is displaying, where traffic lights are, one-way streets, etc, and is able to use that information to automatically determine a route for you; and 'tell' how to get there.

These are excellent devices for finding your way around the city, unfortunately their maps don't tell you where the gold is! (OziExplorer doesn't do that either but with the right maps, it can help.)

## Where is the gold?

Good question - wish I knew! But having the right map can go a long way to finding the gold.



**OziExplorer showing close-up of Tanagulla geology map with gold workings, reefs and other information.**

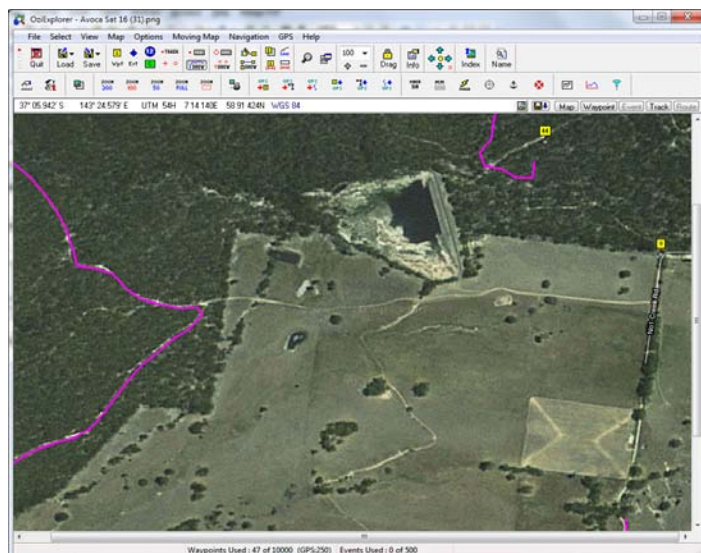
A huge number of maps are available off the Internet. Many of these can be purchased already prepared for use directly within OziExplorer, for example,



<http://www.maptrax.com.au/> and

<http://www.abcmaps.com.au/>. Other maps can be downloaded, many for free, at places such as <http://dpistore.efirst.com.au/categories.asp?clD=4&c=22846> and <http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/geological/geological-maps>. Unfortunately most 'free' maps are JPEG format and will need to be calibrated for use in OziExplorer as described previously. However, on the flip side, a number of club members have already done this and being nice to them may be rewarding ☺.

In addition to the above map sources, maps can also be made from Google Map/Earth. For gold prospecting you



**OziExplorer showing satellite image of Avoca's Sugarloaf Reservoir with tracks and waypoints as per previous picture of Avoca area.**

would normally be interested in the satellite images.

Satellite images are useful in gold prospecting because you can spot, for example, potentially unmapped locations of workings and surfaced areas.

A program called Mobile Atlas Creator is indispensable in creating maps from Google Map/Earth as it will download and convert the Google images into OziExplorer maps for you. (You will however need, as a *maximum*, the 1.8 version. Again, be nice to fellow club members ☺.)

Another useful resource is Victoria's Department of Primary Industries. Within their Earth Resources/Minerals section (<http://new.dpi.vic.gov.au/earth-resources/exploration-and-mining/tools-and-resources/geovic>) they provide a capability called GeoVic. This provides online (dynamic geospatial, i.e. maps with selectable information) access to geological information, lease tenements, geochemical surveys and etc. After selecting areas and information of interest, these can also be calibrated into OziExplorer.

A similar mapping capability is provided for Fire Planning (fuel reduction burning) at <http://nremap-sc.nre.vic.gov.au/MapShare.v2/imf.jsp?site=fireplan>.

## But wait, there's more!

As mentioned at the start, OziExplorer runs on Windows PCs but also some hand-held devices. Whilst OziExplorer supports a number of older hand-held devices, we will only discuss current technologies. There are essentially

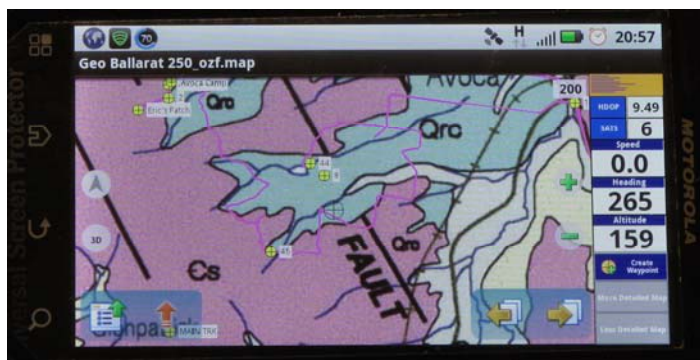


**The Hema Navigator with a 5" screen**

two categories of current interest in regards running OziExplorer on held-held devices: Windows CE devices and Smart Phones.

