



# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 31, issue 3

April 2010



## Kingower Capers

- Inside:
- Kingower Camp Report
  - GPX 4500 Settings Part II
  - 30 Year Celebration Poem

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

<b>Family Membership:</b>	<b>\$40.00</b>
<b>Single Membership:</b>	<b>\$35.00</b>
<b>One off joining fee:</b>	<b>\$ 5.00</b>

Subscriptions are due and payable by the 1<sup>st</sup> 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:** Geaeme 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: xxx

and if possible include and photos as a jpeg file.

## Events Calendar

### April 2010

**Thurs 1st to Tuesday 6th:** Easter Camp Fryerstown  
**Wed 7th:** General Meeting.  
**Sun 25th:** Beach Outing: Mt Martha

### May 2010

**Wed 5th:** General Meeting.  
**Fri 14th to Mon 17th:** Camp: Talbot  
**Sat 15:** PMAV trip to Tibooburra  
**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 2nd:** General Meeting.  
**Fri 9th to Tues 12th:** Camp: TBA

## Front Page

Seekers gather around the monument put in the place where the Hand of Faith nugget was found, not far from the Kingower Camp.

## Editor's Report

*by Ian Semmens*

Please note above the corrected date and location for the Beach outing in April.

Again, many thanks for all those that have contributed articles. Please keep them coming so that we can have a great newsletter.

## News

Eric has organized a team to compete in the Gold Panning Championships at Lake Wendouree. We look forward to hear how they went. Results will be published in the next newsletter.

We welcome new members:

- Peter & David Woodland
- Luciano & Dianne Beandolin
- David Kleesh ( re-joining after a long break)

We wish you a enjoyable time at the meetings and on the outings and the best of luck in finding treasures.

Murray Hall is getting better and is now home. Hopefully we will see you on the goldfields soon!

# President's Report

by Eric Grummett

Now with all the 30 year distractions out of the way, we can now focus ourselves on the pursuit of the yellow stuff.

The last camp at Kingower proved how determined we are to get out and have a go. We had 50 members in attendance on the wettest weekend in the memory of the club. I think it exceeded last July's washout at Gypsy Flat.

It is now time for a gripe from your leader. At the end of the last camp it wasn't a good look at the way some members left their site. Due to the heavy rain, anywhere off the tracks become quite boggy resulting in many wheel ruts. As it was necessary to create dam water diversions around many camps, in their hasty retreat from the weather these disturbances were not repaired. Also some small trees were damaged.

The remaining members managed to make things look better by raking out the mud and tidying up the vegetation. The Victorian Seekers Club enjoys a great reputation with Parks Victoria and other land managers built up over many years, and even though we were only in State Forest we must maintain the highest standard possible while out camping in the bush and prospecting. Parks Victoria are currently studying bush camping and ways to keep us out of many areas, so we must not give them any reason to act on it.

There you are, I've said that, I'm sure you all get the message. Next time I'll be after those responsible with a big stick.

See you all at Chokem Flat (now there's another idea!)

# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

March's Guest Speaker was Doug King who gave a very informative presentation on the history of the formation of the Water Police to its present day operations up until his retirement.

He is currently on call to the Pilot Service where he transports the Pilots out to the container boats and other large boats that are entering Port Phillip Bay who guide these boats down the channel to Port Melbourne and to their designated harbour births. All of these boats take approximately 3 km to stop and on the Captains Bridge they can only see up to a kilometre in front of these boats. I believe that from the bottom of the boat to the sea floor it is only a few metres of open water.

April's Guest Speaker is Dr Geoff Crawford who will give us an insight into what can be recovered from deceased estates.

I believe that this is one of his many forms of employment.

Fossickin' Round

# Club Auction June General Meeting

2/6/2010

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.**

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.



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## Kingower, Part One

by Fiona Shvemer

Thank you to Francine, Tina and Val who "offered" me the opportunity to write this camp newsletter. I had a cup of tea with the girls, and next thing I knew I had a new job. So everyone be careful who you drink tea with!!

Despite the torrential rain in Melbourne, Bendigo and surrounding areas, 49 people (in 32 camps) braved the wet and went to Kingower. It was great to see James and Dave at Kingower as we have not seen them in recent times.

Saturday was a lovely day, sunny, dry and perfect gold detecting weather. The rain started on Saturday evening, slowly at first. Many "huddled" under Tina and Val's caravan tarp waiting for the raffle to be drawn, trying not to get too wet.

The raffle included an umbrella, which surprisingly was not the first item to be chosen. As usual the raffle was a wonderful success, with nearly all tickets sold. One item that was left over from the previous raffle (a pair of blue trousers) was again not "chosen". Although Dave did genuinely win 2 raffle prizes, he was also "given" the trousers, as it seems that they were not a good fit for anyone else. Well done Dave!!

