



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS' CLUB INC.
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May/June 2011

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This month's cover shows Peter detecting on a hill near Fryerstown.

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: xxx

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley, VIC 3149

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email; eric.grummett@bigpond.com

Club management/ representation, Chairperson of meetings.

VICE PRESIDENT: Graeme SILVER

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Lindsay TRICKER

Correspondence, rules, meetings, admin. matters etc.

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Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

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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 Ian at: xxx

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

May

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Fri 13th to Mon 15th Camp Moliagou

June

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Tues 14th Camp Goldsbrough

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

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

Please Note:

Fossickin' Round is trialing moving to a **bi-monthly** publication from this month. It will reduce mail out costs for those who still receive the printed version, and it is hoped that it will make the editors job a little less arduous.

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.

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

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, what happened to summer, winter is almost on us again so I suppose that will mean even more rain. I guess we will have to live with it for some time yet, so let's see if we can capitalize on the results of all the heavy flows of water we have had recently which has moved thousands of tons of gravel and soil from our search areas, filled the creeks, dams and mine shafts and created many small channels on the way.

We should now be focusing on these areas as it is now "new ground" to prospect with our detectors, pans and sluices. Working with water is something most of us are not used to. In the early days of our club when rain was more consistent, many members would be seen in water with their 'wellies' and pans, quite often with good results. So from now on throw in a pair of rubber boots and a pan on our trips. Judging by the small gold or lack of being found recently with detectors, your efforts may surprise you.



Eric detecting at the treasure Hunt at Fryerstown Camp

The PMAV [Prospectors and Miners Association] have fought hard and long for the small miner over the last 30 years. These miners were initially the backbone of the Association. However over the years support from them has dwindled to the point where today they only have 2 active miners as paid up members out of about 400 in this state, as against about 1500 prospectors who are either full members or corporate members through clubs and other organisations. Now considering 90% of the time spent by the committee has been in representing them, it is now time for the miners to stand up and be counted, or otherwise why should the association continue to support this group by gaining them the hard fought concessions from the government if they are not prepared to be part of the PMAV. An ultimatum is now going out to all miners to shape up or ship out, otherwise they may lose their valuable PMAV representation. This may mean a name change, [PAV maybe]? More news from PMAV shortly on this matter.

We wuz wrong!

Correction to April Newsletter 'Find of the Month'
It was in fact Jimmy L who found the lovely gold pendant not as stated in the newsletter. Apologies to Jimmy.

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

May

This Monthly Meeting was a great success as it was a Show and Tell Meeting.

There was a cross section of exhibits from various areas around the State on display. Yes, these were collected over a period of time and have been extremely well looked after since their recovery from the areas where they were buried.

For everyone present it was agreed that it was a very informative evening.



Monash Raffle

There is a vote of thanks from the Club for all who participated in this raffle. The draw will be held on 8th June and the winners will be notified by phone.

A member from the Club will be present for this draw which is being organised by Rotary.

June

Julian Attwell who is the Marketing Director of TXP International will be our Guest Speaker for this monthly meeting and he will be giving a presentation on some of his company's products that they also sell online.

Their products include a Hitchdrive for manouvering caravans or trailers in and out of tight places plus these other products --- [TXP Folding Bicycles](#), [TXP RV Equipment](#), [Pacbrake](#), [TXP Ladders](#), [TXP On-Board Air](#), [ISSPRO Gauges](#), [TXP Mufflers](#), [TXP Clamps](#), [Duke Pens](#)

Their web address is www.txp.com.au

July

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.

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.

April Camp Report

Fryerstown

by Geoff Lee

Photos by Geoff L. & Ian S

Fryerstown Camp started off with many members arriving on Wednesday (a couple of campers even arrived the Saturday before!). By Saturday there were over 50 camps including several guests from the Central Coast Prospecting Club of Gosford, NSW. The weather started off a bit 'iffy' with overnight showers (rain?) and a few puddles, however, it cleared up by the weekend and was followed by magnificent days with not too cold nights.

