



# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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March 2010



**We Celebrate 30 years of the Seekers**



**Inside: Xmas Party Report  
Chute Camp Report  
GPX 4500 Settings**



**Past Presidents**

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.

# President's Report

by Eric Grummett

What a party we had for the Seeker's 30th Anniversary (see Val's report), with over 140 guests, it shows how strong the club is in supporting such an event, surely demonstrating the club's viability.

I would like to thank Val and Tina for all the hard work put in organizing such a successful day, Margaret Tricker for the fantastic birthday cake, Ian Semmens for the historical video, and also Francois's "presidential hall of fame" photographic display.



At last we got a chance to meet many non-prospecting spouses of the club; honestly, it's amazing how some pretty rough prospectors have such attractive wives, not at all what I expected. You girls surely put up with a lot from us absentee husbands, or is that an advantage not having to look at him for a few days. Let's all look forward to our 40th.

We have been donated a lot of valuable prizes to benefit our club in recognition of our 30th year, including an 'E-TRAC' metal detector from Minelab valued at \$1800 and many other valuable prizes (charmed off the dealers by Francine). It has been decided to run a \$5 raffle during the year, hoping everybody will buy at least 1 ticket, so please support it and make it a success.

I have been researching (my other hat) where we have been over the last 30 years and come up with the following figures; trips to the goldfields of Victoria - 340, beach outings - 22, pokie trips to NSW - 5, scout camps - 10, Western Australia - 3, Tibooburra - 5, and many other interesting places. Put end to end we have travelled about 200,000km. No wonder I have worn out four trucks. Breaking down individual Golden Triangle trips, our most popular have been; Fryerstown 33, Talbot 19, Chute 17, Amherst 14, Heathcote 13, Moliagul 10, Mountain Hut 9, and Number Two Lead 9. We must have found some gold thereabouts.

On our next trip to Kingower we can visit the new monument in place at the site of the discovery of the 875oz. Hand of Faith nugget just up the road from camp put in place by a PMAV member. We can also travel up the road to Wedderburn to compete in their Detector Jamboree token hunt for a GPX-4500.

Good luck next month.

# Sponsors

# A BIG THANK YOU

to the following firms or individuals who have made generous donations toward the Club's 30th Anniversary celebration:

- ☺ Minelab Electronics  
- Ian Aitken



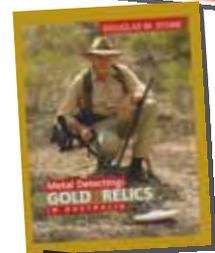
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- Frank Wallis



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- Darren Kemp



# General Meetings

by Graeme Silver

Last month Peter Walsh from the Melbourne Antique Bottle Club gave us a very interesting presentation on his bottle collection that has grown over the years to where it has been recognised as one of the largest private collections. Ears pricked up when it was mentioned that at one of his digs 8 gold sovereigns were unearthed at 12.8 metres. We can only imagine what we would find at that depth when we are out detecting.



The Guest Speaker for March will be **Doug King from Yachting Victoria** who will give us an insight into Power Boating etc. and at some stage of our lives we have all witnessed various luxury pleasure craft right down to jet skis which are capable of speeds from 0—80 kph in 2.9 seconds and top speeds of well over 100 kph. In America one particular film clip that caught my eye that was placed on YouTube was of four people that purchased an aluminium boat with a small outboard engine and these people went around to various islands as well as the mainland underwater metal detecting for well over 11 years and between them they mentioned that they had recovered well over 10,000 rings in that time period. In the future there could be members who would do something along these lines. Who knows.

## GUEST SPEAKERS REQUIRED

It can be on any topic of interest to that member (or members in general). These speakers should belong to a Club or Society. However, the **Vice President Graeme Silver**, would appreciate that all prospective Speaker's names plus Club or Society and Home Phone Numbers are either written down and handed to him at the General Meeting or emailed to xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Also my Home Phone Number is xxxx xxxx. These prospective speakers will be contacted by the Vice President and dates for when the Speakers can come will be arranged.

## Gold Price

The price of Gold continues to hold firm and looks like it will remain at this level for a while. As at 27th February the price per ounce is US\$ 1170.70 (AU\$ 1248.64 per oz. or \$40.14 per gram).