Sunday morning several cars drove over to the new monument to "The Hand of Faith". Many photos were taken of each person or each couple holding the plaster "mock-up" of The Hand of Faith. The pretend version was reasonably heavy to hold, so I can only imagine how heavy the real version was to hold. Lindsay did a wonderful job of taking photos of everyone from a height – Lindsay stood on a kitchen type stool precariously balancing in the soft, muddy soil surrounding the monument. I'm not sure that this practice would stand up to "occupational safety" standards, but the photos were worth the risk!!

Some people went out to the Inglewood pub for dinner on Sunday night. Francine organised everyone to do so. Thank you again to Francine for getting everyone (especially me) organised. It was touch and go as to whether Francine and Francois would be able to continue organising, when they got their car bogged on Saturday night, driving around "rounding" everyone up for the raffle.

Many left early (including us) on Monday as the rain looked like it had well and truly settled in. So not much gold was found at Kingower, but many gold stories were shared!!

### Gold Price

The price of Gold has dropped back about US\$50 per troy ounce since our last report. As at 21st March the price per ounce is US\$ 1106.70 (AU\$ 1208.63 per oz. or \$38.86 per gram).

Val and I arrived at the Kingower camp on Friday afternoon, coming through torrential rain, which at times was quite scary. We had lots of help setting up the annex, luckily the rain had let up for a while.

Marty arrived from Adelaide, we haven't seen him for ages. He, John and Joan and David travelled up to Wedderburn Jamboree to try their luck for a 4500 in all the rain. The event managed to go ahead, with Dave the only one of them to find any tokens which won him 2 prizes, a coil and a torch. Such a shame the rain decided to come this weekend. At least it wasn't cold.

It was still raining Saturday evening, but thanks to Francine rounding everyone up and herding them under our annex, the raffle was a great success. Eric nearly ruined the event by almost setting the annex on fire when his umbrella caught alight while holding it too close to the gas lantern, lucky the rain put it out. James appeared like a wraith in the night and melted away again. It was nice to see David also. There was 52 people in 32 camps in attendance, not bad for a predicted wet weekend that gave us about 3 inches of rain.

On Sunday morning the rain held off long enough for us to have our token hunt which was won by Peter Maffey and Don Pinsent. We then drove up to Kingower to see the new monument erected by the PMAV at the exact spot of the discovery of 870 oz Hand of Faith nugget by Kevin Hillier on 19 Sep 1980. With the use of Eric's replica we got some great photos. The walking ladies hoofed it back to camp just before the heavens opened up again. Sunday night saw 23 of us in the Royal Hotel in Inglewood for some respite from the rain and a meal and what a good meal it was.

Despite the poor conditions we managed to uncover about 20 small nuggets up to 3.5 gram. One Lady member, while driving into Inglewood in her husband's 4WD on her own, decided to go down an unknown bush track to do the dutiful research to find hubby a bit of new ground to detect. After going only 50meters in 2WD, she promptly got bogged to the axles in the first puddle. Luckily Peter Maffey found her stranded beside the main road while on his way home and he managed to flag down a passing Loddon Shire tip truck who came to the rescue. Exit one very embarrassed wife that had to come up with a good excuse for the car coming back to camp covered in mud. I think 4WD lessons are on the agenda in that household before she gets the keys in the bush again.

See you all at the Easter camp Fryerstown. Don't forget your salads and sweets.

### !!! STOP PRESS !!!

It has been reported that a 4.5 oz nugget was found at this camp by a friend of Woody using one of his modified detectors.

# Kingover, Photos

by Geoff Lee

For More Photos go to the website at:

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/seekers/web/index.html>



Sheltering from the rain



Token Hunt



Paul

Jhie

Seekers Oldest & Youngest members - 90 & 3 Years



Hand of Faith Monument

Fossickin' Round

April 2010

# Members Contributions

## Seekers

by Maree Silver

5<sup>th</sup> February 1980 – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2010

They wander beaches, hills and gullies follow trails used by their forefathers to search out relics, coins and gold fossick for those hidden treasures.



The detector's beep sets pulses racing dust, heat and flies are all ignored they pound hard clay and dig soft sand to find what no-one's found before.

The Seekers Club continues to grow prospecting skills are shared with others members have their own collections of fascinating memorabilia, new and old.

Regular camps, organized by Committee – in the golden triangle or Australia wide are well attended by hardy campers, in caravans, tents, and even the gazebo.

Firm friendships form around the campfire and tales of exploits freely flow new members are welcome to join the circle tell their stories, rest in the glow.

Celebrating their 30th birthday with balloons and speeches, cake and photos one hundred and forty folk are seated at the party at Wheelers Hill Hotel.

May the Club continue long into the future as more people are drawn by that instinct of old wishing luck to these modern day treasure hunters who seek and find much more than gold.

(c) Maree Silver

Written following the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victorian Seekers Club

# Field Testing the GPX 4500 Part 2

by Graeme Melbourne

In my previous article testing the GPX-4500 my goal was to try to find optimum timing and audio settings for various sized copper targets buried at various depths using the standard 11" mono coil as supplied with the detector.

