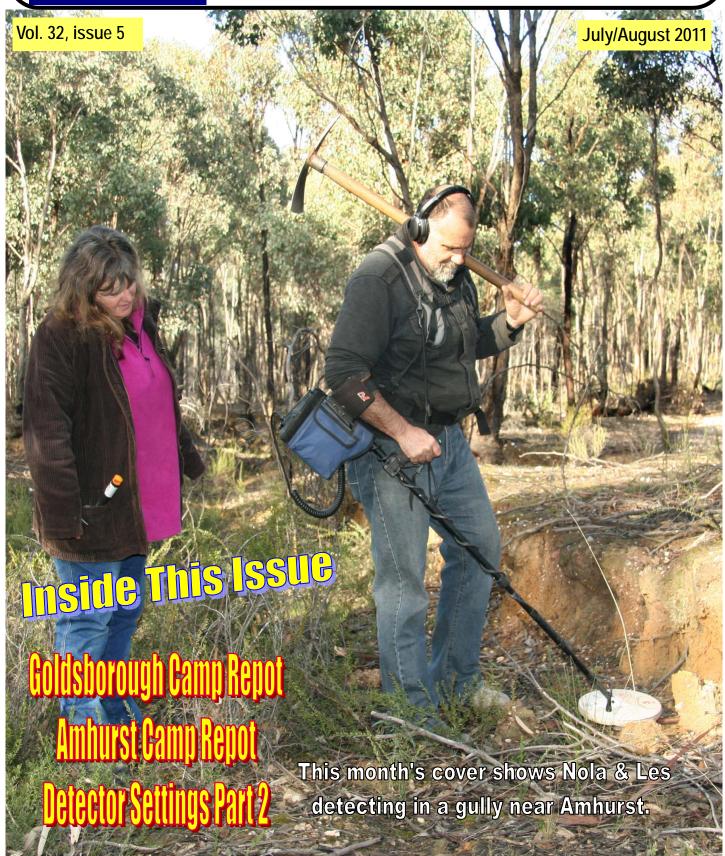


FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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



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:

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: sales@regentvideo.com.au Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.. Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

RESEARCH OFFICER: Geoff LEE

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 lan at: sales@regentvideo.com.au and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

July

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Fri 8th to Tues 11th Camp Amherst

August

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

Fri 12th to Tues 16th Camp Avoca No 2 Lead

September

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

Fri 9th to Tues 12th Camp Talbot

October

Wed 5th: General Meeting.

Fri 7th to Tues 10th Camp Heathcote

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

Welcome to a bumper Edition of *Fossikin' Round*. A record 14 pages!

I would like to encourage members to contribute articles to the newsletter. It is only as good as the articles that are submitted, so please make an effort and write up something that would be of interest to our members.

Special thanks the Graham Mee for the 3 Part series on Detector Settings for the GPX 5000.

Also thanks to those that have written outing reports.

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

I have just heard unfortunate news back from WA of Lindsay and Margaret Tricker's Van being struck in the rear by a 200 tonne road train up near Leonora. They were not hurt; albeit shaken up. The van is a write-off, but their car is still driveable. They were travelling in a 3 car convoy with Murray and Francois and their wives when the truck driver misinterpreted Lindsay's right hand turn manoeuvre. Luckily they were well covered by insurance, which will take care of things eventually. They will now have to cut short their trip and come home early, while the others will continue as planned.

To add to the list of unfortunate news, on the way home from the Amhurst outing, near Springbank, James in his Toyota Troop Carrier ran into a large trailer towed by vehicle driven by a local farmer who ignored a give way sign. Fortunately, again, no one was injured. The Troopy's chassis was bent so it may not be worth repairing.

A couple of years ago another of our members, Bruce and Kaye Perrott lost their van in a rollover not far away, near Norseman. Last year Albert's van disintegrated up near Denilliquin. Recently, Gerd Herrmann had the windows and walls replaced on his van after sustaining hail damage. Ted has had his canvas awning replaced, and I have just had my complete awning replaced after my house collided with it. All these mishaps were covered by insurance thank God. It is so important that members have a good policy for their vans as they are so vulnerable to damage both on the road and at our camps in the bush [and at home].

Bob and Virginia Lake are up in the Broome area, enjoying their well earned retirement trip in a lovely 30'c sunshine. They are working their way down the coast and might catch up with the others later. Val and Barry are up at Port Douglas dodging crocodiles and playing bowls. They are having that much fun I doubt whether we will see them back before Xmas.