(Thankfully the mozzies and spiders were far fewer than other recent camps.)

We had the regular visit by the Easter Bunny on Sunday morning and the Easter Dinner on Sunday night went without a hitch with 86 dinners. Many thanks to members who contributed salads and deserts. Special thanks, also to those who contributed some excellent gifts to the Club Raffle and congratulations to raffle winners. Over \$300 was raised for club funds.

On Monday evening we had the egg race followed by the Treasure Hunt on Tuesday morning. Also many thanks to club organisers who, as usual made it all happen, apparently, so effortlessly. (Mind you, they've had lots of practice!)

Many ladies went to the Chewton Market on Saturday morning followed by a trip to Maldon for their Easter Festival. Apparently next year they want the camp relocated to Maldon, LOL! Although a big ladies walk was not organised, evidently some ladies organised their own and were having such fun on their walk that a prospector had to ask them to 'please be quiet!'

Correction to the Wedderburn Camp Report.

The Bumble Bee mentioned is apparently a Robber Fly!

This information is from our taxonomist, Mali Mallipatil: *"This is a robber fly Asilidae, most likely Blepharates coriarius, predators on a variety of invertebrates, and even small vertebrates."*



Gold wise, Fryerstown is traditionally rewarding and this year was no exception even though it was that bit more scarce. Most prospectors found numerous small nuggets and Albert D was rewarded with the biggest at 3.5gm - congratulations.

One lucky, un-named prospector picked up 15 bits in one day, for over 3gm, off his patch. Other notables were Lis F for 2 x1gm nuggets, Geoff L for a 2.8gm nugget and James S for a 1864 four pence.

Again this year as in many previous years, some private property was made available to club members for prospecting, and a big 'Thank You' goes to the property owners from all Club members.

The Easter Camp with its healthy lifestyle activities, community participation and, renewal and making of friendships; celebrates the joys of life that complement the spirit of Easter. Many Thanks to all who attended and contributed in their own way to a great Easter Camp.



Men's egg & detector race



Women's egg & detector race



The Easter Bunny with helpers



Claude panning



Entrants in the 'Cowboys & Indians' Fancy Dress



Fancy Dress winners Geoff & Noela

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Ian panning



Detecting near Spring Gully



Ian G. detecting

Moliagul

By Valarie Lippinwell

The weather during the week was not good. Tina and myself thought "not a good idea for ladies", but as Barry's new caravan needed a try-out. Come Friday we set out with light rain. Still a bit of water around the country side so much so we and others were detoured for some kilometers around Maldon.

On arriving, the camp was already setup. Weather was dry for the weekend, the ground in good condition and a final count was 18 camps with one day-tripper (Don T). The camp fire each night was good and the Club Raffle went well with all tickets sold.

Gold was not as prolific as Fryerstown with the largest piece being 1.1 grams.

Barry's new caravan was Christened by Francine during Saturday's Happy Hour with the name "Don't Care a Stuff". Yes, girls, he is a man's man with such things. Thanks all for your good company and a very good time was had by us.

P.S. Thanks Francine for taking me coin detecting and seeing what a nice little town Dunolly is.



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by Geoff Lee



Barry & Val at the caravan "christening"



Herman hard at it.

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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

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- Innovative design (patent pending)
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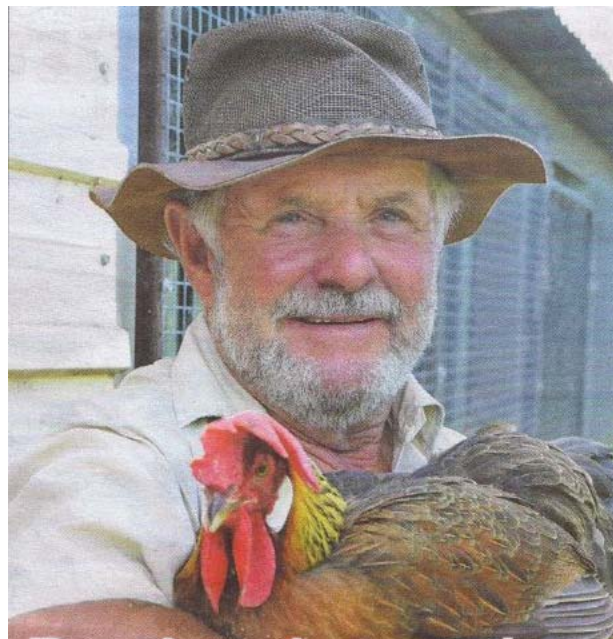
By Ian S.



