



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 31, issue 8

September 2010

Havalot of fun at Havelock



- Havelock Camp Report
- *The New Minelab GPX 5000*
- Part 2 of Testing Coils

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

Geoff LEE

Bob LAKE

Warren IBBOTTSON

Sam S

Robert MEADOWS

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 Semmens and if possible include photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

September 2010

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri. 3rd-5th: National 4X4 & Outdoors Show
Melbourne Show Grounds

Sat. 4th & Sun 5th: PMAV AGM & Auction: **Castlemaine**

Fri 10th to Tues 14th: Camp: **Inglewood**

Sat 18th-Sun 19th: Waverley Gem Club Annual

Exhibition, Brandon Park Community Centre, 645
Ferntree Gully Rd. **Brandon Park.**

Thu. 30th-3rd Oct. Melbourne Leisurefest Sandown R.C.

October 2010

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

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

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**

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

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

Front Page

Seekers gather around Eric to inspect his panning finds at the Havelock camp. More details in the article inside.

Almoner's Report *by Virginia Lake*

Joan Heraud is walking OK now and is recovering well following her recent fall while on holidays .

John Frickie has recovered well enough from recent heart trouble to attend the last outing.

Val Lippingwell. is going to have a knee replacement soon. We wish her a well and a speedy recovery.



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President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Rain, rain, rain; will it ever stop. We might all perish from global cooling if this keeps up. Our last 3 camps has been marred by cold and wet conditions which has deterred many members from attending. However, the rain clouds have come with a silver [or gold] lining in the form of all the water lying about which has given us an opportunity to now find some gold with pan or sluice. It has been over 10 years since we have seen these conditions with water filling the dams, creeks, and waterholes.



Newer members would not have witnessed the times when many club members were seen with a pan in hand in the days before PI detectors. In those days it was hard to detect gold with our VLF machines, so panning was the alternative. History appears to be repeating itself, as our Pulse Induction detectors are now finding less gold lately. The easy stuff has long gone. Now that we have this new tool [water], let's make the most of it while it's available.

The new Minelab GPX 5000 detector comes out next week, and unless it is going to be a vast difference and be more user friendly, you will see me around with pan and sluice pulling in the fine gold.

Don't forget Sunday 5 September at 1 pm, the PMAV are having their AGM meeting in the Castlemaine Town Hall, followed by a fund raising auction, which will feature the new Minelab GPX 5000 up for grabs and many other great items. The PMAV need these extra funds to properly function, so it is in our interest that this auction is successful so that they can carry the fight up to the bureaucrats who are forever trying to keep us out of the bush. So let's all support this event, even if you are not PMAV members. For those who would like to camp at Castlemaine during the AGM some of us will be at the Chokem Flat camp site in Campbells Creek Rd. [See last Easter camp directions]

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General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

August

There was no Guest Speaker for August as it was the General Meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) and election of Office Bearers for the next 12 months. It was heartening to see that the Committee was returned unopposed with the appointment of Geoff Lee as Research Officer and Ian Semmens as Newsletter Editor.

The willingness of volunteers for the positions of Field Officers (6 in all) was excellent; however, as we all realise there is a lot to be done around the Monthly Camps and everyone knows that help is always available from Club Members. JUST ASK if you need assistance! Eric Grummett did an excellent job over the years as Research Officer and I believe that the Club owes him a debt of gratitude for his hard work.

September

Our Guest Speaker will be Lindsay Tricker who will guide us through Map, Compass and GPS readings. This will be interesting as it is very easy in some areas to become disoriented out on the Gold Fields. If this happens find the nearest track and stay on it until you have worked out your position in relation to the Camp or your vehicle.

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.



At the August meeting President Eric Grummett had the pleasure of presenting **Virginia & Bob Lake** with Life Membership for many years of dedicated service to the members of the VSC. Congratulations and well done to you both and we wish you the best.

August Camp Report

Havelock

by Robyn Hall

The forecast was for rain and strong winds over the next six days. This did not deter a hardy group of members from making their way to Havelock.

Geoff arrived early and advised of current conditions via Facebook – this was very useful in deciding when to set off for camp. By Thursday afternoon there were quite a few members with everyone else arriving on Friday. Camps were closely scattered amongst the trees trying to avoid any low areas that could hold water. A very cosy campfire hole was dug and then feed with logs – Herman, Geoff, Eric and Albert maintained the supply of wood – good job!!

In total Eric counted 22 people camped with quite a number of day visitors – Val and Tina made the trip up for the day on Saturday but left early as it was wet and the raffle was then held over until the Sunday night. Herman was keeping tally of nuggets found - a few members went home pleased with their finds.

Eric came back to camp on Saturday afternoon with quite a different find – he had discovered a cache of (used??) full size blow up dolls – only the blonde came back to camp with him to the amusement of everyone. We had more rain but most were still to detect every day. Francine took Denise under her wing and set off to indoctrinate her on the joys of coin detecting. After a navigational mishap they found the area they wanted and were successful with Denise enjoying her first foray into detecting.

The raffle was held on Sunday night – even with a few people already gone – thanks to Eric's ticket selling skills, it was successful.

The site for this camp was pleasant and the camp was very enjoyable.

The one down side was that Albert unfortunately blew his new-old caravan apart on the way home to Narrandera. Albert is OK but the van is not. We wish Johanna a speedy recuperation after her knee operation.



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.

THE NEW MINELAB GPX 5000 & GPX 4800 DETECTORS

On Monday the 23 August Minelab made a surprise announcement and have released details of TWO new detectors: the **GPX 5000** and the **GPX 4800**.



GPX 5000

They seem to be essentially a revised version of a GPX 4500. Most of the menu functions remain the same. Switches and dials remain the same although there has been a swapping of the position of the Coil/RX and Ground Balance position.

Added to the GPX 5000 are 3 new Soil or Timings settings to the existing settings. These are Fine Gold, Salt/Gold and Coin/Relic. There have also been improvements to the Enhance Timing and Minelab claim that there has been an improvement in the Electronics to increase target sensitivity and ground balance performance. There is also a greater control of Rx Gain with a 20 position setting, up from 15 on the GPX 4500.

The GPX 5000 comes with a 11" DD commander coil and a 11" Mono Commander coil. The price is \$6,700.

The GPX 4800 is similar to the 5000 with less features.

And it comes with just the 11" DD coil and sells for \$6,150. Both detectors will be available to dealers from 30th August.

For more details of these detectors visit the Minelab website: <http://www.minelab.com/aus/products/gold-detectors>

NEW OWNERS FOR THE MINERS DEN

Codan has decided that operating a retail store in Melbourne and Sydney is not part of their core business and after a period of inviting offers, has now announced that David Watters of **Bendigo Gold World** has purchased both stores and this is to become effective from 31st August 2010. We wish David success in this new venture.



GPX 5000 Illustrated

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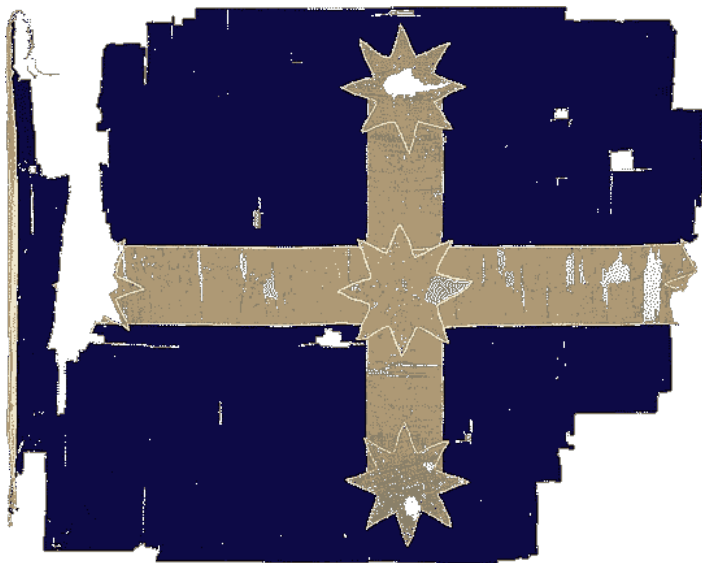
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EUREKA FLAG TO BE RESTORED



Jason Dowling

August 18, 2010

AUSTRALIA'S famous symbol of rebellion and democracy, the Eureka flag, is to have its first major conservation and restoration work in 40 years.

The conservation work includes cleaning and a new backing for the flag, and a proposal to restitch the left side to better represent its original shape.

The work is expected to cost about \$100,000 and take six months to complete.

Heritage Victoria chief executive Jim Gard'ner told *The Age* the work would enable a better representation of the original flag captured on the Ballarat gold fields by soldiers and police in 1854.

"On the left hand side of the flag ... a connection was made that was never there and this is because large parts of the flag were ... captured by the government forces of the day and bits of it were effectively cut up and kept as souvenirs by the soldiers and others," he said.

"This will allow it to be re-presented in its original, more rectangular shape and will allow the proportions of the left hand star to be better read and understood."

The Eureka flag, which has come to symbolise Australia's democracy and was hoisted 100 years before the Australian flag was legally recognised, is one of Victoria's most precious objects, Mr. Gard'ner said.

Heritage Victoria has granted a permit for the preservation and restoration work. Gordon Morrison, director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat, where the flag is displayed, said the priority of the work was the "long-term preservation of the flag". He said new technology would help this. The flag's heritage protection means any work carried out not in accordance with the heritage permit can attract fines of more than half a million dollars or five years' jail. Mr. Morrison said no decision had yet been made about re-stitching the left side. "Some of that incorrect stitching maybe an integral part of the history of the flag. It may date back to the first 30 years after it was made," he said.

Did you Know?

RACV Extra and Total Care

1800 333 300

Emergency roadside assistance for Extra and Total Care – 24 hours a day

Size and Weight Restrictions

The following limitations apply to all registered Vehicles, caravans and Trailers.

Total Care

*GVM (gross vehicle mass) of a vehicle means the maximum loaded mass of the *GVM (gross vehicle mass) of a vehicle, including passengers and cargo regardless of

Gross Weight GVM*	Height	Width	Length
4.0t	2.7m 2	2.3m	6.7m
	8' 10"	7' 6"	22'

whether the vehicle is loaded at the time of the incident.

Emergency Roadside Assist is not available for any Vehicles, caravans and Trailers outside these limitations.

Towing Service can be arranged where available for Vehicles outside these limits at commercial rates.

Areas Covered

Service will be provided on private property or on any public highway in Victoria which is trafficable to normal two wheel drive vehicles.

This excludes areas such as open fields, beaches, creek beds, recreation ovals, logging or forest service roads and roads which do not allow oncoming traffic to safely pass.

CC Picks

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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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Losing Wheels



Serious, modern 4x4 trucks eg Isuzu NPS 300 have Left hand threads on the LHS/ off side. (The Japanese do understand this problem, they just don't bother with domestic products.) Your domestic 4X4 have right hand threads all round. The forward rotation of the wheels tends to tighten the RHS nuts and loosen the LHS.

Try this; tighten all wheel nuts to manufactures torque figures then take the vehicle through sand, mud etc to load up the wheel nuts. After 100K's you will find the LHS will be a lesser than the original torque figure, the RHS side will be greater than the LHS and equal to or greater than their original settings. The wheels falling are a combination of the LHS natural tendency to undo, add to this small manufacturing problems with alloys and the wheels come off your day. I have seen vehicles under extreme sand work over 100s of kilometres losing their steel wheels on the LHS. However it was a troopy.

Of interest Rangies, Discos and Defenders to my knowledge do not throw wheels, they have very large wheel nuts and studs in relation to wheel size and loading. I would be interested if anyone has observes a Land rover throwing a wheel?

It seems that Right hand drive vehicles suffer this problem more than LHD. On RHD the camber of the formed roads throws more vehicle weight to the LHS which exacerbates the nuts undoing from wheel flexing. (Some outback roads have serious forming to prevent water erosion.) On LHD the road camber tends to help tighten the RHS nuts.

Find of the Month

Ron W.
Belt Buckle



**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.



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FREE ENTRY



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Hole in the ground

Third attempt. GP 4000

This was the next method that I used. This involved putting down a 4 inch post digger hole and with the target tied to a piece of string with one inch marks on it, the target was put in the hole which was then filled in with the soil that was taken out. The coil was then placed over the target which was lifted closer to the surface by pulling on the string half an inch at a time until the target was heard. This depth was recorded and a bar chart was made up which gave a very good visual record. A very time consuming exercise, this one !

Note. Testing was done at home in quite ground and testing the target before filling in the hole and after was the same !

14x7 Mono Nuggetfinder

Gr am	0.1			0.2			0.5			1			2			4			7		
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Sept. Outing: Inglewood

Friday 10th to Tues. 14th Sept.

Inglewood

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.

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.

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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.

FROM THE PHOTO ALBUM

An unusual brass
plate of an old busi-
ness in Brighton,
brought to a meeting
recently by a member.
Dated 1882.

Is it real? If so,
what is the history
behind it?



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