Don't forget our September meeting is our AGM night, and it is time for some new committee members who may be able to add some stimulus and ideas to our club. Participation in the club's affairs isn't difficult. If you are passionate about our club and its activities, how about a small commitment to its administration. Some members have been on the committee a long time and would like a break.

Eric at Goldsborough Fossickin' Round

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

June

Julian Attwell who is the Marketing Director of TXP International (There web address is www.txp.com.au) gave an extremely informative presentation about their Company's products

They have requested that I be there contact person for Metal Detectors or any other of their products and I have accepted their offer to be that person for the **Seekers**

Club. My email address is phone no. is 9999 9999.

If any member of the Club is going to buy a metal detector it is recommended that he/she gets all relevant information on pricing, warranties etc. plus Model Names, and Company Name Brands as well.

Contact me and with all relevant information and I will explore all possibilities from TXP International. Congratulations go to those 3 winners of the lucky door prizes which was a Safe, plus 2 Led Torches which was kindly donated by TXP's representatives.

July

Bruce Johnston who is a Club member was sick and did not feel up to giving a presentation on Murky stories of Crime and Punishment.

August

Gary Danson from the Model Train Society will be present for this Monthly Meeting as our guest speaker. He will be giving a very interesting presentation about his hobby.

September

There will be no guest speaker for this meeting as it is the Annual General Meeting for the Club plus election of Office Bearers for the next 12 Months.

October

Club Member Ian Semmens has offered to show a Video on "America's Gold" which shows three methods of how gold was deposited in America. This is well worth seeing. This is an episode from the series *How the Earth was Made.*

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.

This promises to be an extremely interesting evening.



JULY

Peter R. *Peace Medal*



May Camp Report

Goldsborough

By Eric G. Photos by Ian S.

Surprise, surprise, the weather prediction for our Queen's Birthday trip to Goldsborough was to be cold and wet, resulting in many cancelling the trip. It was in fact rainless the whole weekend allowing for perfect detecting conditions. Nights were cold, but a roaring fire took care of that.

We had an attendance of 30 members who took a chance on the weather and won, and considering many members are in the West and Tibooburra or heading there, the turnout was surprising. One member, who shall remain nameless, had dramas on his 9.30pm arrival, discovering that he had left his van keys home, and with its door firmly locked, and no luck with all our keys, it looked like he was in for an uncomfortable night in his car without bedding. Not only did he have key problems, he arrived with his unconnected gas regulator dragging along the ground [or what was left of it]. Being the kind humanitarian person that I am, he accepted the offer of my spare bed for the night. A trip back to Maryborough in the morning to see a locksmith and gas man had him back on track again.

We had moderate success with gold, most of which was small, the exceptions being Dennis's 10gm and David's 10gm piece, but only by a great deal of effort.

Anyone travelling up to the Dunolly area in the next few months via Maldon, be warned. The road between Maldon and Eddington is blocked at the Baringhup turnoff due to a bridge washed away by the floods in February near the vicinity of Bell's Swamp. You can still get through by taking the detour to Baringhup, then the signed road from there to Eddington, which is sealed, and is only an extra 3km further.

It's amazing what the mention of gold does to some people; while out detecting near Dunolly I came across 2 cou-



Jan detecting

ples from South Australia having a go for their first time, who obviously knew absolutely nothing about what it requires to find gold these days. On chatting to them, they stated that they watched a program on TV the week before about all the gold we were getting since the floods and advised viewers to join in the rush as we were picking up \$20 nuggets everywhere. They knew someone that owned a detector, which was borrowed, and so over they came for the long weekend. The detector was an old Goldseeker 9000 which dates back to the early 80's. They were running it in discrimination mode and didn't know what the ground balance knob was for. They were also walking around with a \$50 Tandy detector. Their footwear was regulation thongs, and they were sleeping out in the open in the freezing weather. Well, I thought I'd seen everything out in the bush before. The program should have warned newcomers to get proper advice before starting out. After giving them some clues and demonstrating the inadequacy of their equipment, which was immediately abandoned, they made plans to return home the next day.



10 gram nugget found by Dave 14" down on a heap.



10.2 gram nugget found by Dennis

4 July/August 2011 Fossickin' Round



Denis detecting



Denis, Eric, Don & Jan about to head of detecting

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

Only \$35.00.

See Francine at the meetings or the camps.

Gold Price!

The price of Gold in US dollars continues to rise and it seems that almost each month we are seeing a record price for gold. The price reached a record high of US\$1604.00 per troy ounce on the 20/07/11.