Refer [http://www.ozieplorer3.com/ozice/faq\\_os.html](http://www.ozieplorer3.com/ozice/faq_os.html).

In the Windows CE category, one of the more popular devices is the Hema Navigator (<http://www.hemanavigator.com.au/Products/HEMANavigatorHN5i/tabid/150/Default.aspx>), see picture above. In addition to running OziExplorer it also provides iGo Street Navigation that provides Tom Tom/Navman type functionality: so is useful in the cities and bush. Its 5" screen also provides a reasonable viewing area although more is always better in this regard. There are a number of very similar 'generic branded' devices



**OziExplorer running on an Android smart phone showing a geological map of Sugarloaf Reservoir**

that provide a lower cost entry.

In the Smart Phone category, only Android phones are currently supported (in Beta, but stable and functional). iPhone support is planned but not yet available.

Note that although, the same maps, waypoints and tracks may be used across Windows PCs and above devices, maps need to be converted to the OZF format.

**An important point** to be made regarding OziExplorer on hand-held devices is that you can use them in the field. That is, you can take the device with you as you wander through the hills with your detector, looking for gold and know exactly where you are on your secret historic, geological or satellite map!



# Technical Tips: Part 3 – Detector Settings

By Graham Mee

## DETECTOR SETTINGS

In Last month's issue we covered the settings on the rear panel of the GPX 5000. This month we are turning our attention to the front panel.

### FRONT PANEL

1. FOR ORDINARY DETECTING SET SEARCH MODE SWITCH to.....GENERAL
2. FOR MAX DEPTH SET SOIL TIMING SWITCH to .....NORMAL
3. IF NOISY SET SOIL TIMING SWITCH to.....CUSTOM
4. SELECT.....FINE GOLD
5. IF STILL NOISY, SELECT.....ENHANCE
6. IF STILL NOISY, SELECT.....SENSITIVE SMOOTH

Other Timings Available: SENSITIVE EXTRA, SHARP, SALT/ GOLD, COIN / RELIC

1. Always detect in FIXED tracking.
2. Set GAIN as high as conditions will allow.
3. Set on SENSITIVE EXTRA on small gold.
4. For a sharper response:  
For NOISY GROUND use a DD COIL.  
Set MOTION to VERY SLOW.  
Increase GAIN if possible.
5. For VERY NOISY GROUND use a MONO COIL.  
Set to SENSITIVE SMOOTH.  
Set Tracking to FIXED and GROUND BALANCE often. Use for final clean up.
6. Generally, higher THRESHOLD, higher GAIN.  
(Higher Threshold and Tone levels hold more information so are more tiring than lower Tones)
7. In high interference areas (under power lines):  
Set Coil on XP.  
Set Detector on MONO  
Set Response on NORMAL ( High / Low )  
Set SENSITIVE SMOOTH for small gold.  
Try a higher GAIN setting.  
Try a faster MOTION setting.

## INSTRUCTION MANUAL INDEX

Front Control Panel.....	24
Rear “ “ .....	25
LCD Menu Structure.....	27
Search Mode.....	28
Soil Timings.....	35 & 57
Factory Presets.....	46
Backlight.....	50
Custom Name.....	76





## October Outing: Heathcote

**Friday 7th to Tuesday 11th October**

**NOTE: NO DOGS AT THIS CAMP**

(Vic Parks Regulation)

## Nov. Outing: Craigie West

**Friday 28th Oct. to Wednesday 2nd Nov.**

**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.**



## 2011 Victorian Gold Panning Championships.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
9.30am – 5.00pm

Central Deborah Mine, 76 Violet Street, Bendigo 3550.  
For more info : [www.central-deborah.com](http://www.central-deborah.com)

### Major Prize:

Trip to the 2001 New Zealand Gold Panning Championships.  
Make up a Seekers gold panning Team!



**Vic Seekers  
are now on**

**Vic Seekers**  
UHF **18**

**Winter is still here!**



So rush out a get your warm and snuggly  
VSC Polar Fleece Jacket.

**Only \$35.00.**

See Francine at the meetings or the camps.

# MINERS DEN

[www.minersden.com.au](http://www.minersden.com.au)

See us for **all** of your  
prospecting needs.