We had a great three hours exploring the Treasury as part of a guided tour organized by Val & Tina for the Seekers Members. Unfortunately only 5 people turned up for it which is a shame as a number of members put a lot of time into making it happen. It is no good organizing these outings if very few members participate in them.

Those who did go got to experience some of the early history of Melbourne in Photos, Maps, writings, artifacts and several audio visual presentations. We also got to see the vaults where the goldfields gold was stored.

Eric Lane



It is with great regret that we announce the passing of **Eric Lane** recently from a heart attack. Eric was active in the club in the 80's and 90's and was a well-liked club member. Our condolences go to the family.

News Special:

A follow up on the 100oz "Washington Nugget"
(Mentioned in last months newsletter)
Thanks to Ray S. for bringing it to our attention



Gold Nugget sells for \$460,000 (AU\$437,000)

It took only two minutes of feverish bidding at a Sacramento auction Wednesday for a buyer to snatch up the biggest existing gold nugget confirmed to have been dug out of Sierra foothills Forty-Niner country. Feverish might be an understatement. The bidder had to cough up \$460,000.

The Washington Nugget, which fits in one hand, weighs 8.2 pounds and would have fetched something less than its flat value of \$137,744 at current gold prices, considering it has a few rock veins shooting through it. But this isn't merely meltdown gold. This chunk has a story. It was scratched out of the earth by a man wielding a pick in his backyard near the historic town of Washington (Nevada County). That means it was found in the same area where the old Forty-Niners spent their days scrambling, digging and wielding smoking six-guns in the mid-1800s in the most famous Gold Rush in American history.

Other big hunks of gold exist in museums and private collections, but none is quite like this one, California State Library historians said. If not for a few fateful twists of many shovels, the Washington Nugget might have been found 150 years ago as prospectors extracted millions of dollars worth of gold from the hills and streams around Washington. Instead, the finder pinged it with a metal detector last March.

And, oh yes - the seller found two smaller nuggets when he found the whopper. Weighing 4 and 10 ounces, they sold Wednesday for \$7,700 and \$17,000 to a different bidder.



Vic Seekers
are now on

Vic Seekers
THU 18

New Coiltek Li-Ion Battery to suit Minelab GPX 4000, 4500 & 5000.



Coiltek have announced a Li-Ion Battery to suit the GPX range of detectors. This Battery delivers constant voltage, Boosted audio control & improved stability in a single lightweight unit. Priced at \$385.00



Winter is now 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.

GPX 5000 Settings - Part 1 **FACTORY SETTINGS**

By Graham Mee

FRONT CONTROL PANEL	
FUNCTION	SETTINGS
Search Mode	GENERAL
Soil Timing	NORMAL
Coil / Rx	DD
Ground Bal	TRACKING



MAIN MENU	FACTORY PRE-SETS	FACTORY PRE-SETS	FACTORY PRE-SETS	FACTORY PRE-SETS	FACTORY PRE-SETS	FACTORY PRE-SETS
Backlight	2	2	2	2	2	2
Battery Test	8 Volts	8 Volts	8 Volts	8 Volts	8 Volts	8 Volts
Volume Limit	12	12	12	12	12	12
GB Type	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen	Gen
Soil Timing	Fine Gold	Fine Gold	Fine Gold	Fine Gold	Fine Gold	Fine Gold
Manual Tune	128	128	128	128	128	128
SEARCH MODE MENU	GENERAL	DEEP	CUSTOM			
			PATCH	H-MINERAL	HI-TRASH	PINPOINT
Motion	Slow	Very Slow	Medium	Medium	Medium	Very Slow
RX Gain	11	12	8	8	12	15
Audio Type	Normal	Deep	Boost	Normal	Quiet	Boost
Audio Tone	50	38	55	45	40	50
Stabilizer	10	10	8	9	8	8
Signal Peak	16	17	15	14	8	18
Target Volume	8	8	9	7	6	13
Response	Normal	Inverted	Normal	Normal	Inverted	Normal
Tracking Speed	Medium	Slow	Medium	Fast	Slow	Slow
Iron Reject	Off	Off	Off	Off	7	Off

Part 2: **User Settings** next month

Dear Eric,

I am writing on behalf of our small group to thank you and your club for the wonderful hospitality that was extended to us at your recent Easter camp at Fryerstown.

We were absolutely amazed at the size of your club and the extremely efficient organization of all the activities. I will certainly be informing our club of all the highlights of the event.

We would appreciate it very much if you were able to publish this thank you in your newsletter so that your members know how much we enjoyed their company.

Best regards,
Barry McDonald
Central Coast Prospectors Club Inc.

By Ian S.

NEW coil from Coiltek INTRODUCING THE FIRST LITZ WIRE WOUND COIL FROM COILTEK® MANUFACTURING.

The 14x9" Elliptical GOLDSTALKER® BLITZ mono

Specifically wound for the new GPX5000 detector this coil, coupled with the 'FINE GOLD' setting, has the potential to brighten up those faint targets, especially the smaller pieces at depths only seen on the new GPX5000.



The coil utilises the already popular shape and size of the 14x9" coil providing excellent maneuverability and sensitivity for pinpointing and depth.

Size: 348mm x 225mm Weight: 695g / 24.8oz

- Litz wire wound
- Specifically manufactured for the GPX5000
- Heightened target response and clarity
- Robust and lightweight design
- Elliptical shape for best maneuverability
- Easy pinpointing

Good depth with excellent sensitivity
Price: \$380.00

AVAILABLE NOW FROM THE MINERS DEN

NEW coil from Nugget Finder

A new coil from Nugget Finder has been announced. It is the 8" x 6" Elliptical Mono Coil.

It is the smallest nugget Finder coil made to date and is expected to be very good on small, shallow nuggets.

Priced at \$240.00



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June Outing: Goldsborough

Friday 10th to Tuesday 14th June

EMERGENCY INFO: Call 000.

- Police: Dunolly Police Station, 16 Bull Street, Dunolly
Phone 5468 1100
- Hospital : Clarendon St. Maryborough.
Phone 5461 0341

July Outing: Amherst

Friday 8th to Tuesday 12th July

EMERGENCY INFO: Call 000.

- Police: 24-hr, 16 Campbell Street (North 'behind' CBD)
5460 3300 .
- Hospital : Clarendon St. Maryborough. (North 'behind'
CBD)

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.

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No unattended fires.

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



Minelab SD2100D For Sale

This detector has had very little use.
Comes with a spare battery,
And a Barry Johnson Amplifier.
It has been modified by Woody.
Priced at \$1,600.00
Contact Jack Boswell on 9999 9999

Minelab GP3000 For Sale

Good condition with a 11" commander DD coil.
Two batteries, signal enhancer, headphones, 12 v
charger 240 v charger, manual etc.
Price is \$2,000.00
Contact Peter on 9999 9999

Minelab Sovereign Elite For Sale

Good Condition. Comes with a Digital Target Identifica-
tion Meter, Hip mount bag, 240 v charger
Price is \$700.00
Contact Peter on 9999 9999

Members are reminded to keep any lead
found by detectors and give to John
Garcia to assist in the campaign to keep
our detecting areas open.

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

16" Evernew Caravan, 1991 For Sale

Pop-Up 16' Caravan In good condition, twin single beds
with Rollout Aussie Traveler Annex. Tare: 1210 kg.
Priced at \$15,500.
Contact Peter on 9999 9999



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the Next Level*



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