Converted to Aussie \$ it is now around AU\$47.97 per gram.

New Members

- Barry and Bev McDonald
- Alex Eram
- James Zombos
- Sarah Mackay spouse of Wayne

f Wayne

Returning Members

- Bruce and Kay Parrott
- Bruce Johnson

Welcome and Good Luck!

June Camp Report

Amhurst

by Graham Mee Photos by Ian S

Yet another wet camp with rain before, during and after but that did not deter the 17 happy camps that made the trip a worthwhile event. The camp numbers were down on the usual but that would be down to other members being on the Club trip to Tibooburra at the moment I think.

All members were out and about detecting early in the mornings and the nights were finished off around the campfire at night. Special thanks to those that collected the wood for the fire, to Ian S for demonstrating the latest high tech fire starters (see pictures on back page) and to Peter M for feeding us with his hot camp oven Scones, butter and jam. Well done Peter. Same time next camp?

The gold count was down a bit but it is still around with Eric G passing on his gold panning skills to one of our younger members (well done Jordan) and also scoring the biggest nugget for the trip. Interesting to note that on one outing, our fearless leader, in his excitement, forgot to pick up his digging tool and to top it off, got "bushed" in the process of returning to his car. The next day saw him return and it was definitely his lucky weekend as he managed to find his beloved pick. Well done Eric.

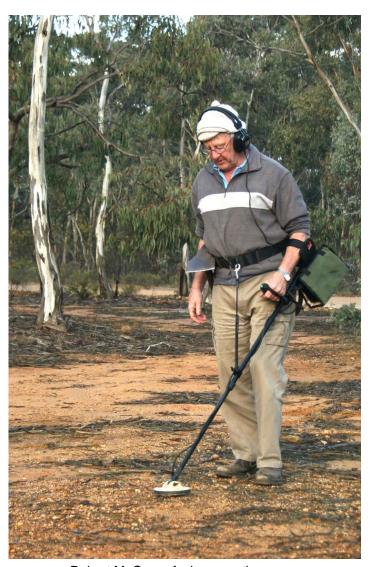
All in all, a great camp and a good time was had by all. *Late News:* Eric G. picked up a nice 3 gram nugget!







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www.coiltekmanufacturing.com.au



Robert M. On surfacing near the camp



Marius on a line of reef workings.



Lars on the Surfacing







Peter M. on the Hard Hill above the surfacing.



The little nugget he found at the above hole.



James on the surfacing

News Special:

Aussie Gold Finders Reveal "The Great Gold Nugget Fraud"



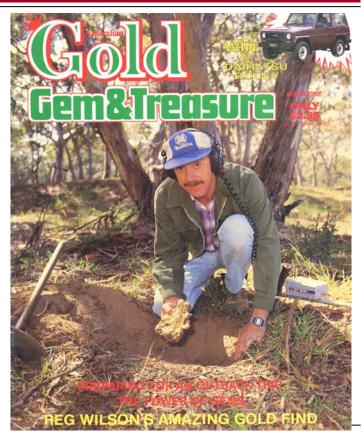
The Nugget as shown by the Auctioneer in 2011.

An Australian prospector claims a giant gold nugget, purportedly found in Nevada County that fetched \$460,000 at auction, actually came from Australia's Golden Triangle.

Murray Cox, 56, of Geelong, Victoria, contacted News10 after seeing a picture of the so-called Washington Nugget in a gold mining magazine. "I picked up the magazine and knew in two seconds that was (our nugget)," Cox said. Cox said he and a friend, Reg Wilson, unearthed the giant nugget in November 1987 in a farm field near the town of Ballarat, north of Melbourne. Cox provided a 1987 article from the Melbourne Sun newspaper describing the event, along with a Sun photograph of the two men holding the giant nugget they called Orange Roughie because of its fish-like shape. The newspaper listed the nugget's weight at 98 ounces, the same as the Washington Nugget.

Cox also provided a picture of the Orange Roughie nugget he said was taken by a professional photographer about a week after the discovery. That photograph, shot from roughly the same angle as a preauction picture of the Washington Nugget, shows a striking similarity between the two. "We know it's our nugget. 100 percent," Cox said. He said Wilson sold the Orange Roughie nugget to an American gold dealer in 1989 for AU \$50,000, which at the time reflected the value of the actual gold content. The Washington Nugget sold at auction at the Sacramento Convention Center on March 16 for \$460,000, including sales commission. The sales price was roughly triple the actual value of the gold in the nugget, in part, because it was portrayed as the largest surviving specimen from California's Gold Country.