Hours:  
Mon-Fri 9:00-5:00  
Sat. 9:00-12:00

**New, Used and Hire Metal Detectors**  
**We have a full range of prospecting equipment.**

**Phone 9873 1244**

Shop 2, 517 Whitehorse Rd., Mitcham

[www.minersden.com.au](http://www.minersden.com.au)

Email: [minersdenmelb@bigpond.com.au](mailto:minersdenmelb@bigpond.com.au)

## PMAV AGM

1:00 pm Saturday 22nd October 2011

Rushworth Shire Hall

### Annual General Meeting

Followed by a BBQ

Exciting Auction of New Prospecting Equip-  
ment including

Minelab GPX 5000 Metal Detector.

Auction commences immediately after the  
AGM

Don't Miss It!



- Servicing All Makes & Models
- Insurance Repair Specialist
- Air Conditioning Installation
- Camper Trailer Repairs

**Phone 9761 4189**

120 Canterbury Road Bayswater

[www.thervrepaircentre.com.au](http://www.thervrepaircentre.com.au)

Brakes, Lights, Bearings & Towing Gear.



# Castlemaine rekindles a golden glow

By Barry Fitzgerald September 27, 2011



Craig Hutchinson pours the first gold for Ballarat Gold. *Photo: Supplied*

THERE were smiles all round in the gold room at Castlemaine Goldfields' (CGT) Ballarat gold project yesterday when the first bar from the re-commissioned project was poured. The 260-ounce gold bar is worth close to \$430,000 at current prices. CGT bought the project from Lihir Gold in May last year for the knockdown price of \$4.5 million.

Lihir - now part of Newcrest Mining - spent \$750 million acquiring and developing the Ballarat project but mothballed the operation when it became clear the historic goldfield would not produce at the rate of 250,000 ounces a year that Lihir had planned.

CGT has much smaller ambitions for Ballarat, as an annual producer of 50,000 ounces of gold. "It's all about the quality of the ounces. not the quantity," CGT managing director Matt Gill said at the mine site, where the payroll has gone from six people after Lihir's departure to more than 150. Mr Gill said CGT had plenty to smile about despite the sharp retreat in gold prices in recent days. He said the fall in the US-dollar exchange rate had limited the fall in the local gold price.

And CGT had done all its planning work for a reopening of the mine using a gold price of \$A1100 an ounce. The current local price is \$A1650 - adding \$27 million to annual revenues from what was expected. Mr Gill said forecast cash costs of \$710-\$750 an ounce also meant that the rejuvenated project was still looking at achieving operating cash margins of more than 100 per cent. "It's a great time to be going into production," Mr Gill said.

Initial production at Ballarat is coming from an ore block developed by Lihir but not mined by it. It sits at a depth of more than 500 meters beneath the Sovereign Hill tourist park. Low-grade material is being used in the re-commissioning of the surface treatment plant, which will limit production for (calendar) 2011 to between 5000 and 8000 ounces. Production will rise to 50,000 ounces in 2012.

CGT shares were not immune from yesterday's broad selloff in gold equities in response to gold's \$US250 an ounce, or 13.7 per cent, slide in the past 30 days to \$US1642 an ounce, with most of the fall recorded on Thursday and Friday last week. CGT shares fell 2¢, or 4.5 per cent, to 42¢.

Read more: <http://www.theage.com.au/business/castlemaine-rekindles-a-golden-glow-20110926-1ktiu.html#ixzz1ZKNFAXG5>

## Modified Minelab GP Extreme

### Modified Minelab GP Extreme

- Link Technologies Option 2 modified GP Extreme:  
[http://detectormods.com/Contact\\_Details\\_Prices.html](http://detectormods.com/Contact_Details_Prices.html)
- Includes:
  - Lucky Lark Li-ion battery with 12/240v charger
  - New 11" Minelab Commander DD Coil
  - Near new Koss head phones
  - New Shingle Back Backpack
  - Refurbished armrest cover, hand grip, bungee
  - Softcopy Minelab and LinkTech instruction manuals



Club Discount:  
\$2,200

Ring Geoff on  
0417 358 660

## Are you getting the Newsletter by email?

If not, please think about it.

Getting it by email means:

- You will get it 7—10 days sooner than by post.
- You will view it in colour
- It benefits the club.

Contact Mieke to put your name on the email list.:

## NUGGET FINDER COILS

*When You're Ready  
to Take Your  
Detecting to  
the Next Level*



Nugget Finder  
Advantage Coils offer improved stability and sensitivity.

- Fully potted winding
- Epoxy reinforced polyurethane shaft mount
- Superior Litz wire
- Fully bonded construction
- 2 year warranty



If undeliverable return to:

