



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 31, issue 7

August 2010

Jar full of Nuggets from W.A.



- Inside:
- Mountain Hut Camp Report
 - Watch out for Counterfeit Coils
 - Part 1 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: Eric GRUMMETT

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

Marius GODECKI

Paul HART

Claude BOURAT

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 and photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

August 2010

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Fri 13th to Tues 17th: Camp: **Havelock**

September 2010

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

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

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

October 2010

Wed 6th: General Meeting.

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

November 2010

Wed 3rd: General Meeting.

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

Fri 29th Oct. to Tues 2nd Nov. Camp: **TBA**

Front Page

Member Rolf continued on from the club's recent Tiboorburra trip and went through to W.A. and bagged this collection of nice nuggets.

Almoner's Report

by Virginia Lake

Special Get Well Wishes To:

- Joan Heraud is recovering from a broken bone after a miss-step resulting in a fall in the Katherine Gorge while on a holiday in the Northern Territory. She is now recovering in a nursing home in Melbourne.
 - Also recovering is Lorraine Hill from a sickness.
- We wish them both a complete and speedy recovery.

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 (03) 9999 9999

News

The severe shortage of coils from Minelab, Coiltek and Nugget Finder is expected to ease slightly in August as supplies slowly begin to trickle through. There have been severe shortages since January caused by the Sudanese gold rush and a shortage of Litz wire but now we are hoping that supplies will slowly return to normal.

Nugget Finder is in the process of relocating to Eaglehawk, Bendigo into bigger premises and they expect to an increase in coil production. Let's hope that there is not another major African gold rush.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

A warning to all prospectors and others using the Golden Triangle. It is reported from the PMAV that the Victorian National Parks Association are at again by starting a lobby program to have us evicted from most of the remaining State Forest and areas in the existing parks that we have access to that we have hard fought for and won over the last 12 years.

They are saying that prospecting is a 'key threat' It is their agenda to turn all the box- ironbark forest into National Parks and to turf us out. So it could be on again for one and all to protect our rights very soon.

With State Government elections coming up, the greenies could be trying to whip up support for such a proposal. It's early days yet, but if this thing takes off it will be the responsibility of **ALL PROSPECTORS** to take action to stop this madness. The VNPA have produced a 124 page colored report full of emotional claims which has been presented to politicians and the media, so be forewarned. We all need to be full members of the PMAV to give it as much strength as possible to fight this one, so let's get behind them. The PMAV will keep us informed, and when to take action.

Our club is having it's 30th AGM at our next meeting, and we are looking for some new blood on our committee to help us to maintain our vibrant and successful club. Some of us have been on the committee for many years and deserve a break. Serving on the committee is a very satisfying experience and helps to identify the member within the club. Responsibilities in positions are easily learned. no experience required. Contact Lindsay Tricker prior to meeting for a nomination form.

MINERS DEN

www.minersden.com.au

See us for **all** of your prospecting needs.

Hours:
Mon-Fri 9:00-5:30
Sat. 9:00-12:30



New, Used and Hire Metal Detectors

We have a full range of prospecting equipment.

Phone 9873 1244

464 Whitehorse Rd., Mitcham
www.minersden.com.au

Email: minersdenmelb@bigpond.com.au

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

July

Doug Stone gave a very interesting presentation on his forthcoming book *Coin and Relics* at the July meeting.

His comments about where Minelab could possibly be headed for in the future as far as metal detecting is concerned was interesting, as was his comments about where there were probably fruitful gold detecting sites still out there just waiting for the person to detect that particular area. In other words get out there and enjoy this hobby, for who knows what is still waiting to be unearthed.

August

There will be no guest speaker for this month as it is the Annual General Meeting and election of Office Bearers.

All members are urged to attend and contribute to the discussions in General Business.

All constructive comments will be well received.

If anyone knows of any good or has a good feeling for a particular area please let the Club or Research Officer (Eric Grummett) know as this could be put down for future Club camps.

September

September's Guest Speaker will be Lindsay Tricker who will guide us through the details of Map and Compass Reading and also how to use GPS technology.



Doug Stone at the July meeting

July Camp Report

Mountain Hut

by Eric Grummett

Members started rolling in on Wednesday, and by Saturday we had 28 in attendance.

Early Friday it was -1°C, so it was all hands on deck to collect a good supply of wood to warm us up. That was my downfall as the chainsaw went on strike refusing to start, however after much vigorous rope pulling and plug cleaning the beast finally kicked into life. Not so my back, which was ricked in the process putting me out of business for the weekend. However nurse Virginia relieved some of my suffering with a good massage using her magic ointment and manipulating hands. It's a shame only my back received her good work.