By George Warren, GWarren@news10.net



The Nugget as depicted on the cover of GG & T in Feb. 1988

Huge gold nugget not from California

-- Associated Press/

Tuesday in a statement.

an ounce Wednesday.

A 6.2-pound hunk of gold was auctioned for nearly half a million dollars in March after a man claimed he found it on his Sierra Nevada property, but it turns out it was actually dug up decades earlier in Australia.

After Jim Sanders' "find" on his property near Nevada City in California's Gold Country made news last year, Australian prospector Murray Cox compared pictures of Sanders' "Washington Nugget" with "The Orange Roughie" he unearthed near Melbourne in 1987, it was reported. They were an exact match, except the Washington Nugget sold for \$460,000 in March and Cox originally sold it for \$50,000. Cox contacted Don Kagin, a coin dealer, and mining geologist Fred Holabird, who together auctioned the nugget for Sanders. The two investigated Cox's claims and determined he was right. "The parties have mutually concluded that the nugget was from Australia," Holabird said

As for how Sanders got his hands on the Aussie gold chunk? The dealers said confidentiality agreements barred them from elaborating.

Cox said that he sold the Orange Rougie in 1989 and is not sure how it wound up with Sanders. The person who bought the gold in March has been reimbursed, and the nugget sold for a smaller price to another bidder. Despite duping people as to the nugget's origin, Kagin said everyone involved has agreed that fraud charges against Sanders are unnecessary. "The whole matter has been concluded to everyone's satisfaction," he said. The unusual gold chunk fetched \$460,000 at auction because it was believed to be the largest California nugget left in existence. While details of the 98.6-ounce nugget's new sale price were not available, gold closed at \$1,529.20

Technical Tips: Part 2 – Settings

OTHER SETTINGS FRONT COTROL PANEL:

By Graham Mee

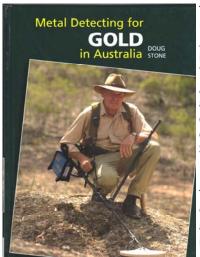
	Factory	Own	Marty	J. Bone	J.P.	Marius	lan S.	
Search Mode	General	General	General	General	General	Deep	General	
Soil Timing	Normal	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	
Coil / Rx	DD	Mono	Mono	Mono	Mono	Mono	Mono	
Ground Bal	Tracking	Tracking	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed	Fixed	
		<u> </u>	Ī	1	1	T		
REAR CONTROL PANEL								
FUNCTION	SETTINGS	S						
MAIN MENU	Factory	Own	Marty	J. Bone	J.P.	Marius	lan S.	
Backlight	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	
Battery	8 volts		-	 -	-	-	-	
Volume Limit	12	12	12	12	12	12	6-8	
GB Type	General	General	General	General	General	General	General	
Special	Fine	Fine	Fine	Fine	Fine	Fine	Fine	
Manual Tune	128	100	-	-	-	-	-	
GENERAL								
Motion	Slow	Slow	V-Slow	Slow	Slow	V-Slow	Slow	
RX Gain	11	12	12-16	16-18	11-13	17	12-18	
Audio Type	Normal	Quite	Quite	Quite	Normal	Quite	Normal	
Audio Tone	50	60	48	46	63	46	46	
Stabilizer	10	-2 Gain	-2 Gain	12	8-10	14	6-10	
Signal Peak	16	20	12	16	19	18	18	
Target Volume	8	8	17	10	8	15 - 18	14-18	
Response	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Invert	Normal	
Tracking Speed	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Slow	Medium	
Iron Reject	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	

Part 3: Detector Tips next month

News

New Books from Outdoor Press

Doug Stone has released through Outdoor Press a new edition, a reprint and a book map.

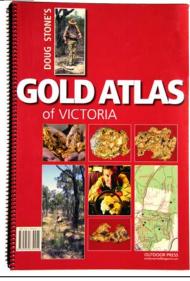


The 5th Edition of Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia is now out and it contains new maps of Victoria and Western Australia, new photos and text and omits the coin and relic references. It is priced at \$130.00.

The long running book **Gold Prospecting** has also been reprinted and it is priced at \$50.00

New to the series is a large Book Map entitled **Gold Atlas of Victoria** that opens up flat to reveal all 36 Goldfields Maps of Victoria that were previously available only as a single sheet map. It is priced at \$130.00.

All three books are available now from the Miners Den.



