



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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July 2010

Reaping the nuggets at Harvest Home

- Inside:
- Harvest Home Camp Report
 - Tibbooburra Report
 - More Detecting Tips



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

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:

and if possible include and photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

July 2010

Wed 7th: General Meeting.
Fri 9th to Tues 13th: Camp: **Mountain Hut**

August 2010

Wed 4th: General Meeting.
Fri 13th to Tues 17th: Camp: **Havelock**

September 2010

Wed 4th: General Meeting.
Fri 10th to Tues 14th: Camp: **Inglewood**

October 2010

Wed 6th: General Meeting.
Fri 8th to Tues 12th: Camp: **TBA**

Front Page

Enjoying a warm up around the fire at the Xmas in June camp at Harvest Home, near Dunolly.
Photo by Geoff L.

Almoner's Report

by Virginia Lake

Special Get Well Wishes To:

- Lanette Steffen , Herman's wife, who had a heart attack.
- Amparo Bedford, Owen's wife, who is currently in hospital waiting on Triple By-Pass surgery.
- Wendy Pinsent, Don's wife, who had a Hip replacement in March and is still recovering from a clot in her lung
- Paul Wilks, who has been in and out of hospital with pneumonia.

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 xxxx xxxx

News

The special bonus offer of a 15"x12" Semi-Elliptical coil with every new Minelab GPX 4500 sold has now been extended. This special now ends on **July 31st**.

The **PMAV** has been successful in negotiating with the Victorian Government to retain the Miners Right. It will now be available in a ten year term in addition to the current 2 year term. This may come in by the end of the year.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

See the May Special outing Report page 4

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 xxxx xxxx, Tina xxxx xxxx
For further details.

Gold Price

The price of Gold has risen about US\$ 69.00 per troy ounce since our report last month to US\$ 1256.80 as at 20th June 2010. This is rise of AU\$ 31.58 per ounce to AU\$ 1443.44 per ounce. Per gram gold is now AU\$ 46.33.

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

The Dutch Auction held in **June** was very well attended and thanks go to all those who donated goods for sale by the Club. There was a lot of frenzied bidding done by members and this helped to create an excellent atmosphere for all those who attended. A vote of thanks is in order for Bob and Virginia Lake, Peter Maffey and Valerie Lippingwell for the work that they put in to make this Auction a great success.

JULY

Doug Stone will be the Club's Guest Speaker for July's Meeting and he will be talking about Prospecting in general.

Also he is currently working on a Coin & Relic Book and an invitation is extended to members to bring along any unusual relics they have found if they would like them to be included in this book. He will request to photograph these objects for inclusion in the book.

AUGUST

There will be no guest speaker for August as this is the Club's Annual General Meeting and election of Office Bearers. All members are urged to attend.



Bob Lake Auctioning the items in our Dutch Auction assisted by Peter Maffey.

Find of the Month

Geoff L
23 g. specimen



June Camp Report

Harvest Home

by Tina
Photos By Murray Hall
& Geoff Lee

We all found our way into the Harvest Home camp very easily owing to Geoff's great signage. Four camps were already here. Our keenest members arriving on Wednesday, the rest of us here by Saturday. Quite a few missing owing to horrible diseases, tho' Jimmy and Maureen have only just arrived back from an overseas trip.

The rain had magically disappeared (unlike last year at Chute) but quite cold. A great Christmas Day in June, the men had the marquee up, all the ladies had to do was decorate it.

We had enough food to feed all of Ethiopia, a big fire, good jokes and great company. Robyn I. did the rounds and sold more special raffle tickets, doing a great job. Gluwein was made and drunk but we need the two Peters back for the genuine drink.

Sunday morning's Treasure Hunt was won by Robyn H. and Sam. Later on Eric and James did a fun demonstration on panning in the dam. A little gold was found.

That night we had a damper competition. The Master Chef (Eric) being the judge. Robyn I. was the winner, Robyn-H second and Val and Tina third. There were only three entries. Val also made a pumpkin soup with pumpkins she thought had been left at home. That would also have fed Ethiopia on the second day. Another great day and night!

A 5.7 gramer was found on Monday. Also a four gramer and some nice specimens. Other small pieces were also found... have to leave some for another day.



Colin panning in the dam



Xmas Decorated Marquee



Damper Bake-off



Round the Camp fire

Fossickin' Round

May Special Outing Report

Tibooburra 1 Story & Photos by Geoff Lee

Not as many Seekers attended this year's joint Tibooburra trip with the PMAV however, including the guys from the Parramatta Prospecting Club, who we joined up with when there, you wouldn't want it any bigger. On one outing to New Bendigo Diggings we had 15 cars in the convoy plus 3 late comers.



Herman, John, Dave and Albert camping at Tibooburra

Overall the trip was quite eventful for a number of people:

- Geoff, Eric and Dave had tyre blow outs,
- Lindsey and Geoff clipped kangaroos,
- Lindsey got bogged after Packsaddle on the way home,
- John (Seeker's guest) rolled his car on the slippery, wet roads south of Packsaddle whilst returning from Broken Hill with car springs that turned out be too big.

Overall, gold was down, as usual, on previous years. Including findings from a month at Mt Brown, JohnM found over 2 ozs, Geoff found



Dry Creek Bed - Warratta Creek

over 40 gms including a 24 gm specimen, and numerous others found between 10 and 20 gms. Quite a bit of the gold came from New Bendigo, however, it was mostly limited to Geoff's patch (see related article) with only a



Some of Geoff's nuggets

few Seekers finding anything else at New Bendigo.

A few new areas were explored including an area along the Warratta Creek. This was an interesting 'expedition' with the convoy as it included driving through the dry creek. As an aside, I also went to see the White Lady Rock



White Lady Rock

(located above the Warratta Reef Diggings). Unfortunately, I can confirm that it has been, naturally or otherwise, dislodged and is now toppled over.

On the Saturday before the end of the trip, we were invited to Mark Brown's Mt Stuart Station, which extends through to Tunnel Hill, for a barbeque. Many thanks to Mark for the barbeque which included a feast of local yabbies and hung beef.

May Special Outing Report

Tibooburra 2

by Eric Grummett
Photos by Geoff Lee

This month, Tibooburra has had me covered for most of the time, so here is how it went.

Twenty six members of the VSC and PMAV made their way up to the Tibooburra caravan park, arriving at various times in the middle of May. Some had been there since Easter. Each day we split into several groups, trying mostly old ground and also experimenting new areas, with very poor results. It was an effort to get a gram a day in tiny bits if you were lucky. I have been going up there for years and been able to get a reasonable result most times. Some good finds by the lucky ones were rare, the best was a 23 gm specimen and a couple others 6 or 8 grammers by Geoff Lee on his 'secret patch' which he eventually took us to, resulting in 18 cars in convoy hoping to pick up the crumbs, resulting in a few 1-2 gram nuggets. So much for that spot.



The hole Geoff got his 23g. Specimen out of

Other notable finds were an 11 gram by Peter Smits, a 7gram for Peter Richards. John Meadows topped the list with 3 oz in small bits mostly from Mt Browne in the weeks before we arrived. Peter Gower and his son spent several days at Good Friday with a dry blower obtaining a large amount of very fine gold for a few gm, I think anyone wishing to find gold up there in the future should seriously look at using this type of equipment. The gold is mostly very tiny. Peter Smits had 42 bits weighing only 7.5gm, (apart from his 11 gm nugget) averaging 0.17 gm, using a GPX4500.

On the last Saturday night we were invited out to Mark Black's Mt. Stuart Station for a barbecue. About 20 of us come along for some typical bush hospitality. We supplied the salads, and he the meat and a bucket of huge yabbies freshly caught and

cooked from his dam. what a great night it was, but we had to watch our liquor, as the local cop had been instructed from Sydney to breathalyze locals at random. I'm sure that would have made him popular in town. Luckily, we dodged him successfully on our 10 k back to town Not so Lindsay, who managed to reduce the kangaroo population by one, which re-shaped the front corner of his Subaru. Some gaffer tape and ties the next day held the bits together until he got home.



BBQ night - Hmmm, I wonder, is it cooked yet?

While there, 4 members of the Parramatta Prospecting Club arrived, including their president Fred Krebs, who we got to know, and as they didn't know the area very well got them to tag along with us for a few days. We were also able to help them with the settings on their machines. We have been swapping newsletters for years, so it was nice to catch up with them at last.

Trips up there are never without some dramas for most of us at some time, this trip was no exception. In our group there was 4 blown tyres (one of mine included), 1 exploded brake drum on Ralf's brand



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new camper trailer, and 2 kangaroo hits. The unluckiest one was Brandy and Di's friend Bushy John who broke a spring on his van on the way up. By tying it up he was able to limp into Tibooburra, where he ordered a new set to be sent up in a few days. After a week of waiting he decided to go to Broken Hill himself for the parts. The night before he left we had 2 inches of rain, but the road was still open when he took off. He struggled in the wet and slippery conditions until about 80km from Broken Hill where his ute slid off into a ditch and rolled onto its side. Fortunately John wasn't going fast and so wasn't hurt. Not so for the ute as it took some major damage, but was still drivable when pulled back onto its wheels, minus the windscreen and most other windows. Somehow, he managed to drive it back to camp, and by emailing photos to his insurance company, and because it was fairly old decided to write it off. They were going to fly him home where he would return in his daughter's car with the springs and retrieve the van. I don't think John is ever to return after this episode.

Lindsay and wife Margaret also headed home on that wet morning, but were stranded at Pack Saddle overnight as the road was closed ahead. The next morning an open road saw them off. About 30 km

onto no. 3, together broke the suction and finally freed him from his predicament. People living down Noble Park way may now see a strange looking stretch limo Subaru driving around, definitely not for hire.

Needless to say, nobody on this trip are likely to be seen up that way for some time again, if ever.



Albert Detecting at Good Friday

down the road while on a sealed section they were confronted with water over the road on a creek crossing. A quick inspection by Lindsay estimated the water as shallow so proceeded across not realizing there was a foot of soft mud underneath. He got halfway and sunk down to the floorboards. Realizing the hopelessness of his situation called on the assistance of a passing 4WD for a pull out. With only a small rope it broke. Enter 4WD no. 2 with a snatch strap, and with a huge yank which raised the front wheels of the towing truck, did not budge him, the mud won the second round. Enter 4WD no. 3 with a winch. By connecting the winch truck cable onto Subaru and 4WD no. 2 ahead of it with snatch strap



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Detecting Articles

Detecting Tips

by Graeme Melbourne

Gold: Where Do You Find It

For us as “gold fossickers” we are only interested in alluvial gold missed by the gold diggers of the 19th century. However in our searching it is useful to know a bit of background as to where gold in reach of our gold detectors came from.

There are sayings such as “gold is where you find it”; “only gold knows where it is”; and it is true that it often turns up in unexpected places but some places are more likely than others. The geology of gold bearing localities may be simply described as areas of ancient mudstones intruded by quartz veins, often bordered by granites. In the eastern states where the great dividing range gives way to the inland plains of the eastern states of Australia, the ancient mudstones were compressed and contorted generally in an east/west direction causing fractures, across and along the layers above the earth’s mantle, maybe tens of kilometres below the earth’s surface. During this period hundreds of millions of years ago, molten quartz with impurities of gold in a gaseous state, impregnated these fissures in the mudstone and solidified to form the quartz veins surrounded by metamorphosed mudstone [ironstone]. These quartz veins and ironstone ridges being harder than the surrounding unaltered mudstone are seen today, exposed at the earth surface often along hill ridges. Over geological times these structures have also been weathered away by atmospheric elements to be carried by gravity into the present day gullies, creeks and rivers. The gold in the form of fine particles and nuggets was released from the quartz rocks by mechanical action of the quartz rocks pounding against each other as they travelled under the action of gravity. As gold is very heavy compared to the quartz and ironstone material, it tended to become concentrated at the bottom of the present day gullies, creeks and rivers. With the passing of thousands of years the gullies became silted over with lighter materials to form the present day shallow leads with back-to-back diggers holes. Going back millions of years the ancient riverbed gravels became buried with up to 30 metres of lighter soils, often their path bears no relation to the present day landscape. The gravels of these ancient riverbeds containing the gold hardened over time to form a concrete like structure known as conglomerate. Over geological time spans the weathering process often leaves the hard conglomerate materials high and dry on top of the present day “hard hills” to be weathered away again and redistributed over the hillside and present day gullies. Thus the present day sources of accessible gold are the quartz reefs and conglomerate gravels above the hillsides and the gullies below.

However all the hard trial and error work to find these accessible gold bearing locations has been done for us by the 19th century diggers and documented by government mineral departments and conveniently overlayed on locality maps purchased at gold fossicker shops. Thus as it is

unlikely that we will turn up some new undiscovered gold patch in Victoria, we only fossick at previously known gold locations. The next thing to be aware of is that all these areas have been searched with gold detectors with improving technology for the past 30 years. It is true that virtually all the easily obtained gold has been found at these documented areas but with the latest detector technology it is still possible to find sizable gold nuggets on thrashed diggers heaps and virgin ground surrounding digger surfaced areas. The trick is to use the latest detector technology, be smarter and be luckier though than the previous detector operators. By being smarter, means when moving around, try areas that others may have avoided because it is difficult to traverse, looks unlikely, and always think positive that there is a bit of gold under the next swing of your detector head. The positive attitude has been born out by many fossickers remarking that when they find their first one for the day they start to find more soon after because their mood has gone from just swinging the detector in hope to enhanced concentration and expectation. **Good Luck!**



Holes sunk on a ancient elevated riverbed -Heathcote



Gravels on the side of the hill of the same ancient elevated riverbed.

July Outing: Mountain Hut

August Outing: Havelock

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.

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