That night bad weather moved in with us, starting with strong winds overnight and rain persisting most of Saturday, unfortunately wiping out our evening around the fire. The rest of the weekend was fine. Because more rain was predicted on Tuesday, we were all out of there by Monday night.

Gold proved to be very elusive as only about a dozen small nuggets saw the light of day. We had visits from Dave and Pearl from Adelaide, and Albert down from Narrandera NSW, who was on his own in a new old van. Jo must be happy with his health to give him a go on his own. He managed quite well until he took out his rear bumper and tail light on a tree that definitely wasn't there the day before while backing near his van. Smitsy had a lucky escape when quite a large branch fell across his path while driving near camp during the wild weather, just missing his car.

I think we may have to abandon July outings as last July was a disaster at Gypsy Flat when we had nearly 3 inches of rain. So much for global warming. Hope to see you at our next camp at Havelock were we hope for better conditions.

NO PHOTOS OF THIS CAMP!

No Photos have been emailed to the Newsletter Editor of this camp so, unfortunately, we are unable to show you what went on at the camp. The Photos really make the newsletter, so can you please bear this in mind and pack the camera on the next outing? Maybe you can take some shots so we have some photos to share and enjoy in the next newsletter?

Please email photos to Ian Semmens

Find of the Month

Rolf
4oz of small nuggets



Gold Price

The price of Gold has dropped to AU\$1,302.63 after reaching a record price of AU\$ 1,513.20 in mid-June. That makes it AU\$41.99 per gram as at 31/07/10. In US Dollars the price is \$1 178.10, a fall of US\$ 78.00 per troy ounce since our report last month .

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.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT MINELAB GPX 4500 DETECTORS AND COMMANDER COILS, COILTEK & NUGGET FINDER COILS

With the huge demand for gold detectors brought on by the Sudanese gold rush, particularly the Minelab GPX 4500, and now for coils, there has been the emergence of the nasty side of the law of supply and demand. Increasingly we are seeing numbers of reports of counterfeit detectors and coils. As yet I am not aware of the counterfeit detectors reaching Australia, but I think that it may be only a matter of time. As for coils we have already had reports of counterfeit coils being available for 3 months and have recently had reports of them being sold on eBay in Australia. Brands and models most affected are Minelab Commander 15" x 12", Coiltek Gold Seeker 18" x 12", and 18" round, and Nugget Finder Advantage 17" x 11" and 18" round.

Minelab Commander coils

The following is taken from the Minelab website:

"The high demand for quality Minelab gold detectors has seen an increasing number of poor performing counterfeit products being sold via websites and black market dealers around the world.

Unfortunately a lot of people unfamiliar with Minelab products are still being ripped off by these criminals, paying full price for a GPX-4500 only to get a counterfeit detector. In some cases the criminal counterfeiters have even taken a cheap detector and put its very basic electronics into a counterfeit GPX-4500 housing so that it appears to work to an unfamiliar purchaser. In all cases the performance of the Counterfeit products has ranged from very poor to not working at all.

Counterfeit products are now cosmetically difficult to tell from the real thing!

In recent days Minelab has become aware of more counterfeit GPX-4500 detectors and Commander coils, that are cosmetically difficult to distinguish from the real thing, These products may cosmetically look like the real thing but definitely do not work like the real thing!

Most counterfeit products are being sold over the internet on websites like Alibaba.com and other similar selling and auction websites. Minelab strongly recommends extreme caution when buying from a website of this kind and from unauthorised dealers. These products are often then on sold by unauthorised dealers, including black market and street dealers."

For more info and photos visit :

<http://www.minelab.com/aus/consumer/knowledge-base/news?article=19205>

Coiltek coils

There have been reports of Fake Coiltek coils been sold in Australia.

The following is taken from the Coiltek website:

"MAKE SURE YOU BUY FROM AN AUTHORISED DEALER!"

As you may know there has been an incredible demand for Metal Detectors and their accessory coils over the past 12 months which has now seen the introduction of COUNTERFEIT products to the market. This has meant that genuine people wanting to use genuine products have been fooled into a purchase of fake products which are poor performing and have no real worth. These counterfeit products are now very similar cosmetically but have very poor performance abilities and will not last or provide customer satisfaction.

Counterfeit COILTEK MANUFACTURING products are also now in the market and have been *sold via the black/grey market dealers*, websites or individuals who are looking to make a quick sale."

For more info and photos visit :

<http://coiltekmanufacturing.com.au/counterfeitcoil.html>

And

<http://golddetecting.4umer.net/general-discussion-f1/fake-18-coiltek-coil-showed-up-pics-video-t2209.htm>

Nugget Finder coils

As yet Nugget Finder does not have a website so details of the counterfeit coils are unavailable.

If you have recently bought or thinking of buying a detector or coil from a Non-Authorised Dealer you are urged to visit these above websites to learn the differences between the real and fake detectors and coils.