COLTEK®MANUFACTURING



Coiltek has just announced yet another new coil. Due to a collaborative effort with Minelab Electronics, they have produced a new 15" ALL TERRAIN 7.5kHz coil for the very popular Minelab X-TERRA detector.

It is an official Coiltek Manufacturing product, **fully approved** by Minelab, and is compatible with the **VFLEX technology** present in the X-TERRA machines.

Being larger than any of the stock coils, they have noticed improved depth and coverage. It has good sensitivity and will respond like the stock coils in relation to the target ID and depth indications. It is priced at \$295.00





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Victorian Seekers Club

Application Form for Membership Renewal July 2011 ~ June 2012

Membership fees of the VSC becomes due on the 1st of July 2011.

Members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible.

For members who have not renewed their membership by the **1st of September 2011** it will be considered that the membership has expired and they will no longer receive the newsletter nor be able to attend camps until the membership renewal is paid. If it is paid after the 1st of September 2010 a re-joining fee of \$5.00 may be payable upon renewal.

Note: This form is for **renewal** only. For a new membership please contact the membership secretary.

You can fill out this form, attach the payment and post it in to the Membership secretary: - Mrs. Mieke Smits or hand it to her at the next general meeting, or to a committee member at the next camp.

Name (s)							
Address							
Suburb/Town							
Telephone Home Mobile							
Email							
Single Membership \$35							
I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of membership of the VSC.							
SignedDate							
SignedDate							
Do you have any suggestions as how to improve the meetings or the outings?							

Theatre Night



Advance Notice that in November there will be a theatre night on 18th November at the Athenaeum Theatre Lillydale to see the Play version of the TV comedy series 'Allo, 'Allo.

Tickets are available direct from the theatre (unless sold out) on 9735 1777.

The theatre is at 35 Castella Street Lillydale.

Many thanks to John Bone for donating a Webber BBQ for the club to use at the Easter outings, and at the Xmas break up. It is much appreciated and it will be well used.



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 (03) 9999 9999 or email.

- John Douglas is recovering from a hip operation.
- David Barclay is recovering from a heart attack and now has a splint inserted.

We wish them both a speedy and complete recovery.

Members are reminded to keep any lead detected such as bullets, sinkers and odd bits dug up and it give to John Garcia at an meeting or a in a special bucket at an outing.

This will assist in the campaign to keep our detecting areas open. We are trying to show the authorities and other groups that we, as prospectors, can have a beneficial effect on the environment by removing toxic metals like lead.

Importantly, also make sure that **any** hole dug is **properly** filled in.

New Products

Have you ever had a flat battery caused by running accessories like lights, battery chargers, an air compressor, CD players or a TV from your car or caravan battery? Then this little handy gadget is the answer for you! It is the **Powertech Low Voltage Battery Protector.** It cuts

the power to the device once the voltage gets down to 11.2 volts thereby saving your battery from damage caused by excessive discharge. Lead acid batteries that are discharged to more than 75 % of their capacity have a greatly reduced capacity to be recharged.

It has standard cigarette lighter connections on both ends. It is available form Jaycar and is priced at \$19.95.

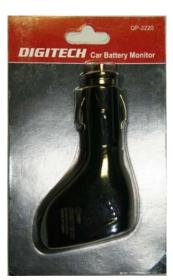


Another handy device from Jaycar is the **Digitech Car Battery Monitor**.

It plugs into a cigarette socket and gives a digital readout of the voltage of the battery. It is accurate to 0.2 volt. You can then monitor how much voltage that you have in the battery as different items are turned on.

This allows you to keep a check on how the battery is holding up as you draw power from it. It is ideal by it self or uaed with the Powertech Low Voltage Battery Protector.

It is priced at \$19.95.





August Outing: Avoca

Friday 12th to Tuesday 15th August

Sept. Outing: Talbot

Friday 9th to Tuesday 12th July NOTE: NEW TALBOT 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.

No unattended fires.

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



L to R: François Brian, Emily, Margaret, Lindsay, Robyn & Murray somewhere in the West this month.

Handy tool for your survival Kit:

This Magnesium firelighter could be a real life saver if you



are lost in the bush and it is getting cold and dark. It is a sure way to get a fire going, long after your wet matches won't strike or the cigarette lighter flint won't work. It is small, light and reliable and only costs \$6.00 on ebay.





Striking the firestick

The fire is now started

For Sale: 10' x 7' Hi-Lite Caravan



Good Condition, \$9,500.00 Genuine reason for selling. Contact Hart on 9576 8385



Nugget Finder

Advantage Coils offer improved stability and sensitivity.

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