## Find of the Month

Ron W  
*Coombes Token*



Coin

## Honourable Mention

Warren  
*7gm crystalline nugget*



Nugget

## Honourable Mention

Peter S.  
*15gm nugget*



Nugget



Wedderburn Detector Jamboree  
6th & 7th March 2010

At Hard Hill Tourist Reserve  
Cost: \$30 for both days, or \$20 for Sunday

**Sunday Major Draw**  
**GPX 4500 Detector**

**Sponsored by Minelab Electronics**

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## AUSTRALIAN GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



20th March 2010  
Lake Wendouree,  
Ballarat

Major Prize:  
Trip to 2010  
World Championships In Czech Republic  
5 Categories, Novelty Events

# Christmas Party Report

## Wicks Reserve, The Basin

by Bob Hill  
Photos by Dale Johnson

Despite a little rain in the morning, the sun shone for us in the afternoon. 65 members, friends and family attended. We were restricted to the main rotunda due to other bookings.



The children enjoyed the hay hunt and the goodies they were rewarded with. Old Ho, Ho arrived. Sadly, there were only 10 children to meet him.

The numbers are getting smaller each year. The token hunt was held. Smitsy, the first name on the new perpetual trophy with 35 finds. Thomas found the lucky key.



Paul drew out the lucky door prize tickets. Hampers were won by Denise, Eric, Francine and Thomas. Francine then thanks all who attended and those who did the hard work setting up.

President Eric also thanked his committee and helpers, wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and promised an eventful year.



Thomas receiving the Luck Key prize from Eric

There is a lot of work behind the scenes to make this day the huge success that it is each year and this event was no exception.

Would love to see more children? After all, this event is for the young ones. So start breeding if you are young enough.



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# January Camp Report

## Chute Camp

by Virginia Lake  
Photos by Geoff Lee

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010



Detecting location near the camp

Bob and I arrived Friday night at 11.00pm and was quite amazed there was no Field Officer to direct us into a camp site, we slept on the side of the track for the night! ! On our way to Chute, at Burrumbeet on the Western Highway, we saw a CFA Strike Team getting ready to be deployed to the large bush fire in the Grampians National Park which was started as a result of a lightning strike and travelling at a furious pace threatening the town of Dadswells Bridge. Jan, who was at the fire as a CFA volunteer later told us it burnt 17,000 hectares and there was a total of 190 vehicles, including CFA, DSE and personnel vehicles. John Billings told me he and Liz lay awake listening to the radio for reports on the fire wondering if they should evacuate as the fire was only approximately 50 kilometres from the camp and with the strong winds could cover that distance quite quickly.



Warren digging a hole watched by Lindsay and Peter

There were 19 camps and 4 day visitors, quite a large camp for this time of year. The weather was reasonably kind to us and was not too hot.

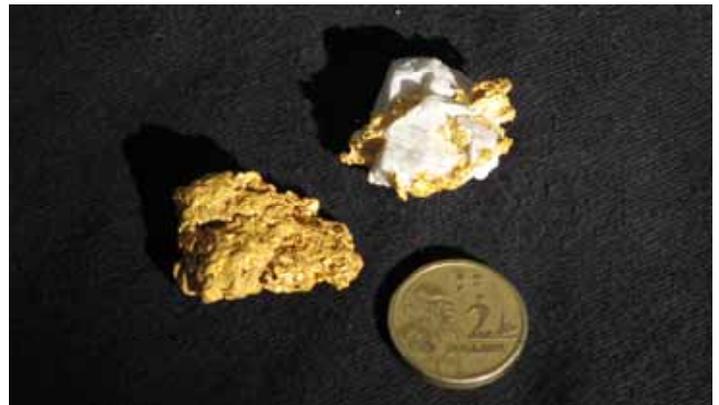
We had 2 happy hours, one to christen Lindsay's new 17 foot Roadstar caravan and another to christen Alfred and Alwyn's Cub Super-max camper trailer. The new detectors must be paying off.

Sixteen of us went to the Beaufort Hotel Sunday night and enjoyed a very nice meal. The ladies walking group was down to 2, myself and Francine.



Christening Lindsay's new van

Every year on the Australia Day weekend there is a Hippy Festival held in the Beaufort – Lexton area. This year it was held at Lexton with 12,000 people in attendance. Our campsite was approximately 8 kilometres away, however, you would think it was just down the road, we listened to the "doof, doof, doof, doof" all through the night and most of the day. Good gold was found.



Some nuggets found on this camp

[Editor] There was a total of 46 nuggets with the biggest being 15 grams found on the surface near some very minor diggings. This just proves that there are areas that are well worth exploring in this goldfield. The last of the campers left Thursday and a good time was had by all.

# 30th Anniversary Lunch

by Geoff Lee  
Photos by Geoff and Francine

About 140 club members and guests attended the club's 30th Anniversary Lunch at the Wheeler's Hill Hotel; with numerous putting in the effort and coming from regional Victoria and interstate. Special guests included Rita Bentley, President of PMAV.