I must confess to being besotted with the GPX-4500 using the "Enhance" timing mode as it was amazingly quiet compared with my previous detector the GPX-3500 with a "Mono" coil, thus allowing me to pick up lots of sub-gram bits on spots that where I could not get any more bits with the GPX-3500 using the "Double D". Having explored the various setting combinations the next step was to look for improvement in depth capability with larger coils both in "Mono" and "Double D" configuration. (I only included the "Double D" later as I was under the misapprehension that the GPX-4500 was designed primarily to tap the advantage of the "Mono" in mineralised ground). My testing did indeed confirm that the larger coils do give stronger signals on larger, deeper targets. I was pleasantly surprised with the degree of improvement from the 8" Mono through 11" 16" and 18" using the "Enhanced" timing mode. The "Double D" coils performed poorly compared to the "Monos" in the "Enhanced" timing mode. However when switching to "Normal" timing mode the larger "Double D" coils gave equal to slightly better signals than the "Mono" and ground noise was only slightly higher than the "Mono" in the "Enhanced" timing mode. I did not include sub-gram targets in the testing but the "Mono" coil is reputed to be more effective on sub-gram nuggets at depth than the "Double D coil (I did pick up a 1.5 gram nuggets with the 11" Mono" at around 6" with the GPX-4500 in highly mineralised ground using "Enhanced" timing mode and have heard of sub-gram bits picked up at even greater depths). In summary when looking for big nuggets at depth, don't throw away your large "Double D" coils when upgrading to a GPX-4500 as the depth capability in "Normal" timing mode is comparable to the "Mono" in the "Enhance" timing mode. The test result sheet with subjective 0-10 grading of signal is shown below.

## Timing "Enhance"

COILS/TARGETS	4gm/8"depth	8gm/12"depth	25gm/15"depth	60gm/17"depth
11"x5" D/D Elliptical	0	0	0	0
11" D/D Round	2	1	1	0
17"x13" D/D Elliptical	2	1	3	1
19"D/D Round	3	1	5	2
8" Mono Round	1	0	1	0
11" Mono Round	4	1	5	2
16" Mono Round	5	2	7	5
18" Mono Round	5	3	7	6

## TIMING "NORMAL"

COILS/TARGETS	4gm/8"depth	8gm/12"depth	25gm/15"depth	60gm/17"depth
17"x13" D/D Elliptical	4	2	5	7
19"D/D Round	6	4	8	8

## GPX fixed Settings:

Volume Limit: 8  
 GB Type: General  
 Motion Very Slow  
 Audio Tone: 38  
 Audio: Quiet  
 Gain: 15  
 Stabiliser: 10  
 Signal :20  
 Target Volume: 15 (speaker used)  
 Ground Balance: fixed



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## Comments:

The "Response" default was "Normal" but "Invert" used where necessary to centre positive response over target. "Invert" shown as shaded cell. In terms of suppression of ground signals, "Enhance" Timing was extremely quiet, whilst in "Normal" timing, the 17"x13" Elliptical was reasonably quiet and the 19" round was a little quieter only marginally more noisy than "Enhance" timing. The signal response in all cases was inverted in changing from "Enhance" to "Normal" and visa/versa.

## May Outing: Talbot

Friday 14th to Monday 17th May

**Emergency Info:** Call 000. *Police:* 24-hr,  
16 Campbell Street (North 'behind' CBD) 5460 3300 .  
*Hospital:* Maryborough Clarendon Street (North  
'behind' CBD) 5446 1277.

**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. Tickets for two to Sovereign Hill  
valued at \$79.00 (The Diggers Hut)
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 the outings or by post .***

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

## Easter Camp at Fryerstown

April Thurs 1st to Tues 6th

Another exciting camp. Fun for everyone!!

### SATURDAY:

- ☺ Chewton Market - handicraft and produce from local stall traders; all day, next to the Albion Hotel.
- ☺ Egg race - 5pm. Ladies' event followed by Men's. Balance a hard boiled egg in a holder on your detector and run a short course through camp.
- ☺ Chewton Old Time Dance - After dinner in hall behind the Albion Hotel. Club will provide supper.

### SUNDAY:

- ☺ Easter Bunny - Sunday morning visit by the Easter Bunny with Easter Eggs.

☺ Men's and Ladies' **Easter bonnet (hat) competition**, also a **Fancy Dress competition** - Dress in the style of the old diggers and ladies of the 1850's. This will be held Sunday evening before dinner.

**Roast Dinner - 6.30pm.** ☺ Choice of 3 different meats: pork, lamb or beef. The cost is \$3.00 per person.

**Please bring salads and sweets.**

Keep your dinner ticket for the Door Prizes.

- ☺ Games for all ages and genders.
- ☺ Songs, sing along, sketches, jokes, etc. This is your chance to present an act. Go on, Have a Go!

### MONDAY:

- ☺ Special Easter treasure hunt. Men's and Ladies' events.

**Be there and join in the fun . . .**



## Special Outing

Mt Martha  
Beach Outing  
Sunday 25th April

There is a Electric BBQ so bring your own food and drinks and have a BBQ for lunch.



Please don't forget about the Bowling Night on May 29th. Details are in next month's newsletter

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