



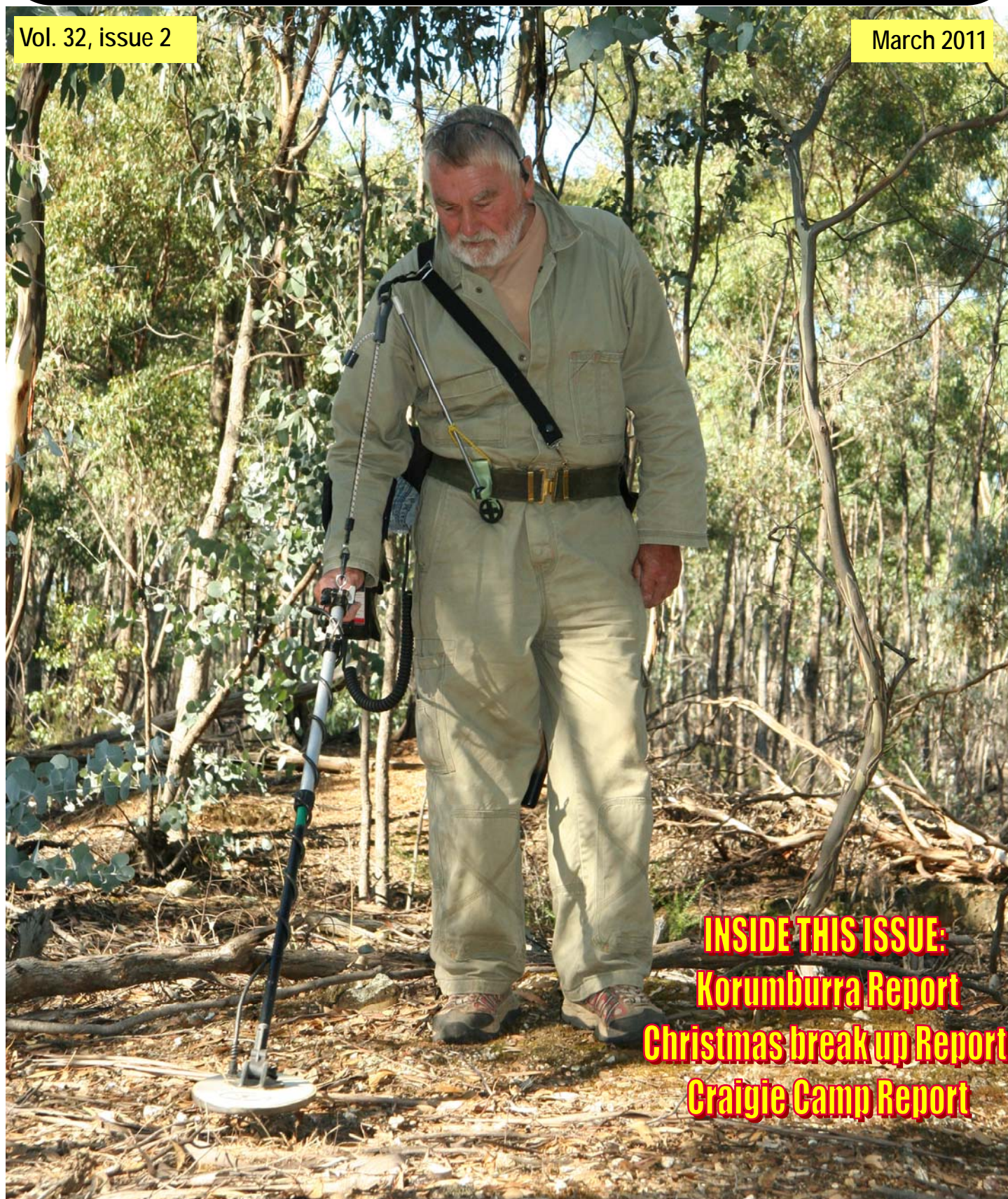
FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 32, issue 2