The function room at the hotel was only large enough to accommodate about 100 people but fortunately there was lots of space just outside in the main dining area. Lunch was mostly served promptly and everyone moved into the function room for speeches, presentations and door prizes.



Francine and Eric help Paul cut the club's birthday cake

Club President Eric Grummett gave a fine speech that reminisced the past, peeped into the future and thanked everyone for their contributions. Rita Bentley also spoke, and told of the club's relationship with PMAV. She was also generous in praising the club's organisation and efforts. (Thanks, Rita!)



Seekers cake made by Margaret Tricker

Bob Hill gave a stand-up of past 'incidents' in the club that had some looking sheepish but everyone laughing and enjoying the occasion. After the speeches, Ian Semmens gave a presentation of a collection of videos from the early days.

Peter Smits won the Bluey Award for most finds at last year's Christmas Party's Treasure Hunt. And a special Appreciation Award was presented to Francois and Francine Gilbert for their contributions over the years. Including for example, the Club Stand at last year's PMAV AGM at Heathcote and the club's previous Presidents display at the entrance to the function room.



Part of the function room during speeches

For the lunch, the club set up a 30th Anniversary Lunch Sub-committee. Many thanks go to those involved on the sub-committee, various others who helped behind the scenes and especially the club's social secretaries Val Lippingwell and Tina Whelan.



Social Secretaries Tina and Val

# Detecting Articles

## Field Testing the GPX 4500

### Part 1

by Graeme Melbourne

I have been using the Mine-Lab-GPX 4500 for almost 12 months in the Maryborough-Talbot area with moderate success on small shallow gold using settings passed to me from experienced detector operators. However larger and deeper nuggets seemed to be out of reach with the settings I have been using. Thus I thought it was time to do some testing for myself, hopefully discovering the magic silver bullet settings for the elusive larger gold.



So armed with my scientific background from a past life, I carried out a quick and dirty programme of testing. From my understanding of the operation of the GPX-4500, the critical parameters are the timings and the audio settings with other parameters such as gain, stability, signal, being in the "tweaking" category. Thus to keep the testing as simple and manageable as possible, I used the audio settings of "Quiet", "Normal", "Deep", "Boost" for the timing settings of "Sensitive Extra", "Sharp", and "Sensitive Smooth" and each of these for gain settings of 10, 12, and 15. For each of the elements of the matrix, I used a subjective 0-10 mark for the detector response. Settings held constant were, Motion very slow, Audio tone 38, Stabilizer 10, Signal 20, Volume limit 8, GB type General, Frequency 128. I also checked between "Normal" and "Inverted" mode response from time to time.

Thus hopefully to find improved setting I used my standard "Enhanced" timing, Audio "Quiet" and gain of 15 setting with the other settings as above as the baseline for the testing.

My test site was an area of mineralised ground with shallow surfacing and intersecting reefs off Nuggetty Gully road Talbot, typical of conditions in the Maryborough-Talbot area.

The targets were copper with weights of 25 gram, 8 gram, and 4 gram at depths of 15", 12" and 8" respectively buried in backfilled augured holes.

Whilst I did not find the magic silver bullet settings, some of the results surprised me.

I found that "Sharp" followed by "Sensitive Extra" and lastly "Sensitive Smooth" in that order gave the best timing responses. In terms of the Audio settings, "Normal" had the best response with "Quiet" the least responsive. The gain setting was not that critical with only a marginal improvement for increased setting. The 4 gram at 8" and the 25 gram at 15" gave better responses than the 8 gram at 12". The default "standard" settings for the test proved to be only a little behind in response of the optimum settings. I could pick up the 4 gram at 8" deep and the 25 gram at 15" deep but the signal was almost lost for the 8 gram target at 12" deep. When flipping between the "Normal" and "Inverted" response modes sometimes on "Normal" mode the shallow target gave an offset response and the deep target a centred response (on "Inverted" the reverse would have occurred), this was unexpected as is not what the manual suggests.

Sadly, the optimised settings for depth determined from my testing, that is "Sharp" timing with the audio on "Normal", "Deep" or "Boost", proved to be unworkable in detecting the general area, even with gain reduced to say 5. The only effective timing for the mineralised ground that predominates in the Maryborough-Talbot is the "Enhance" timing. I suspect that you can play around with trade offs between the Audio, settings, the gain, and the stability to "tweak" up the system to your own particular needs but the "Enhance" is the only practical timing to use for comfortable quiet operation detecting in mineralised ground conditions.

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## April Outing:

Friday 5th to Tuesday 9th April 2010  
(Easter Weekend)

NO FIRES!  
Fill up your holes

**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.

## Are you getting the Newsletter by email?

If not, please think about it.

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- It benefits the club.

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