



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 31, issue 9

October 2010

Huge 23 kg. nugget found



SPECIAL BIG ISSUE

- ***Big Nuggets***
- ***Inglewood Report***

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: Feb 3rd, Mar 3rd, Apr 7th, May 5th, Jun 2nd, Jul 7th, Aug 4th, Sep 1, Oct 6th, Nov 3rd, Dec 1st.

Committee meetings: Feb 2 & 23, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 25, June 29, July 27, Aug 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 28.

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.

PUBLIC OFFICER: Bob LAKE

Constitution, Incorporation, etc.

LIBRARIAN: Peter MAFFEY

Managing the club's library.

FIELD OFFICERS: on site info, direction and control at outings.

Ted COX

Colin Hegarty

Bob LAKE

Warren IBBOTTSON

Sam Suemer

Robert MEADOWS

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: .

Events Calendar

October 2010

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

Fri 8th to Tues 12th: Camp: **Tarnagulla**

Sat 9th-Sun 10th: Mordialloc Lapidary Club Expo, **Morabbin**

Sat. 16th - Sun. 17th: Ararat Gold Dig, Greenacres Rd., **Moyston**

Sat. 16th - Sun. 17th: Nunawading & District Lapidary Club **Annual Exhibition** Blackburn High School

November 2010

Fri 29th Oct. to Tues 2nd Nov. Camp: **Moliagul** Melbourne Cup Weekend - Special "Fashions of the Field" theme also 30th Anniversary Raffle drawing

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

Sun 14th: Special Outing: Coal Creek, **Korumburra**

December 2010

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Sat 4th Victorian Gold Panning Championships
Central Deborah Mine, **Bendigo**

Sun 12th: Christmas BBQ Party: **Wicks Reserve, The Basin.**

Sun 26th to Sun 2nd Jan. Camp: **Laanecorrie**

January 2011

No General Meeting

Fri. 21st to Wed 26th Unofficial Camp **Chute**

Front Page

This magnificent 748 oz. nugget was found around 6 weeks ago. See inside for more details

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 email.



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Whites Metal Detectors

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Before you buy compare the performance, features and value of Whites Detectors

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President's Report

by Eric Grummett

The detector rush is on again with the release of the new GPX 5000. I hope the long wait has been worth the \$6500 investment. Myself, I will hold back and let things settle down a while before deciding to fork out that kind of bread. It will need to be a big improvement on the 4500.

During Cup weekend we are going to Moliagul, and are planning a special night along the lines of 'Christmas in June'. It will be a Cup oriented theme held on the Saturday night [30th October]. members are encouraged to dress in the spirit of the 'fashion of the field'. We will also be conducting our big 30 year raffle on the night. Weather permitting, it will be a big social event, so everyone please come along for a memorable night.

Christmas camp this year we are going back to the Laanecoorie Caravan Park for the period of Boxing day till the New Year. Most of us will be grouped in the non powered area, however due to all the rain the weir is now full which will attract many others including the power boats to return there during this period, so powered sites will soon be booked out. Those requiring a power site should book now. The unpowered area will not be a problem. Laanecoorie Caravan Park phone number is 03 54357303 and the proprietor is Jim and Robyn Stewart.

Well here we are into October already, which puts me into the third month of my retirement. Many retired people have warned me that at this period of life, time becomes precious as many new challenges replace the commitment of a full time job, like working for our children in their homes, pandering my wife with household work [like cleaning, shopping and gardening] all of which could easily be avoided before due to work. How times soon change, and now the whips are out, and I am barely able to cope with club commitments. As I'm totally exhausted from all this retirement, it's off to Phuket in Thailand with the grandkids, hopefully for a rest and some good beach massages to bring me back to life. By the time you read this, I will be back already rearing to go again. With no time to spare I have to get packing.

Record US Gold Price !