March 2011



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The Victorian Seekers' Club

Is a family oriented organization, the objectives of which are to promote friendship, cooperation and exchange of ideas among people interested in prospecting and metal detecting. To realize these aims, we have meetings, lectures, discussions and practical demonstrations to help members acquire the skills required to make prospecting and metal detecting an enjoyable and rewarding pastime. We arrange outings to the goldfields and other prospecting sites, beaches, camps, ghost towns etc, to search for gold, coins, relics, gemstones and other natural and man made objects of value and / or of interest. In addition, we also have functions to foster social contacts among members. Our conduct is governed by a strict code of ethics including avoiding trespassing on private property or damaging the natural environment, hence our motto:

"Seek, But Do Not Destroy"

Membership is open to adult persons and their minor children without regard to race, creed or political persuasion, who are interested in these pursuits and prepared to abide by our Constitution and Rules of Conduct. VSC has general meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at the Mulgrave Senior Citizens and Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road Mulgrave, and at a field trip each month and, in addition, we also have some occasional day outing.

Annual Membership Fees

Family Membership: \$40.00

Single Membership: \$35.00

One off joining fee: \$ 5.00

Subscriptions are due and payable by the 1st of July each year.

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

Committee of Management

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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

Typing & setting out Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Subscriptions, membership records, changes of addresses, etc.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION: Mieke SMITS (Mrs)

Collation, distribution and mailing of newsletter.

RESEARCH OFFICER: Geoff LEE

Information about outings, field activity and site control.

CATERING SUPERVISOR: Jim LAUNDY

Lis Forster

Catering at meetings and functions.

SOCIAL SECRETARIES: Val LIPPINGWELL

Tina WHELAN

Organizing social functions, raffles, theatre bookings, etc.

ALMONER: Virginia LAKE

Contact on matters of personal nature, weddings, bereavement, etc.

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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: xxx@xxx

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

March

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri. 11th to Tues. 15th Camp Wedderburn

Sat. 12th to Sun. 13th Detector Jamboree **Wedderburn-**

Sat. 19th Australian Gold Panning Championships
Lake Wendoree **Ballarat**

April

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Fri 22nd to Tues 26h Camp Fryerstown

May

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Fri 13th to Mon 15th Camp Moliagul

June

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Tues 14th Camp Goldsborough

Editors Report

by Ian Semmens

Apologies to members for last month's delayed newsletter but I trust that you all did enjoy it. Also apologies for advertising the Korumburra report and the Xmas break up report but somehow they were left out of the newsletter so they have been included in this issue.

This months Cover shows Greame M. detecting at Craigie on the Club Outing. More details inside.

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 (99) 9999 9999 or xxx@xxx

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

During our Craigie trip, our club was privileged to have the company of Les and Judy Taylor, who came over from Missouri U.S.A. especially to be with us for a try at prospecting on our goldfield, and to enjoy our hospitality. They found us through our web site which gives people around the world information about us.

Even though Les has been metal detecting since 1966 [very crude detectors them days], he had never used Minelab detectors for his gold recovery. Les belongs to the Quartzite Metal Detecting Club in Arizona which has 600 members, who mainly sluice and dry blow for their gold which is very small, [like ours lately] . They have access to about 200 recreation mining claims that allow a very regulated use of machinery to open up old tailing dumps.

Les is also a life member of the local coin and relic club in Kansas City near his home of which he was the president for 22 years [I have a long way to go]. Les and Judy have spent most of the last 6 years in Spain underwater detecting the beaches finding several 'kilograms' of gold and silver jewelry each year, enough to almost pay their way. You beach detectorists should join him for a bit of the action.

In his time with us, Les soon learned how hard it is to detect gold around here, so he and a few of us decided that by panning some of the washouts from the last flood we could at least get some good colour. With the help of Graeme Melbourne, they will be spending a couple more weeks around Maryborough before heading home after a thoroughly enjoyable time with us and hope to return next year.



Les & Judy at the Craigie campsite.