GOLDSEARCH AUSTRALIA

Australian Distributor of
Whites Metal Detectors

Phone 5468 1877

Sales, Hire and Repairs



Before you buy compare the performance, features and value of Whites Detectors
76 Broadway, Dunolly VIC.
www.goldsearchaustralia.com.
Email: info@goldsearchaustralia.com.

Testing Coils Part 1

by Graeme Mees

The following are the results of some coil testing that I have done over the years to try and get some idea of the detectors depth capabilities using different size coils and targets.

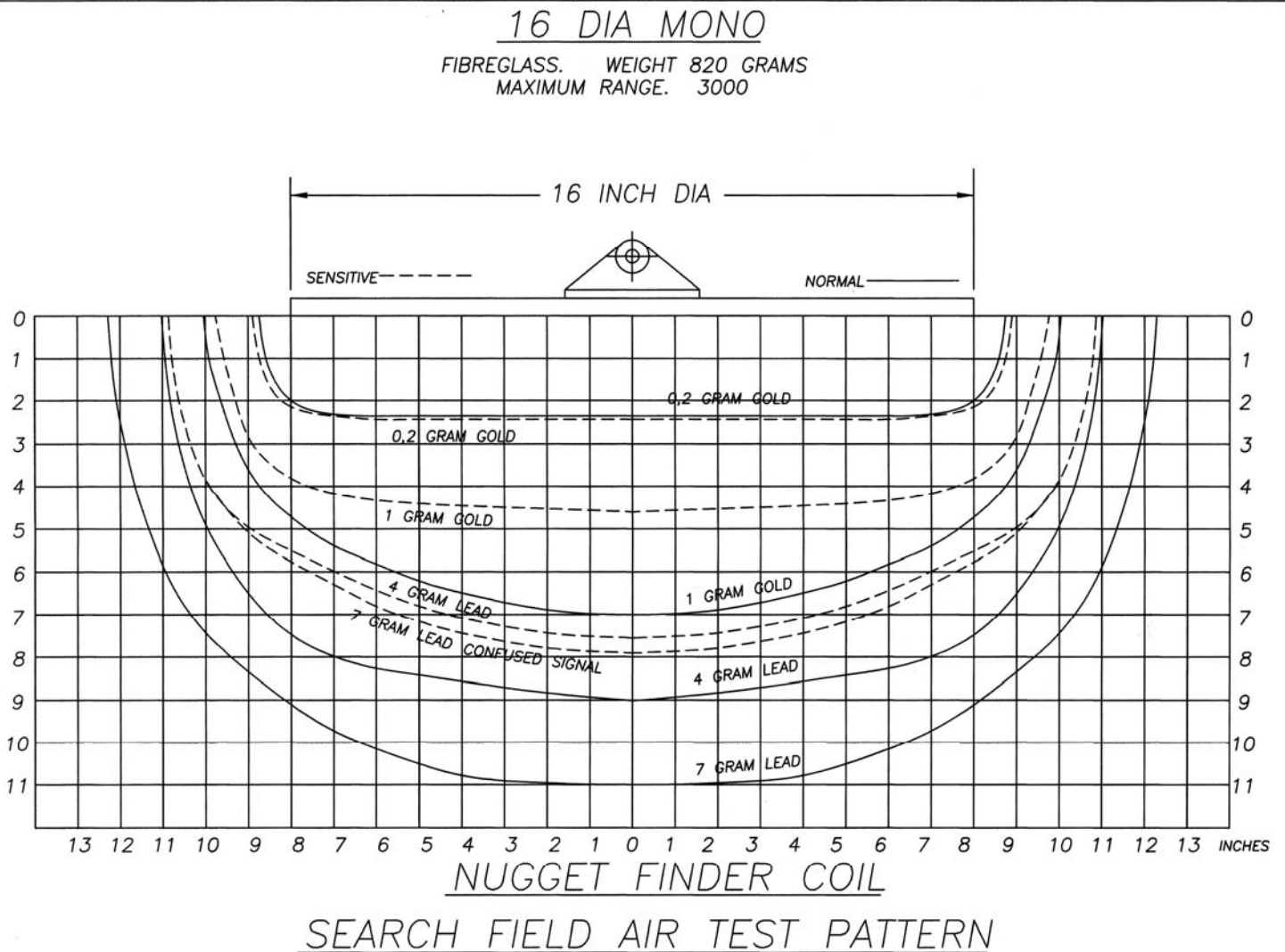
BENCH TESTING First attempt. GP3500

The tests were done on an outside bench with the detector on it's side. A cardboard sheet with one inch grid marks on it, was then placed under the centre of the coil and the target presented to the coil at the one inch intervals with a mark being put down as soon as the detector gave a signal.