The price of Gold in US dollars has risen yet again! It is at the highest it has ever been. Is there any stopping it? This has mainly been brought about because of uncertainty in the US economy. The price is now US\$ 1,293.00 per troy ounce as at 25th September 2010. However, due to the strengthening of the Australian dollar, this has meant a small fall in the AU\$ per ounce price. It is AU\$ 1350.00 per ounce. Per gram gold is now AU\$ 43.42

Find of the Year

*For all those who have won
"Find of the Month"*

*Bring your find(s) to the October meeting
To go into Find of the Year.*

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

September

Lindsay Tricker gave a very informative presentation on G.P.S., Compass, and Map reading in relation to the Gold Fields etc. It was mentioned that there are 3 different North Poles that we in Australia can use.

From the Internet – There are 4 "North Poles" that can be defined in the Arctic:

Geographic North Pole (also known as True North): The northernmost point of the Earth as determined by the northern axis of its rotation. It has a known fixed position, at latitude 90° North.

Magnetic North Pole: A moving location where lines of magnetic force enter and exit the Earth vertically. The north point of a magnetic compass points to this pole. It's location was discovered by James Clark Ross in 1831.

Geomagnetic North Pole: The pole of the Earth's geomagnetic field that surrounds the Earth and extends into space as the magnetosphere. This is the centre of the region in which the Northern Lights can be seen.

North Pole of Inaccessibility: At approximately 85°N-175°W, this represents the point on the surface of the Arctic Ocean which is the farthest distance (about 1100 km / 684 miles) from any coastline.

October

Our Guest Speaker will be **David Fahey from Pedders Suspension** who will give an interesting talk about what can and can't be done to improve road handling and towing ability on our every day vehicle. He is offering a **door prize** valued at between **\$600 -- \$800** which includes shock absorbers and springs fitted to either a 4WD or car of choice. Also he is offering a 10% discount off all Pedders Products. Fitting is extra.



November

A Guest Speaker from the M.F.B. will be present for this meeting. He/She will give a presentation on **Fire Safety Around The Home.** --- This promises to be a very informative evening.

**Moliagul Camp Special Theme
Dress up for
"Fashions on the Field"
Plus drawing of the Raffle**

September Camp Report

Ingelwood

by Geoff Lee
Photos by Geoff Lee
and Ian Semmens

After the previous camps at Mountain Hut and Have-lock that were 'rained out', and following widespread flooding across Victoria, everyone's thoughts were on more rain for the Ingelwood camp. Fortunately these proved incorrect and the weather at Ingelwood was close to perfect for detecting. Not too warm during the day and not too cold at night. About fifty-fifty, blue sky and overcast. We had an almost daily 5 minute shower except for Sunday evening where we had a half hour drenching. Mozzies were a bit of a problem but mostly they kept away.

I counted 17 camps altogether with new member Adrian P and family (5 including 4-month old bubby), visitors Tom B and Kerrie B from Geelong, Les (Marias' friend) and old member young, David K. Peter M did the best finding gold with a nice 5+ gm plus another for over 6 gram total (after being despondent the previous day). The new GPX 5000 was turning up numerous small bits for the few that had it although Ian S's was not quite working right. As usual, Don T scored a small handful.

Sunday night we had a small camp fire and were entertained by Master Chefs Marius, Herman and Ian; including small tastings. Well done guys! Feel free to include more tastings in future!

Before leaving Monday morning, David B managed to loose Marie's engagement ring. It was all hands to the deck for the next 3 hours looking for it. Ted C was the winner of the substitute Treasure Hunt with his Sovereign detector.



Ruined Mud Brick Hut near Scandinavian Lead



Ingelwood Campsite



Around the campfire



Following in Dad's footsteps?



Worked out stope at Union Jack mine

Last Chance to get tickets.
Get in QUICK!

Raffle will be drawn at the Melbourne Cup Camp

SPECIAL RAFFLE

30TH Anniversary Raffle

First Prize



**Minelab E-Trac
Detector**

Valued at \$1795.00

Donated by Minelab Electronics

Other Prizes:

2. Coiltek 14" Elliptical Mono Coil
Valued at \$400.00 (Miners Den, Melb.)
3. Locket of Gold valued at \$200.00
(The Diggers Hut)
4. CC Pick "Prospector"
Valued at \$160.00 (CC Picks.)
5. Doug Stone Gold & Relics Book
Valued at \$123.00 (Miners Den, Melb.)
6. Digital Gold Scales
Valued at \$60.00 (GoldSearch Aust.)

And Many Other Prizes!!!

Ticket are only \$5.00 each

***Get your tickets at the meetings,
at the outings or by post .***

Contact Val 9999 9999, Tina 9999 9999
For further details.

Social Outing

By Val & Tina

**Special Social Outing to Coal Creek
on Sunday 14th November.**

Make sure that you put this date in your Diary!
There may be a free bus from Dandenong.



KORUMBURRA VICTORIA

FREE ENTRY



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Ride the bush tramway, dine in the café or
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HUGE NUGGET FOUND



Gold buyers Rob Sielecki and Andy Comas of Ausrox Gold with the 748 ounce nugget.

From: <http://www.vanbergeijk.com/2010/09/01/the-third-largest-gold-nugget-in-the-world/>

Last weekend the Western Australian gold prospectors assembled for their annual meeting at the pub in Ora Banda, a hamlet in the Western Australian outback. At the end of the meeting a nugget buyer from Perth, a guy named Andy Comas, made quite an interesting announcement: he recently acquired and sold a nugget weighing 23.26 kilogram, making it **the world's third largest gold nugget in existence** (just after the Hand of Faith at 27.21 kg and the Normandy Nugget at 25.5 kg). When Andy showed a picture of the monster the bar went dead quiet. People just couldn't take their eyes of it. This was of course what every prospector dreams of and keeps him going: *the bloody big one!*

The nugget had been found a couple of weeks ago with a metal detector somewhere in the goldfields around here. Through various tests it had been established that the thing has a 92% purity. With today's gold price of around 40 US Dollars a gram, the gold value of this baby would be around \$860,000. But of course, nuggets of that rarity go for two, three times the gold value.

Anyway, Andy said that the prospector who found it, and who wishes to remain anonymous, gave him a week to sell it. Andy sold it for an undisclosed sum within a couple of days to a buyer in the US. No Australian could come up with the money, somewhat surprising with all the filthy rich mining executives around here.

Most prospectors in the room expressed regret or even outrage that this nugget would leave the country – although no doubt they would have done the exact same thing: sell it to the highest bidder. And they even might get their wish because the story doesn't end here. The

Australian government might declare the nugget a National Treasure – and I think they should – and then Andy wouldn't be able to export it.

Update: It seems like this nugget is **not** the third largest nugget in the world. (However it is probably the second or third largest **detected** nugget in the world - Editor.) [Larger nuggets](#) – even larger than the Hand of Faith – were found in the eighties in Brazil, and are kept in the museum of the Central Bank of Brazil. It seems the [Pepita Canaã](#) is the largest nugget in the world at 60.82 kg.

Editors Note: We have not yet had confirmation of this nugget's authenticity. However it would be very strange for a company like Ausrox to put their name to a nugget if it was not real.



The Ausrox Nuggett

CC Picks

Wing shape design

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

Spring steel heat treated to 50 rockwell c

Heavy gauge 2.6mm handle spigot

All Australian hardwood handle

latest design & features

30 day money back guarantee

- 4, 5 & 6 mm picks heads
- Australian design, materials and manufacture
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- High quality, industrial strength heat treated spring steel
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Pound for pound, the world's best pick
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www.ccpicks.com.au



Another photo of the Big Ausrox Nugget Before the ironstone was removed.

From an internet forum:

"I also detected down at Mt Monger before I went on the trip with GPA (Gold Prospecting Australia) at Leonora. I just heard yesterday a **30 kg** nugget was found by a detector operator 3.5 km away from Integra's Majestic Lease at Mt Monger . I have a picture and have now and added it."

Sudanese Nuggets

These photos of nuggets from Sudan have been taken by a Sudanese acquaintance on a recent visit to Sudan and they have been given to the editor to share with club members. This give you an idea of what all of the excitement is about!



Fossickin' Round

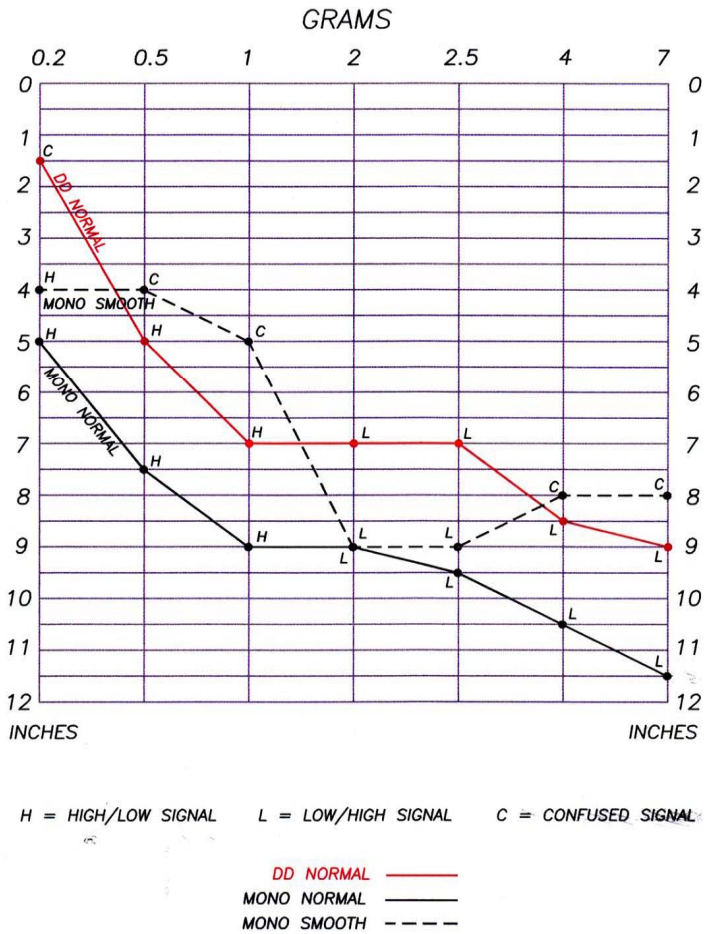


October 2010

Testing Coils

NUGGET FINDER COIL ON GROUND DEPTH TEST

GOLD



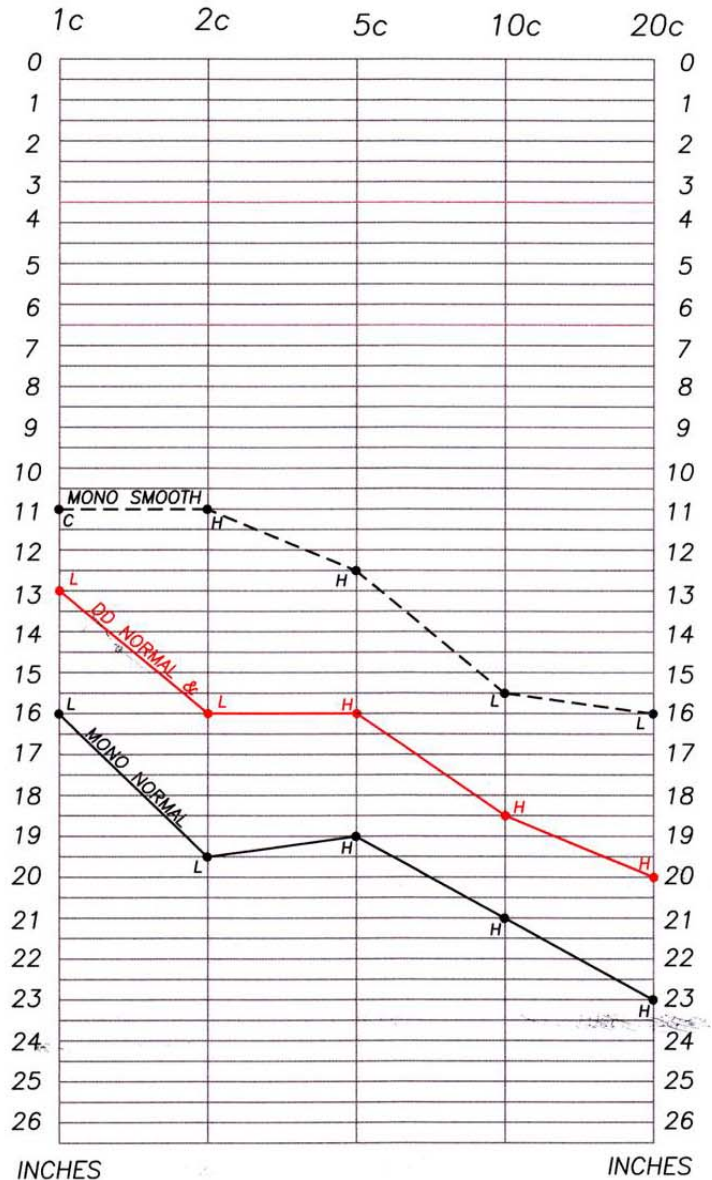
14 Dia Mono

Conclusion:

1. You simply cannot duplicate an undisturbed in the ground target, however, I believe that air testing gives a similar obstruction free "detector to target" comparison test, similar to the detectors ground cancelling ability.
2. Nearly all improvements in the depth capabilities of the P.I. detectors have been at the receiving end of the equation.....all the early P.I. models got the target.....you just didn't hear it !
3. I am still amazed at how a DD coil gives only a fraction less depth using only half of the coil's diameter when transmitting and receiving !
Keep Swinging, Graham Mee

NUGGET FINDER COIL ON GROUND DEPTH TEST

COINS



16 Dia Mono & 16 Dia DD

MONO NORMAL ———
MONO SMOOTH - - - -
DD NORMAL ———

