



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS' CLUB INC.
FOUNDED 1980

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February 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

PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

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.xxx

and if possible include any photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

February

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri 11th to Tues 15th Camp **Craigie**

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 Tues 16th Camp **Moliagul**

Front Page

Ralph is detecting at Chute. See the report in this issue.

Almoner's Report

Our club was saddened to hear of the death of Andy Anderson, who only recently joined the VSC.

He was a close friend of Luch and Dianne and was a long time member of the Dandenong Club.

Andy had only recently joined our club. He was known by many us through the PMAV trips to

Tibooburra . Our condolences to Doris and her family.

Murray hall has had a temporary plastic hip inserted and is now home recovering. Peter Muller has had a heart attack and has stints and is also now recovering. We wish them both a full and speedy recovery. Keith Roberts has been temporarily moved to another nursing home in Armadale for those who wish to visit him.

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, Mar 29, May 3, June 28, July 26, Aug 30, Sept 27, Oct 26, Nov 28.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

No report this month as the president is having a well earned rest.

From FWDV Newsletter:

Recover Me Please

As was announced last year, a joint partnership commenced between Victoria Police and FWDV to free up police resources. This partnership is a service to recover stranded or bogged four-wheel drive vehicles from four-wheel drive tracks where the Police and normal accident towing services are unable to assist. This new initiative is called "Recover Me Please" and is available day and night via a phone call to 000 which would then be redirected to a FWDV coordinator. Initially it will operate in the Wombat Park and Lerderderg State Forests in central Victoria.

No sooner was it announced when the first request came in! Following the initial call to Police it went through the system which eventually found several members of the CityWest 4X4 Club called out to recover a guy who had gone four-wheel driving by himself in the Wombat Forest. (Full details are in the June issue of FWDV's June Trackwatch magazine). The stranded motorist was very grateful for being retrieved from the depths of a lonely dark forest after a 15km walk into Blackwood to seek assistance.

This new initiative frees up Police from this time consuming task and provide information to the assisted persons about driver training and further education. About twenty calls annually are received by Police in the Moorabool Police District alone to recover members of the public, who are stranded in their four-wheel drive vehicles in the local parks and forests. FWDV can now draw on the resources and skills of trained and competent four-wheel drive club members who will recover the stranded vehicle for a set fee. The volunteers who are trained in vehicle recovery and First Aid are a welcome support in this area. The CityWest 4X4 Club is to be congratulated on their prompt response to this call, which was also much appreciated by the Trentham Police.

AUSTRALIAN GOLDFANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



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

**Major Prize:
Trip to 2011
World Championships In Poland
5 Categories, Novelty Events**

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

December

The **December Breakup** was a success with everyone enjoying themselves talking and laughing, eating and drinking whatever they felt like having.

Have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year in Gold Detecting etc. from the Committee.

February --- 2011

Peter Woodland from Link Technologies will be present for this meeting and he will be explaining how he manufactures coils and modifies detectors etc.

He also has a very impressive C.V. on line plus an extremely informative web site.

<http://au.linkedin.com/pub/peter-woodland/1a/714/224>

This promises to be a very informative presentation.

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 there 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.

Below is an example of some of the bottles that we might have recovered.



Christmas Camp Report

Laanecoorie

by Eric Grummet.
Photos by Geoff L.

This Xmas, about 28 members made the Laanecoorie caravan park our base, giving us the use of civilised facilities over this period. Most of us opted for the unpowered area, which was a lovely elevated site overlooking the lake that gave us some great sunsets.

Due to all the recent rains, the dam is now overflowing, which it hasn't done for the last 10 years, giving many visitors the chance of power boating and swimming. The park was very popular this year with most making good use of the water. During the day the speed boat noise took a while to get used to, but as we were out most of the day it was bearable.

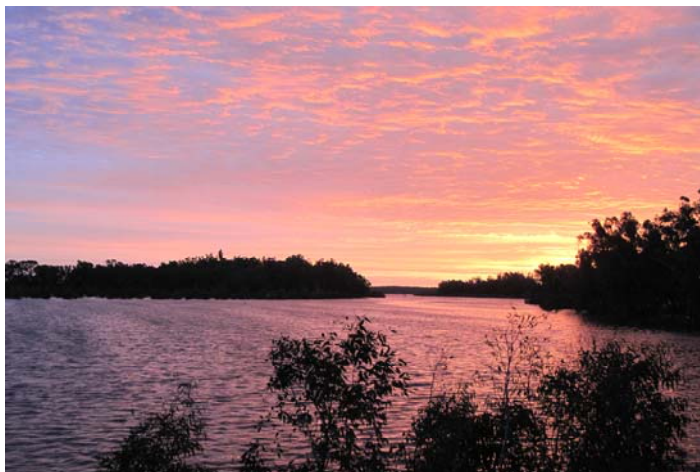
Gold close to camp was very elusive, the better results were from further out. Most pieces coming from a 'thrashed' area on private property. Don Thomson proved to be king of the heaps with a result of about 13grams of pieces up to 6 gram using his GPX 4500 with a 14inch Nugget Finder mono elliptical coil. Another nice 5.5 grammer found by visitor from Adelaide who tagged along with us proved to be a loner in some virgin ground. Other notable finds were by Marius, Herman, Dave, Peter S, and myself [9 gm]

On New Years Eve, not much detecting took place as the temperature climbed up to 44°c, which made a refreshing swim in the lake a great alternative for a few of us. Others decided on an air-conditioned club in Maryborough for the afternoon. That evening as it got cooler we were treated by the management to a delicious spit roast with baked potatoes and sweets followed by great old time rock band that entertained us into the New Year.

Thanks Jim and Robyn Stuart for organising the memorable night.



Pete & Meike enjoying the night



Sunset over the lake



Swapping tall tales of prospecting



It was here....

Fossickin' Round

Jan. Un-official Camp Report

Chute

by Geoff L..
Photos by Ian S.

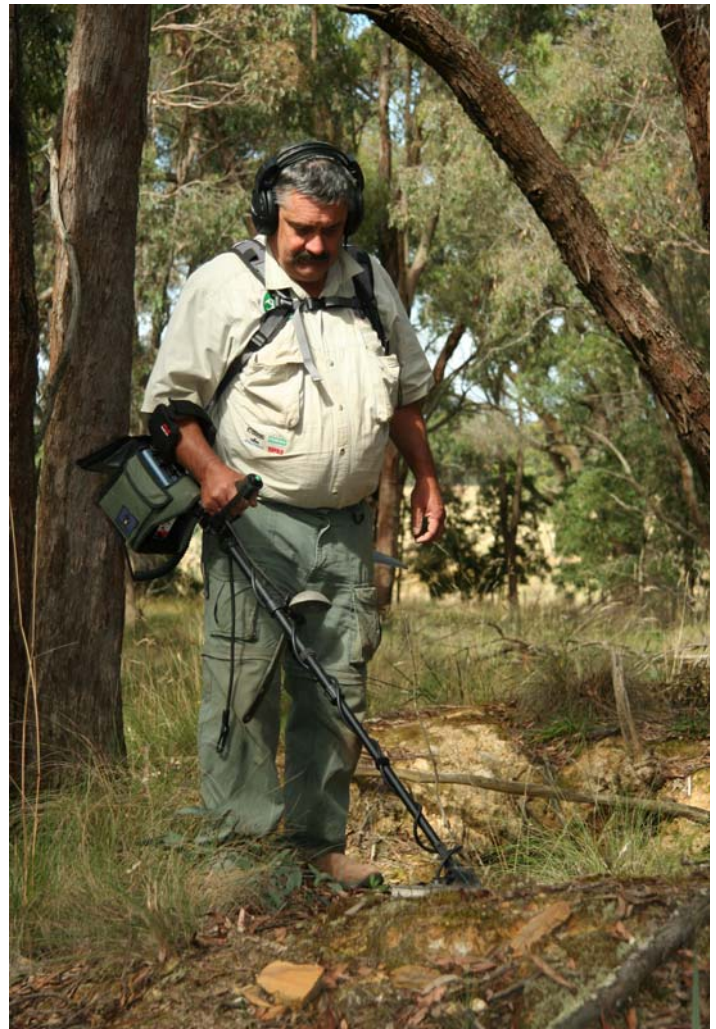
Beaufort had been flooded the previous week and on the way past Beaufort, numerous trees were down. I approached the Chute Camp with trepidation only to find the road closed just past Chute. The locals told me that loggers were driving through so that's what I did too. However, at camp, I found that G.M and J.F had beaten me there anyway.

The effects of recent rains were evident everywhere with quite a bit more undergrowth; not to mention mozzies. Although the council worked at clearing trees across the main roads, numerous trees were down over tracks. We cleared some and also patched the track into camp that was getting badly rutted.

Reasonable gold was found with most pieces being above the 0.1gm mark (unlike in some other location). H.S managed to crack 5gm with 12 pieces, and P.S had mixed fortunes having found the largest nugget (4.5gm) but also managing to bog his car (took most of the afternoon to get it out) and then found he had to rush home for a personal emergency.

Overall, the days were warm to hot but nights were cool. We even had an unexpected shower one morning and a camp fire going towards the end.

Editors Note: We had 14 camps and 16 campers and a day visitor and the weather was in the 30s on Saturday but a mild, though humid 25 for the next 3 days. In parts the undergrowth was very thick and the large amount of trees down made detecting in parts much more difficult. Despite this, most found small gold.



Mark C. near Ration Track



Peter near Ration Track



Vic Seekers
are now on

Vic Seekers
U
H
F
18

From December's meeting:

Find of the Month

Ted C
sovereign



Coin

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.: ■

At the recent **Victorian Gold Panning Championships** VSC members Peter Maffy and Eric Grummett did well. In the novice competition Peter came third, and in the Sponsors competition he came 2nd. Representing the PMAV Peter, Eric and Mark C. performed very well to secure 2nd place in the Teams Event.

Members are reminded that the **Australian Gold Panning Championships** are on the 19th of March are members are encouraged to enter and try their skill in panning out the supplied gold targets. Get together with two others and form a team! See Eric G. for more details or call him on 9999 9999.

Note New Address:

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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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Global Warming: A Sceptical View

by Geoff Lee

I'm as committed as anyone in preserving the environment for future generations and for that reason we must understand the reality of the science behind assertions of Anthropogenic (human-induced) Global Warming (or AGW). **Why spend money on 'A' if the problem is 'B'?**

In Australia we have been spending billions of dollars building wind generators, subsidising and installing solar panels and committing to building clean power stations; and we have all experienced the effects of this in our electricity bills that can be expected to continue raising faster than the Consumer Price Index.

Much of this is a consequence of the Renewable Energy Target (RET) legislation passed in 2009, to ensure 20 percent of Australia's stationary energy will come from renewable energy sources by 2020. With ETS (Emissions Trading Scheme) and CPRS (Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme) legislation pending; **what scientific foundations support this legislation?**

The IPCC and its Scientific Theories

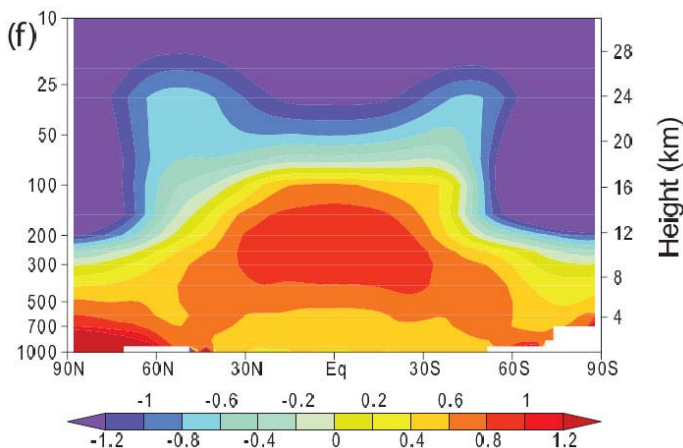
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a UN based body chartered to investigate *human causes* of Climate Change. It's most recent report (AR4, 2007; http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar4/syr/ar4_syr.pdf) makes numerous observations regarding sea-level changes and shrinking polar ice caps; and asserts these observations are due to human activity.

The inherent difficulty in studying Climate is the long term nature of the phenomena; and the difficulty in isolating human-induced causes from natural causes. As an example, during Medieval Times, England was warm enough to grow grapes and produce wine; Greenland was green (not covered in snow and ice) and cows were farmed. It was patently a much warmer period than it is today; and yet there were no cars or other industrial activities. So the burning question is "Which part of today's climate is due to human activities?"

In order to answer this difficult question, scientists rely largely on *computer models* that attempt to mimic and predict the behaviour of earth's climate. Much of this focuses on the effects of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Central to the IPCC's computer models is the prediction of a 'hot spot' in the troposphere above the equatorial regions. Section 9.2.2 of the IPCC's AR4 report (mentioned above) illustrates the Hot Spot as such:

It *predicts* an anomaly exceeding 1°F in the central region. Unfortunately, after hundreds of thousands of weather balloon measurements that are sensitive to less



than 0.1°F, no evidence of the Hot Spot has been detected.

Without evidence of this Hot Spot (bearing in mind that

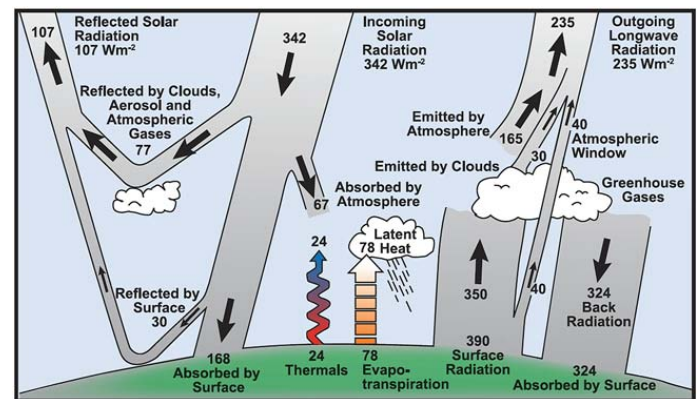
this prediction is central to IPCC's theories) what can be said about Anthropogenic Global Warming; and especially in regards efforts in reducing CO₂ emissions?

The Role of CO₂

Mainstream sceptical thinking is in agreement with large swathes of IPCC theory regarding CO₂'s role as a green house gas. Where there is major departure is in regards what is known as *feedback mechanisms*.

As CO₂ traps warm air within the atmosphere, humidity increases and this results in increased cloud cover that in turn has a cooling effect. This is an example of a *negative* feedback as it counteracts the warming effects of CO₂. In the environment there are a number of both positive and negative feedbacks.

Mainstream sceptics believe the net effect of increased CO₂ is *marginal* feedback; and certainly nowhere near that predicted by IPCC and other Alarmists.



Where to From Here?

This short article only scratches the surface of one aspect of Climate Science. A more thorough but highly readable, mainstream sceptical position is presented in: http://jonova.s3.amazonaws.com/sh1/the_skeptics_handbook_2-3_lq.pdf.

In addition to the science it must also be recognised that there is a political aspect to Climate Change and many sceptics point out that it is now politics that is driving the science. This is understandable given IPCC's charter is to investigate *human causes* of Climate Change and the billions of dollars invested to that end. Ultimately you have a *right* and *duty* to be sceptical. ☺

Editors Note: The opinions expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect that of the VSC committee.

Safety Notice

By Ian S.

SPECIAL SAFETY NOTICE

Members are reminded the extreme importance to look above when selecting a campsite. As many trees in most of our campsites now have loosened roots please select a campsite that is away from any leaning trees or overhanging branches. These trees can fall at any time without notice and branches can fall at any time with grave results if they strike a camp site. Please take the utmost caution when selecting a campsite.

Also with most of the old diggers holes having water in them this has proved an ideal breeding ground for the frogs and at night you can hear plenty of them around the campsite. This of course attracts the snakes and with the longer than usual grass around it can be difficult to see them. Also this long grass can hide some of the digger's holes. I have seen one hole 2 meters deep that was almost completely covered by grass in a gully at Chute. Please take care where you place your next foot when out detecting.

Social Outing

By Val & Tina

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.



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News

The Committee has now decided to make available Two Year memberships in addition to the current One Year membership to the members.

This is intended to make it more convenient when renewing your membership. The costs of the two year membership will be double that of the one year membership. More detail will appear as renewal gets closer.

From the Photo Album



A tree root dressed up on a camp around early 1990s

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February Outing: Cragie

March Outing: Wedderburn



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12th & 13th March 2011

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