When the testing was over, a line was drawn up connecting the marks to give the test pattern as shown in the drawing. I carried out this testing for different size targets and needless to say, each one produced a different curved pattern. This was done with different coils and I had at last a good visual search pattern of each of the coils search field.

Note. Mirror image the search pattern as the coil radiates its electro magnetic field all around and not just below the coil. You are in fact walking around with a ball of radiation on the end of your detector !

Also note. A Steel shed could be picked up at 3 meters away using a 16 inch Diameter Mono Nuggetfinder!



Graham Mee 6/10/06

CC Picks



- 4, 5 & 6 mm picks heads
- Australian design, materials and manufacture
- Innovative design (patent pending)
- High quality, industrial strength heat treated spring steel
- 4 unique models

Pound for pound, the world's best pick

Available from prospecting shops
www.ccpicks.com.au

Advance Notice

for special social day outing to Coal Creek, 8444 South Gippsland Hwy, Korumburra, (03) 5655 1822 on Sunday 14th November 2010
 Coal Creek is a showcase of South Gippsland's fascinating history.

Look out for the 30th Birthday Celebrations and the PMAV AGM on Saturday the 4th of September followed on the Sunday by a monster Auction. This is your chance to pick up some good gear at a bargain price. This all happens at Castlemaine.



- Servicing All Makes & Models
- Insurance Repair Specialist
- Air Conditioning Installation
- Camper Trailer Repairs

Phone 9761 4189

120 Canterbury Road Bayswater

www.thervrepaircentre.com.au

Brakes, Lights, Bearings & Towing Gear.

Gold Production by Country 2008

Rank	Country	Production (Kilograms)
1	China	295,000
2	South Africa	250,000
3	USA	230,000
4	Australia	225,000
5	Peru	175,000
6	Russia	165,000
7	Canada	100,340

We only need another 5,000 kilograms to beat the Yanks so get out there and find some gold and do your bit for the country!



August Outing: Havelock

Friday 13th to Tue.17th August

Directions: Travel via the Calder Hwy

Emergency Info: Call 000.

Police: Maryborough, 70 Wellington St.
Hospital : Maryborough, Clarendon St.

Map Reference:

Sept. Outing: Inglewood

Friday 10th to Tues. 14th Sept.

Directions: From Melbourne take the Calder Highway

Emergency Info: Call 000. Police: 98 Grant St.,
Inglewood. Hospital: Inglewood 054-383 000

The entire contents, including the advertisements, of this newsletter is protected by copyright. No part may be re-produced by any means without written permission from the VSC committee.

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.



Victorian Seekers Club

Application Form for Membership Renewal July 2010 ~ June 2011

Membership fees of the VSC becomes due on the **1st of July 2010**.

Members are requested to renew their membership as soon as possible. For members who have not renewed their membership by the **1st of September 2010** it will be considered that the membership has expired and they will no longer receive the newsletter nor be able to attend camps until the membership renewal is paid. If it is paid after the 1st of September 2010 a re-joining fee of \$5.00 may be payable upon renewal. This form is for renewal only.

You can fill out this form, attach the payment and post it in to the Membership secretary: - Mrs. Mieke Smits or hand it to her at the next general meeting, or to a committee member at the next camp. The postal address is

Name (s).....

Address.....

Suburb/Town..... State Postcode

Telephone Home..... Mobile

Email Tick this box if you would like to receive the newsletter by email.

Single Membership \$35 Family Membership \$40.00

I agree to abide by the terms and conditions of membership of the VSC.

Signed.....Date.....

Signed.....Date.....

To be able to provide members with the activities that suit them best please take a moment to complete this survey. The responses are confidential and are solely for VSC use.

What is your main interest ? Please number in order of preference. Just number the boxes that interest you.

Gold Detecting Coin detecting Panning/Sluicing Beach detecting Underwater detecting

When you attend a camp what do you mainly use ? Please tick Caravan Tent Other.....

Do you have any suggestions as how to improve the meetings or the outings?

COILTEK
GOLD CENTRE



EVERYTHING FOR THE RECREATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL PROSPECTOR

Phone 03 5460 4700
 6 Drive-in Court, Maryborough
 email:coiltek@nex.net.com.au www.coiltek.com.au

CARAVAN REFRIGERATION SERVICES



Fridges, Air Conditioners, Cook Tops, Ovens, Sinks, Diesel Heaters, Hot Water Systems, Range Hoods, Toilets, White Goods.

Sales, Service & Repairs

Phone 9574 1900
 24 Eileen Rd. Clayton South
 www.caravanrefrigeration.com.au

FROM THE PHOTO ALBUM



Peter S. attempting to start an old car somewhere near Tibooburra, about 2 years ago.

If undeliverable return to:

