



FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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May 2010

Fryerstown Frolics

- Inside:
- Fryerstown Camp Report
 - Attaching Loops to Nuggets
 - What the Lowly Greenhood means to you

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:

and if possible include and photos as a jpeg file.

Events Calendar

May 2010

Wed 5th: General Meeting.

Fri 14th to Tues 17th: Camp: **Talbot**

Sat 15: PMAV trip to **Tiborburra**

Sat 29th: Social Outing: Ten Pin Bowling **Forrest Hills**

June 2010

Wed 2nd: General Meeting.

Fri 11th to Tues 15th: Special Camp: "Christmas in June" : **Harvest Home**

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**

Front Page

Seekers getting into the Easter spirit with some of the large range of activities that happen at the Easter Camp. We have the Fancy Dress theme of Old Time Gold Seeker and the Easter Bonnet Parade.

Editor's Report

by Ian Semmens

We have got some great reading for you this month. Another article by Graeme M. and the Easter report and photos plus some important information on a very rare orchid. Please keep those articles coming in so we can keep the high standard of the newsletter for all our members to read.

News

by Ian Semmens

Minelab Commander 15" x 12" Elliptical mono coils are in great demand by the Sudanese and currently they are fetching between \$1500 – \$2000 each on ebay! I have spoken to sellers and this is what they have actually been paid. There were 4 sales of this coil two weeks ago that were between \$3,000—and \$3,550 but with some of these sales the buyer reneged payment. DD versions of the same coil are *only* bringing in \$600—\$800 each.

Still on **Minelab**, from now till 30th June, if you purchase a new GPX 4500 you will receive a Commander 15 x 12 Elliptical DD free of charge!

Coiltek have announced a new mono coil to add to their range of Goldstalker coils. It is the 14" Goldstalker round mono coil and it is an spoked design. It is now available and retails for around \$400.00

President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Most of us who have been prospecting for some time have either by chance or deliberate, unearthed with our detectors a mass of artifacts, coins, and other non-metallic objects in the pursuit of our hobby. Hopefully, we still have these collections and some knowledge of where some of it came from and it's his historic significance. Most of the items don't have much monetary value, but still are very interesting as it gives us a window into our forebears lifestyle, much like a museum. Now as we find this stuff, most ends up in a box at the back of our shed, never to be seen again, and probably thrown out as worthless junk by our family on our passing to the great goldfield in the sky. What a loss that would be to lose all the information that these artifacts might contain. It seems logical that we should be in favor of a scheme that can record these finds, their location, where found if possible, and any historic knowledge of the items use. A central data base of this information would give many clues into our ancestors way of life.

Now many of you will know, the Victorian government have laws forbidding us digging up and removing artifacts more than 50 years old from areas that might constitute an archaeological site. The law states that, 'Anyone who excavates or damages an archaeological site older than 50 years without permission faces penalties under the Heritage Act 1995. Technically, we probably may have broken the law in our enthusiasm finding this stuff. This is where the PMAV comes into play.

As part of the PMAV 150 year celebration of the Eureka Rebellion in 2004, 12 demands were placed before the government in the spirit of the original Eureka demands of 1854. One of these was to correct this anomaly by working with Heritage Vic to create a *MEMORANDUM OF CO-OPERATION*, which would allow us to be custodian of our artifacts without penalty if we were to volunteer our information into a data base for future research, also for them to be able to borrow certain items for closer study. A fund may be established whereby important items could be purchased from us. Prospectors are recognized by Heritage to have detailed knowledge of place histories and to identify the age and use of relics which would be of great advantage to them. We may also be invited to participate in some of their excavation projects.

Discussions with the PMAV have been going on for some time and look like continuing for a while yet to get through all the bureaucracy. As part of the VSC's close relationship with the PMAV, Peter Maffey and myself will be representing prospectors in negotiations with Heritage Vic on these matters. We met with the CEO and his advisor last Friday 16 April, and will be meeting again on 10 May, probably in Castlemaine to consolidate our agenda.

In the meantime could anyone interested in these negotiations, please give Peter or myself thoughts on the matter. Watch this space or the Eureka Echo for further news.



Eric detecting at Fryerstown for coins and relics

General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

April's Guest Speaker (Geoff C) I am sorry to say was not present at the meeting.

Paul W, at the last moment, very kindly offered to take the floor on a subject that was part of his earlier life; being that of his War experiences which we all found extremely interesting. He was involved in the construction of military bases and he served from 1939 to 1945 in the civilian army. His involvement in this capacity was of great importance to the War effort freeing up the troops for overseas deployment.

May's guest speakers are Sue K and Lianne F from Mordialloc Lapidary Club and together they will explain how to cut and polish gem stones and then set them in either gold or silver settings --- turning them into a piece of jewellery of some importance.

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.

The Monash Raffle which I am very pleased to announce was very well received by Club members; however I do need any outstanding ticket stubs and money returned by the 5/5/2010 as I must then return these to the Monash Raffle organisers by early May for the draw in early June

April Camp Report

Fryerstown

by Meike Smitts
Photos by Geoff L & Ian S.

Pete and I arrived on Thursday noon and already 15 odd camps were set up, more arriving during the afternoon. The weather looked promising, with some fog that morning. After a sunny day and good prospecting, most enjoyed a nice time around the camp fire with wood collected by Geoff Lee, who returned twice with a carload of logs. Well done Geoff.

The Friday morning saw the CFA truck arriving with sirens blasting for the annual Good Friday Appeal. More campers arrived during the day. Francine and Francois returned to Melbourne early to pick up Tina and her caravan. Tina's car had broken down just before the weekend and was otherwise unable to come. How great is that?! Great camaraderie! Later in the day the marquis was set up by an army of men: Francois, Barry S., Barry W., Ken, Lesley, Peter M., Peter G., The two Bobs, Eric, Heinz, Robert M. Gardener Graham M, Photography by Geoff and supervised by Albert and Milo. Great effort guys, "many hands make light work".

Saturday morning many members headed for the Chewton market to do their bit for the local economy. And again Geoff Lee and Eric returned from detecting with a boot full of wood.



The egg race organized by Francois was held around 5pm and, as usual, created good fun. The 1st prize was taken out by The Hart family, in 2nd place was Lindsay



and Francine, and in 3rd was Peter Mu and Erica. After the race everyone who were attending the Chewton dance went to their van and got dressed for the occasion. The rest of us stayed around a nice campfire that night. The dance was well attended by members who outnumbered the locals. They had an enjoyable evening and contributed to the local fundraising for the Children's Hospital.

Sunday morning saw "The Easter Bunny" roaming the campsite with a basket of chocolate eggs, wishing everyone a Happy Easter. At night, before our dinner, the Easter bonnet parade was held, with some great entries, and it was won by The Easter Bride, Diane B. Then the dress up parade was held and lots of Ooh's and Aah's could be heard. A great effort was



made by all, but nothing could beat the great prospecting pioneers, Geoff and Nola, who took out the prize winning outfit. It was a shame that Nola W was too late to enter the parade, she looked great in a period dress. Great effort Nola.

At around 6.30 dinner was served and as always, a great spread of salads, roast potatoes and vegetables and sweets was laid out with Webber roasts prepared by Lindsay. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A total of 77 meals were served, numbers a bit down from last year. The Door prize of 2 tickets to Sovereign Hill, was won by Sue H. Trivia, put together by Francois, went off without a hitch and it was a very close finish with the winning table 28/30. Poems were recited and Jim C and



Marilyn entertained us with some bush music. Altogether it made a great night for everybody. Monday morning we had the treasure hunt, which was won by Margaret T \$10.00 + \$5.00, Francine \$5.00 in the ladies section and Peter Mu \$10.00, Gerd \$5.00 and Paul \$5.00 in the men's section.

A good weekend was had by all of us and some good gold was found by several members. The total number of bits (some could be called a nugget) found was around 150 totaling between 2.5 to 3 ounces. There were 38 campsites, 34 of which were caravans. We hope to see you again at the next camp.



Peter M detecting on a surfacing area



Chokem Flat Campsite



Ladies Egg Race



A nice 8 grammer

The Lowly Greenhood Orchid and how it affects us

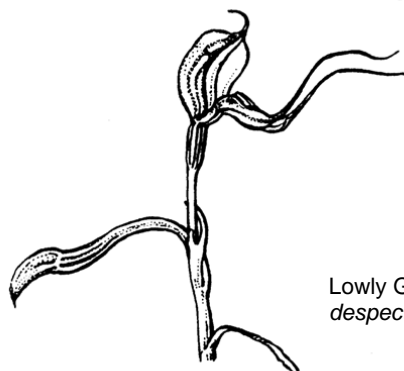
by Ian Semmens

What is the Lowly Greenhood orchid?

The Lowly Greenhood orchid, although once common is now extremely rare to the point where there are only 6 known small occurrences in Victoria. These populations are mainly around Maryborough and Talbot. can be as many as 200 or as little as only 10 plants. This is a plant that for most of the year has a small circle of small leaves at ground level (called a rosette). It sends up a single short stem (2—8 cm) which may flower. During the two to three month flowering period (December to January), it produces up to six short, stout flowers which are translucent grey-green to brown, very similar to the colour of the leaf litter in which it grows. The rosette withers before flowering time.



Lowly Greenhood Rosettes



Lowly Greenhood *Pterostylis despectans*

How does this affect us?

There are some Lowly Greenhood orchids close to the camp and because of this the Talbot campsite is to be shifted to Potters Dam and work - clearing trees, earth-works, campfire pits etc.- has apparently begun to happen. For the next trip it may be ready.

What do you need to do?

All members need to be aware of the presence of this plant and take caution not to step on, dig up or disturb in any manner this rare plant. If you do see it in the bush and it is not the known patch, please report it to Ian S. or Eric G. as the more patches that can be found and Park Vic made aware of, the more that they can understand the extent of these populations. So please keep your eyes open not just for gold, but for these orchids as well!

How I Turned my Gold Nuggets into Pendants

by Graeme Melbourne

With an outlay of around a few hundred dollars you can turn your prized nuggets into gold nugget pendants to give to family or friends. The "DIY" method I have described is only just meant to give a flavour for what is involved, if you are serious about having a go you must start by purchasing an instruction video such as the one by **Jim Foster**, as I did, or attend a gold smithing class.

To hang your gold nugget around your neck, a bail is attached to the nugget from which a chain is looped (see photo below of nuggets to be distributed to my family).



The instruction video gives a comprehensive list of materials (from which I picked the eyes out of) and where they can be purchased. I purchased the 9 ct gold materials, small round pliers and gold flux from "www.aemetals.com.au" over the internet and the hardware from "**Dick Smith**" and **Mitre 10**. The pencil butane torch was from **Dick Smith** (\$12 one should be OK although I purchased the upmarket \$50 one), and high speed polishing tool **Dremel 300** (\$100) from **Mitre 10** (I saw **Aldi** had a similar tool for \$25 recently).

The fun part, which takes a little practice, is the gold soldering. Soldering gold materials together without destroying your nugget or gold attachment is achieved because gold melts at 1300°C and 9 ct gold solder (use "easy" in wire form) melts at 800°C. Firstly, the gold solder is melted to form a ball and then placed against the gold attachment with flux to both. Apply a little heat until the solder melts and runs to the gold attachment. Be quick to remove the flame as soon as the solder starts to run to leave as much of the gold ball of solder intact as possible. The attachment with the ball of solder is brought up to the nugget having had a small flat filed to the attachment point of the nugget. Apply flux again to the contact point then heat nugget to first sign of red starting at the opposite end to the soldering point. Move the flame point to the solder carefully and when the solder runs to the nugget remove immediately to ensure the bulk of the solder

stays at the soldered joint. The nugget is then picked up while still hot with pliers and dropped into a glass jar of dilute HCL (spirits of salts) (Jim Foster says "pickle at \$20 a pop and a jeweller I spoke to uses dilute Sulphuric, Don't think it matters as I found that the HCL did a brilliant job of cleaning and brightening the nugget).

For small nuggets say up to 10 grams the best method is to make a small ring about 3 to 4 mm diameter from 1 mm diameter wire gold (9 ct or 18 ct) with round nose pliers (\$10), which becomes the attachment to be soldered to the nugget. The gold bail is clipped onto the ring from which the gold chain is attached. For larger nuggets (man size) the gold clip on bail (as supplied from aemetals) is a bit flimsy so you can make a more rugged ring from 3 mm x 0.5 mm gold flat bar soldered direct to the nugget from which the gold chain is looped through.

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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.

Gold Price

The price of Gold has risen about US\$35 per troy ounce since our last report. As at 20th April the price per ounce is US\$ 1141.22 (AU\$ 1224.64 per oz. or \$39.37 per gram).

Don't forget to get some tickets for the

MONASH COMMUNITY RAFFLE

First Prize is a new Toyota Corolla

Tickets are \$20.00 for a book of ten.

The Club benefits greatly from the tickets that you buy.

May Outing: June

Harvest Home - Xmas in June



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.

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. 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 the outings or by post .***

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



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Email: info@goldsearchaustralia.com.

Join
the Fun

10-Pin Bowling Night

Where: Level 3, Forest Hills Chase
Shopping Centre
(next to Pancake Parlour and Cinemas)

When: Sat 29th May, 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm
start

Price: \$17.50 for 2 games plus shoes, etc.

How: Let Val (03 9999 9999) or Tina
(03 9999 9999) know one week
before (Fri 21 May.).



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