

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 issue 2

March/April 2016



*36 gram nugget
found at January Camp*

Inside This Issue

Harvest Home Camp Report

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Recent Gold Finds

Aussie Road Trip



*Member's Find:
46 gram nugget*



The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. (A0001477T)

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: \$55.00

Single Membership: \$45.00

One-off joining fee: \$10.00 single, \$20.00 family.

Subscriptions are due and payable from the 1st of July each year.

Members whose current subscription are in arrears on the first day of September shall automatically cease to be members and can only be re-admitted upon payment of both the annual subscription and a joining fee.

Website: <http://seekers.metapath.org/>

email: eric.grummett@bigpond.com

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Lindsay TRICKER,

Club management/ representation, Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers. email;

SECRETARY: John CLOSE

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTTSON

Budget, finance matters (other than subscriptions)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution email:

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Robyn IBBOTTSON

Subscriptions, membership records,

RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity.

CATERING SUPERVISOR: Jim & Maureen LAUNDY

SOCIAL SECRETARIES: Val LIPPINGWELL

Tina WHELAN

Organizing social functions, raffles, theatre bookings, etc.

ALMONER: Louise McGOUGH

Contact on matters of personal nature, weddings, bereavement, etc.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

CLOTHING OFFICER: Nuvolari SENEVIRANE

LIBRARY: Peter MAFFEY

FIELD OFFICERS: Bob LAKE, Mick SCHOTT, Brian McGOUGH,

Graham MEE & Alistair McKNIGHT

Events Calendar

March

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 10th - Tues 15th: Camp Wedderburn

Thurs. 24th - Tues 29th: Easter Camp Fryerstown

April

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 14th - Tues 19th: Camp Creswick

May

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 12th - 17th: Camp Havelock

June

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Thurs. 9th - Tues 14th: Camp Redcastle

July

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 14th - Tues 19th: Camp TBA

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President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

Following on from my last report which dealt with the history concerning camp permits and the new fee of \$123.30 charged by Parks Victoria for camp sites under their control. I will now bring members up to date with our application for a permit for our Easter camp at Chokem Flat, Fryerstown – our usual site. A reply has finally been received by our secretary informing us that the fee will remain at \$123.30. Thus we assume the amount of the fee is not dependent on estimated attendance numbers. In the meantime the vice-president, Eric has been speaking with the Shire office responsible for the Fryerstown area, asking whether the disused Cricket-ground can be used by us for camping on. We have received a positive response – a fee of \$75 will be charged and we will have to include them as an interested party under our Public Liability Insurance policy. This cost will be paid by the club. Also the committee has decided that the cost of the roast dinner will also be covered this year. That leaves only the salads and sweets to be supplied, as usual, by the members. Please refer to the Fryerstown map and Eric's Vice-president's report for details of the camp location and entry for larger vans.

Our recent camp at Norburys Road, Talbot, which was situated in State Forest controlled by the Forest Service and therefore no charge, ended up being bigger than expected when the Bendigo Club arrived at the same site.

They had not applied for a permit, and were unaware of recent changes to legislation, and only heard of our presence when they read our newsletter. As the camp site is quite large we invited them to join us. Our secretary, John Close, explained the permit requirements to their vice-president and gave them copies of old permits we had received from both the Forest Service and Parks Victoria.

I rather suspect that other clubs will endeavour to avoid the impost charged by Parks Vic. And apply only to the Forest Service. This will inevitably lead to congestion or un-availability of our chosen sites in the future. We will counter this by applying much earlier. However the sites within the State Forests will reach a stage when they will be in almost continuous use and I can see the possibility of the Management Committees closing the camp sites

down to allow the site to recover. All this will pale into insignificance if the proposed "Great Forest National Park" is created. This proposed National Park would eventually encompass the entire central Victorian Gold Fields. At present detecting in existing national parks is quite restricted and of course no dogs are allowed whatsoever and camping generally attracts a fee charged per day and per caravan or tent An organisation has been set up to counter this move – 'The Public Land Access Council Inc.' Our club has made an initial donation to assist the creation of this group.

