



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 31, issue 5

June 2010

The Eye of the Tiger

**Tiger Eye on Display
at the May meeting**

- Inside:
- Talbot Camp Report
 - Mt Martha Beach Outing
 - More GPX 4500 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>

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

June 2010

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri 11th to Tues 15th: Special Camp:

“Christmas in June” : **Harvest Home**
Christmas theme

July 2010

Wed 7th: General Meeting.

Fri 9th to Tues 12th: Camp: **Mountain Hut**

August 2010

Wed 4th: General Meeting.

Fri 13th to Tues 16th: Camp: **Havelock**

September 2010

Wed 1st: General Meeting.

Fri 10th to Tues 13th: Camp: **Inglewood**

Front Page

A close up of some lovely Tiger Eye that was part of the display of stones and gems presented by Sue Kantor & Lianne Forrer from Mordialloc Lapidary Club.

Editor's Report

by Ian Semmens

In this issue we have another great detecting article by Graeme M. It is good that graeme is sharing some of these tips for other members of the VSC to read and learn and benefit from. How about some of the others sharing their experiences with the rest of us?

Please keep those articles coming in so we can keep the high standard of the newsletter for all our members to read and enjoy.

Also in this issue, we have the Talbot Camp report, but unfortunately no photos to print with it as none were submitted to the editor. Please keep those cameras snapping.

News

The special bonus offer of a 15"x12" Semi-Elliptical coil with every new Minelab GPX 4500 sold is still on. If you want one move quick as this special ends on **June 30th**.

Coils are still very difficult to obtain from the manufactures due to the huge demand from Sudan.

The Price of gold has jumped significantly. See the detailed article in this issue.

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Well, the PMAV have done again with a great win for prospectors. Thanks to the intense lobbying of the Mineral, Energy and Resources Minister Peter Batchelor, they were able to convince him not to do away with our Miners Right, which was their proposal under amendments to the Mineral Resources Act. Not only is it retained, but there will be also be a new 10 year Miners Right available at a discount rate as well as the usual 2 year renewal on offer. A special thanks to Rita and her committee for the win.

The Miners Right was won on the battleground of Eureka 156 years ago, allowing us the full rights to our gold and minerals found in Victoria ever since, and should be defended at all times.

Peter Maffey and I, on behalf of the PMAV met with David Bannear of Heritage Vic. at Castlemaine on the 10th May for further discussions on the proposed PMAV Memorandum of Co-operation regarding our chance relic finds on the goldfields as mentioned in my last report. Peter and I took along a large collection of our relics found over many years which David photographed. He intends to categorize the items, then set up a website where these and all other relics that can be presented, displayed, along with any other information about where found and identification of the article. Hopefully, anyone who have, or find possibly interesting items will make an effort to add to this bank of information which would be available to all. It could be useful to us as well as archaeologists. Along with this co-operation, the PMAV believe we will eventually be able to change the Heritage Act that will allow us to legally keep relics found while prospecting.

HOOROO, I'M OF TO TIBOOBURRA, Eric

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

For the **May** meeting the guest speakers were Sue and Lianne from Mordialloc Lapidary Club. They gave an excellent presentation on how to cut and polish gem stones and then set them in either gold or silver settings. They also had a display of gems and stones, and samples of the stages a stone goes through to become a polished mounted stone or gem. We all enjoyed it very much.

In **June** the Club is having a Dutch Auction to help raise funds for its continued success. We do need all club members support and donations of unwanted goods in excellent working condition will be greatly appreciated.



Above:
Sue & Lianne from Mordialloc Lapidary Club

Below:
Some of the display from the Mordialloc Lapidary Club



May Camp Report

Talbot

by Virginia Lake

Bob and I arrived at the Talbot camp around midnight, Thursday night. We were not the first to arrive, there were already four camps set up. Over the next couple of days more campers arrived, with Robyn and Warren being the last, arriving Sunday lunchtime. The excuse for their late arrival – they went to Crown on Saturday night to see the Irish dancing. In all, there was 12 camps, 18 people, with 5 day visitors, not a bad turn up seeing several members have gone to Tibooburra and several others are travelling overseas or Australia.

Tom and Irene hosted Happy Hour each afternoon, making everyone welcome. They are currently homeless until July due to selling their home in Portland. On leaving camp they will slowly make their way up to Brisbane. Colin and Denise tell me they are heading off to China to visit their daughter and her family for her birthday but should be back in time for the June camp at which we will celebrate "Christmas in June". Val brought her man, Barry, to camp and they had great "fun" setting up Barry's camper trailer. Hope to see you more often, Barry.

On Saturday afternoon Bob and I went in search of a claim Bob had 25 years ago in Amherst. After a short search we were able to locate the claim and to Bob's delight located the claim pegs, still standing and still showing his name which he had welded on a couple of them!

With no fire restrictions and cold night air it was great to be able to have the communal fire each evening to sit around, and what a fire it was!. Thank you to Bob for bringing his chainsaw and to all who helped collect wood or attended to the fire, your efforts are appreciated.

Although it was a relatively small camp we were able to have the raffle; new members Jeff & Sandra and Paul all won prizes. Sunday morning several members go to the Talbot monthly Farmers Market. Much care was given by all to avoid the area where the Lowly Greenhood Orchids were, very pretty they are too. Quite a few small nuggets were found.

Find of the Month

Graeme S.
1842 Groat



Find of the Month

Albert
8 gram nugget



A Note on a Groat.

In 1836 a new design of groat was issued for circulation. It's diameter was the same as for the silver threepence of the time, namely 16mm, but it was thicker and had a milled edge. It weighed 1.9g. In fact this coin was never commonly referred to as a groat. The phrase 'fourpenny bit' was usual, but the coin was also known as a Joey after the MP Joseph Hume, who campaigned for its introduction. Instead of a crowned figure the reverse has a representation of Britannia, thus the term Britannia Groat. It was issued regularly until 1855, when it dropped out of use in the UK because of confusion with the 3d which started to be issued for general circulation in 1845.

May Beach Outing Report

Mt Martha

by Eric Grummett

Our trip down to the beach for a barbecue was marred yet again by wet weather, however about a dozen of us had an enjoyable day under cover, and were kept warm by a roaring fire in the fireplace provided.

Most of us had a go at detecting on the beach between showers, but due to major sand works going on for the entire beach, not a lot was found. Smitsy came up with a 2 bob and Graeme thought he was onto a treasure chest with a huge signal which turned out to be a cache of several unopened cans, its a shame they were not stubbies. Ted was an early bird and managed quite a handful of decimal. Next year we will try and have the event a little sooner in the warmer days.

Gold Price

The price of Gold has risen another US\$41.00 per troy ounce since our last report making a rise of US\$81.00 in two months. As at 21st May the price per ounce is US\$ 1187.80. Because the Australian dollar has fallen, this has a multiplying effect on this gold price rise bringing it to AU\$ 1,412.86 per oz. or AU\$45.52 per gram. Significantly, the price of gold continues to rise, it hitting an all time high of US\$1242.70 per ounce on the 12th May.



Broken Hill Blowout

by Geoff Lee

BANG! Rattle, rattle, rattle! I think I'd better slow down, stop and have a look to see what that noise is.

What the....

I'd been towing the caravan from Melbourne and sitting on a bit over 90 km/hr pretty much all day. I was about 100 km before Broken Hill, my planned overnight stop. The noise was not that loud, the car was going great guns and I didn't really want to stop. But I knew I had to do the right thing. I pulled over as best I could and got out. A quick glance round the driver side and I was thinking "What could that noise have been? It must have been something!" And there it was. On the passenger side of my caravan - a flat tyre. Not only flat but totally blown out, as in, the tread had been ripped right off and the tyre innards were hanging there limply looking at me in jest.

Great! Just what I needed. At least it wasn't raining.

Let's get into it

As I get into it, there was a surreal déjà vu feeling. This happened at the end of April, going up to Tibooburra. Only last March on way to the Kingower camp, I managed to stake my car tyre, also with the caravan in tow. You could say I'm getting used to it. Only this time it's the caravan tyre's turn.

Shortly after I got my caravan, it was fortunate that I had the foresight to check-out the spare tyre and what was involved in changing it. I say fortunate because having done so I knew that the wheel hub bolts were a different size to the car's so I specifically bought a multi-socket tyre wrench for the job. Now just where was it? Hope I hadn't left it at home. Nope! Found it, packed away in the caravan boot. Good boy, Geoff, you're doing well.

Okay, now how am I going to jack up the van? First thought was the bottle jacks but as I look under the van, I see there is not enough height to get the jack in under there. Oh, oh! Let's try the car jack.



Bottle jacks

Rats! That means I'll have to unpack those three jerry cans of diesel I'd brought up, plus the 4x4 hand winch - weighs a ton! (Well sometimes at least.) Anyway, I get all that out, get the car's jack, slip it under the caravan and start jacking it up. First thing I noticed was that it was a lot harder to jack up than the car. Ah... I think it may be a 'bit' overloaded. If only I can jack it up enough to get the bottle jack in under there, I'll be right. Just one more turn, and wham-oh! The car jack has collapsed. Scratch one jack. At this point I was thinking "Now I'm in the poo! How' you going to jack up the van? Out in the middle of nowhere and with the sun setting? RACV? In NSW?".

I know! I'll dig out a little hole to fit the bottle jack into. Good thing it's the passenger side. The only problem is, I'm thinking, that the bottle jack does not have much lift

height and I'm going to need to lift it a fair bit. Okay, never mind, I've got two bottle jacks. I can lift with one then use my wooden blocks to slip under the other and alternate up to the height I need. Anyway, I start jacking and at least that part of the operation worked out. At last something's working out!

My spare caravan wheel is tucked into the corner of my caravan boot and I had to unpack *more* stuff to get to it. No wonder I never checked its pressure. Good thing I also carry a 4x4 tyre pump with me.



Nice clear sky with setting sun over a blown-out tyre

By the time I had swapped tyres over and was ready to get going it was almost one and a half hours all up. It was headlights on, all the rest of the way to Broken Hill - slowly, just to make sure the driver's side tyre does not decide to also blowout.

All done

Lessons to be learnt from all of this? Actually practice changing your spare at home. Don't forget, with a flat, there will be less space under the van to slip your jack in there. It's also useful to also carry: a spade, wooden blocks, air pump, ground sheet and spare tools. Also make sure your jacks are fully rated. I think I had more than half the caravan's weight over the flat tyre because the tyre was flat and also due to the camber of the road.

As a final note, an interesting statistic was that about 50% of the traffic stopped and offered help, including truckies. I'm not really sure if that's a good number but at least it's better than zero. Several others did slow down but saw me waving them on. Even one *lady* stopped and offered to help! I guess she may have had a mobile phone.

As an additional final note, be aware that you should consider changing your caravan tyres 5 years after their *date of manufacture*. Much beyond 5 years and you're just asking for it. Mine were about four and a half years old. Also being a single axle caravan, it puts more stress on the tyres. Rather than replacing just the spare, I replaced the entire set of three. Oh well - that's life! ☺

Detecting Articles

Detecting Tips

by Graeme Melbourne

Detecting on diggers heaps the other day, I confirmed a useful lesson learnt by running a series of field tests on different sized copper targets buried at increasing depth (see article Part 1). I won't forget the lesson in a hurry as it produced a nice 6.5-gram nugget.

You may recall that the testing done with a standard 11" Mono coil found that sometimes the target produced an inverted signal over the target and sometimes a normal signal for larger deep targets. I have found that generally iron targets produce an inverted signal whilst gold generally produce a normal signal for small shallow targets.

On the day, I had detected and recovered the usual number of iron targets at depths to 12" where the signal was inverted on top of the target. The 6.5 gram nugget seemed to produce a faint normal signal and as I investigate most faint signals, I took a few inches off the surface and mentally located the centre of the normal signal. I continued to deepen the hole around the normal signal with the pick, then a spade from the car as the ground was quite hard until I had dug a hole about 16" square and about 9" deep. The signal inside the hole was still not convincing but, as I could not ground balance the signal out, a metal target was becoming a strong possibility. One side of the hole seemed to produce a stronger normal signal when the coil was moved around the walls inside the hole with an inverted signal at the surface on the side of the hole where the target was indicated from moving the coil around inside the hole. I dug this side out and when all signals were cleared from the hole, I then felt confident that the target in the spoil was metal.



Expecting another rusty bit of iron, I was pleasantly surprised to see gold in my scoop. In this case the gold at a depth of 8" to 9" had given an inverted signal response on top of the target, typical of iron.

Again the moral of the story is, as always, whilst most inverted signals are trash, small signals that have the inverted signal characteristic over the target should not be ignored.



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Club Auction June General Meeting

All Club Members are asked to donate their unwanted goods.

Books magazines and comics will be accepted.

These goods must be presentable and all electrical items should be in good working order, otherwise these will not be accepted.

Yes, members can even donate unwanted metal detectors as well as coils, picks, tents, caravans, and general camping equipment etc. Guess what --- all those unwanted jewellery items will be accepted as they are a good buy for that special person in someone's life.

All monies raised go towards Club expenses.

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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. Doug Stone Gold & Relics Book
Valued at \$123.00 (Miners Den, Melb.)
5. 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, Tina
For further details.

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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 re-
ported to a Committee Member ASAP.

For Sale

Jayco "Jaylark" camper trailer for sale. Reconditioned 3 way LPG/240V/12V fridge, fixed single double bed, good condition

\$3500, contact Graeme M 0408328782



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