Fossickin' Round

March 2011

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver



February's Guest Speaker, Peter Woodland from Link Technologies, gave an extremely informative presentation on detector coils and what he is capable of achieving as far as his modifications to metal detectors is concerned. Sadly, he did not divulge where that \$200,000.00 plus gold patch was situated in W.A. However we all wish those fellow detectorists good fortune.

March:

Peter Leslie from the Melbourne Antique Bottle Club will be present to give a presentation on antique bottles including Torpedo Bottles which have a round bottom. We often find or dig up these kind of bottles but we will be enlightened as to their origins etc. at this monthly meeting and as for the torpedo bottles --- how they were used and stored as they have round protruding bottoms. Extremely rare and in good condition antique bottles can demand prices well over \$6000 at auction.



April:

John Garcia who is a long standing Club Member is very happy to give a presentation on Prospecting in General. **He is a Prospector and has been for a good number of years.** His knowledge is extensive in his chosen career. Also John is willing to help anyone who cares to ask him a Prospecting question in general. From the Club's point of view we are fortunate to have him as a member, and this presentation will be extremely interesting, to all who attend this Monthly Meeting.

Christmas Break-up Report

Wicks Reserve *by Eric Grummet.*

With threatening weather and the prediction of rain, the day went ahead successfully. It was a great day with all events completed without interruptions.



This year we had a new Father Xmas, [Warren Ibbotson] who took over from retired 'Hilly' after his long distinguished service in the sleigh. Although children numbers were down, Santa enjoyed the role, passing the test for future events. For the treasure hunt, we borrowed a few more kids from a family barbecue next door to make up numbers. They all won prizes for their finds and had a ball. The adult token hunt was completed with all tokens and keys found, which was a great effort, as the grass was long this year. The Bluey Crawford trophy was won yet again by Smitsy for the 4th time. We may as well have his name engraved for the next 10 years now - it will save our time and cost. He must have comfort in having Bluey on his shelf at home. The lucky \$50 key was found by Lindsay. The Christmas hamper was won by Paul Wilks and hams by Sophie Meadows, Ralf Daniels and Emelia Weston.

With the passing of another year it was a great day for a relaxing barbecue among members.

AUSTRALIAN GOLDFANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



**19th March 2011
Lake Wendouree,
Ballarat**

**Major Prize:
Trip to 2011**

**World Championships In Poland
5 Categories, Novelty Events**

Social Outing

Coal Creek *by Eric Grummett*

What a pleasant day we had on this Sunday for our excursion to Coal Creek for the day. Heavy rain on the night before threatened us with another miserable day ahead, but fortunately the rain kept away the whole day making our brollies redundant. By catching the V/line bus at the Dandenong Railway Station a peaceful trip was had down to Korumburra.

At \$8 return fare and no entrance fees at the Park it was a very cheap day. The reconstructed old township and old coal mining machinery and historic displays kept us interested for several hours as we strolled about the park. A miniature train ride around the perimeter capped off a great visit. Thanks Val for organizing the day, a pity you couldn't make it because of your knee operation. Unfortunately only 7 members made it for the trip, however many others may have been put off by the weather. Shame about that as they missed a really great day.



Members at the Coal Creek, Korumburra

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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.: ▣

New Members

- Ken & Rosemary Every
- Les Pertzelt & Family
- Adrian Polack
- Michael Grahner



Welcome and Good Luck!

Gold Price !

The price of Gold in US dollars The price is now US\$ 1,387.35 per troy ounce as at 20th February 2011. It is AU\$ 1367.35 per ounce. Per gram gold is now AU\$ 43.96

VSC New Product

VSC POLO SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!



Club's new Polo shirts:

Thanks to Bob & Virginia Lake for the new smart Club' shirts. They were so popular that they sold out in a flash. More have been ordered, we hope to have them for the November Outing.

At only \$20.00 each, it's a bargain!!

(Bob & Virginia - our newest life members – paid for the embroidery artwork, Thanks again)

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February Camp Report

Craigie

by Geoff Lee

It was 12 years ago that the club was last at Craigie and there was a sense of anticipation amongst members as to how the gold search would go.

I got there early in the week, Wednesday, so I could set up signs and 'mark' the actual camp site. For a while it looked like I might be spending the night alone but late afternoon Albert and Warren showed up. (Since Albert's latest episode, Joanne has been accompanying Albert but lately he's been allowed out by himself.)

At recent camps, mozzies have been a bit of a problem and Craigie was no exception although much less of a problem than Laanacoorie and Chute. Mostly they were small and would come and go with the weather. Swiping mozzies actually became something of an event after Eric showed up with a truck load of mozzies zappers he picked up from the Reject Shop.

When Eric did show up, he had in tow with him Les and Judy Taylor (past President) from the Mo-Kan Search and Recovery Metal Detecting Club of Kansas City (<http://www.mokansr.com/>) who were in Australia for February. Les and Judy fitted right in with lots of gold and treasure hunting stories from around the place including Arizona, Russia and Spain. Hopefully he will soon add Australia to that list.

One of Les' stories might be about how he was sitting outside his camper enjoying a quiet yarn when Ted C pulled up in his caravan; Because whilst Ted

was reversing his van in beside Les' camper there was a LOUD BANG when two of his caravan tires blew. Les wasn't the only one who got the willies - for a moment the camp was like a war zone. The next day, Ted had the RACV out replacing his tires. The weather was mostly warm to hot, with cooler nights. As was probably the case all over Victoria the humidity was high. However, it was really only a couple of the hot days that put a dent into the detecting.

Overall, gold was particularly scarce with even the usual suspects struggling to show anything. Eric and Les were probably amongst the more successful scoring about a gram panning around the dam. Marie B did best with a nice, longish, 3 gram-mer. I managed 0.55 in 2 bits with my new GPX 5000. H enjoyed Christening his new GPX 5000 weighing scales that go down to 3 decimal points.

On Saturday, the PMAV video crew rolled in for some on location shots to assist in their promo. Also on Saturday, 'The Girls' (Tina and Val) came up for the day to run the Raffle around the camp fire - great effort, girls! We had over 30 members around the camp fire which is a lot for February. We also had about a half-dozen day visitors from Talbot, Maryborough and Dunolly.

On Sunday, Eric and I, checked out a potential new camp site the other side of Majorca Road (West Craigie). Hopefully there will be more gold on that side of the road :)

Most campers pulled up stakes on Sunday and Monday, and by Tuesday the camp was down to Graham M, Albert, Eric, Les and Judy, David and Marie, and myself.



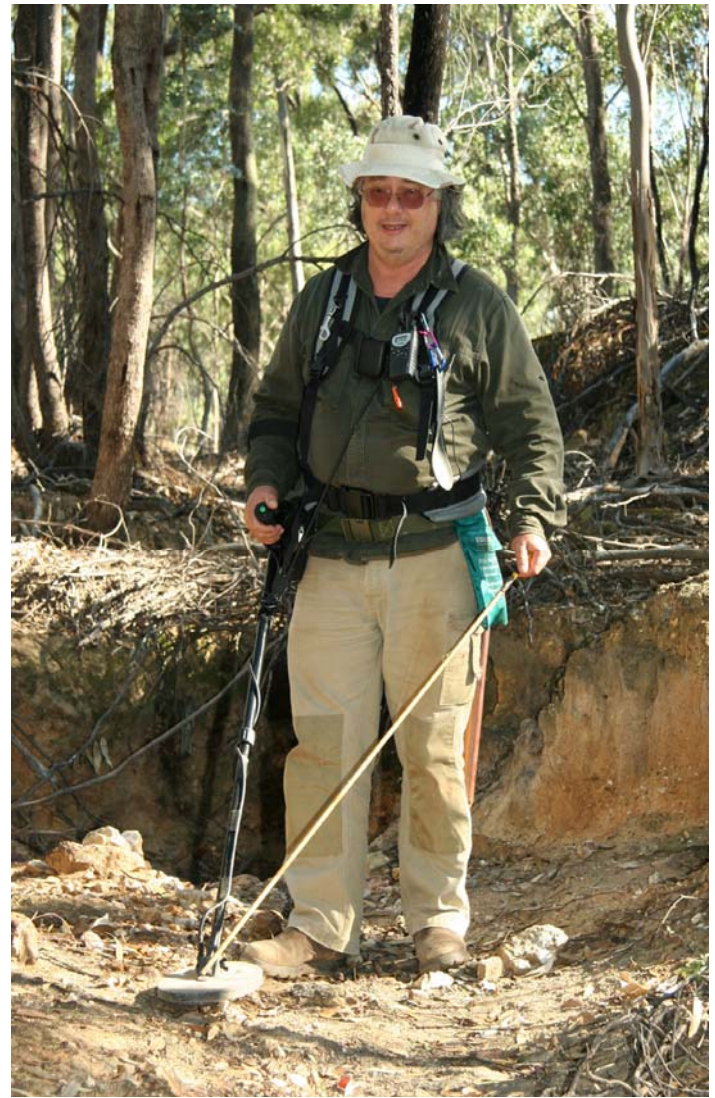
Ian detecting near Ironbark Gully



Joan, John, Graham & Albert testing coils



Marie's rough 3 grammer found with her SD2000



Geoff with his walking stick, oops, I mean coil stick



Round the Campfire Monday night
L-R: Geoff, Lars, Robyn, Ted, Sue, Warren, Eric, Les, Graham, Albert, David & Marie

Theatre Night



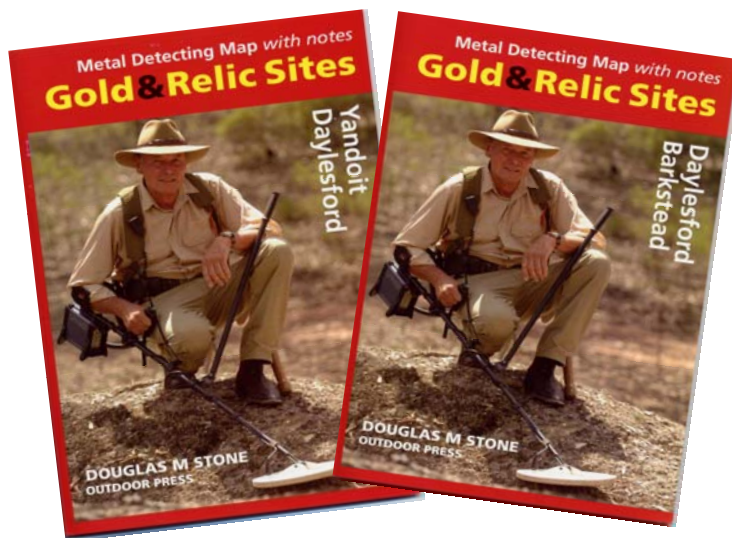
Advance Notice that in May there will be an theatre night at the 1812 Theatre, 3 Rose Street, Upper Ferntree Gully. More details will be forthcoming as it gets closer.

From the Photo Album



Maria receiving a carrot from Francine as Pete S. looks on

Two New Maps from Outdoor Press



Doug Stone - through Outdoor Press publishing- has brought out two new Victorian Goldfields maps. These are the first new maps that we have seen for many years from Outdoor Press and there is the prospect that there are some more on the way!

Joining the existing list of 26 maps are Yandoit - Daylesford and Daylesford - Barkstead. They have been done in the style that we are familiar with and Doug assures me that there has been a lot of field checking to ensure the accuracy of the maps. There has not been any similar maps of these gold fields available till now.

The price is \$14.50 for all the Doug Stone Maps and they are now available from Miners Den.



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March Outing: Wedderburn

April Outing: Fryerstown

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No unattended fires.

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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