Graham Mee 12/3/10

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October Outing: Tarnagulla

Friday 8th to Tues. 12th Oct.

Tarnagulla

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.

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.

November Outing: Moliagul

Fri. 29th Oct to Tues. 2nd Nov.

Moliagul

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.



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Ararat Gold Dig

16th & 17th October
Greenacres Road, Moyston

MAJOR PRIZE:
MINELAB Gold 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

Hosted by the Ararat Y's Mens Club in conjunction with
the Golden Gateway Festival.

Slide On Camper For Sale



Slide On Camper (pop top) 2008 as new

12 volt 90Lt fridge

4 burner gas & grill

55lt water tank

12 volt battery charger

120 amp battery

130 watt solar panel

\$POA

Contact Frank Wallis, Creswick

Also for sale

1 satellite TV with card \$250

1 12 volt 42lt fridge \$250



If you have anything for sale that you
think the members will be interested
in then let the Newsletter Editor
know. You can advertise it here! In-
clude a photo to help sell it.
Just send an email to the newsletter
editor: sales@regentvideo.com.au

FOR SALE

MINELAB GPX 4500 10 MONTH OLD COMES
WITH 11INCH DD, 11INCH MONO AND 18
INCH KEVLAR COILS PLUS ALL COILS HAVE LOWER
SHAFTS.

THE DD BATTERY HARNESS SHAFTS AND HEAD
PHONES HAVE NEVER BEEN USED. ALL OTHER
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