Expect to have further reports in the future on the progress of this proposed National Park. If it succeeds then our hobby of camping and detecting for gold will be just a memory. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you



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General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

At our February meeting, we had as guest speaker, retired geologist Peter Jackson who has a wealth of knowledge in the occurrence of gold, and why it is 'where we find it'. He has spent a life in the field consulting with mining companies and in teaching the subject. He displayed in great detail the indicators that show the best prospects for gold recovery and why Victoria has the biggest and purest nuggets, possibly in the world. Now armed with all this information we can expect big things (nuggets) from all you Seekers.

For our March meeting we will have Ron (Bottle-oh) Dehann to talk bottle collecting. Anyone who has any old bottles, bring them along for an assessment.

Our speaker for April will be Andrew Bales, another very experienced field geologist with many years of hands on searching for minerals, especially gold. Andrew is also hooked on metal detecting for the magic metal and can give us further knowledge on where to look and surface indicators. He was until recently the vice president of the PMAV. Andrew is a close friend of our previous speaker Peter Jackson, and will compliment his talk from the eye of the detectorist.

Lindsay was awarded the Find of Month with his nice 18gm nugget from Harvest Home.

Due to all the bureaucratic problems we are having with Parks Victoria, we decided to change the location of our very popular Easter Camp at Fryerstown. We have been lucky to obtain a permit from the Mount Alexander Shire to camp on the old unused Fryerstown Cricket Ground. It is somewhere different, and is worth a try this year. If restrictions allow, those with fire boxes or a brazier bring them along, as we are not sure if it's a good idea to dig a fire pit on the cricket pitch. The Ground is easy to find, check our map on page 15.

Talking of new camp sites, our camp for April will be the Northcott Park in Creswick, which is controlled by the Hepburn Shire. It is another unused recreation reserve, so the fire arrangements will be the same as Fryerstown. We haven't been to Creswick for many years due to the old campsite becoming overgrown, and a lack of any other area big enough for us. The Shire have kindly allowed us to use this reserve free of charge, which is only a short walk downtown along one of the many walking tracks in the area. There will be a market in town for that weekend. The Shire hopes that we will support the local businesses with our presence in the area. The park is at the edge of town, just off the Melbourne Rd, enter from Semmens Avenue.



Peter Jackson explaining some of the geological concepts at the last meeting.

Almoner's Report

By Louise Gough

Eric Grummett has had a knee replacement, he is currently home and doing well. A get well card has been sent on behalf of the club.

Margaret Hollis' daughter, Linda, had a brain tumour removed. The good news is it is benign but she has a road to recovery. A get well card has also been sent on behalf of the club.

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Faith	500gm	4mm	600mm
Jewel	450gm	4mm	450mm



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Find of the Month: February

Lindsay T.
Nugget 18g.



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Disclaimer:

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect that of the VSC Committee.

New Members

- Ray and Julie NOVOSEL



Welcome and Good Luck!

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The Club's Polo shirts are great for this summer.
Shirts are only \$30.00 each, it's a bargain!!
Fleecy Jackets only \$35.00 and caps \$10.00

Available at the meeting and at the camps.

See Nuvolari SENEVIRANE

Safe Detecting

Prospecting is an enjoyable activity however there are some inherent dangers on the goldfields.

- Take care around any open shaft and when walking through the bush.
- Carry a mobile phone and water and the usual emergency provisions such as GPS, compass, first aid kit, torch, matches, UHF radio, snack bar.
- Be aware of hazards such as snakes.
- It is not advisable to prospect alone. Team up with a mate.
- And be SunSmart. Slip on a shirt, Slop on some sunscreen, and Slap on a hat.



Members are responsible for their own safety!

Remember:

to be considerate of others if you feel that you must use a generator.



Don't use it close to other campers, take measures to mitigate the sound such as put it in a ditch or use a sound baffle, don't run it all day, and observe the 9:00 pm cut off time

We encourage you to consider charging batteries with a solar panel instead of a generator.

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January Camp Report

Harvest Home

By Shirley Schubach

This camp was held in the Harvest Home State Park about 6 kilometers from Dunolly. The weather was great for the "Australia Day" camp, with some people lucky enough to take leave on the Monday.

Friday evening campers had to shelter from a earth refreshing downpour which saw the camp site flooded for a short while, lucky all camps were set up prior to the downpour. It was reported that 17mm had fallen in the Maryborough area, this was very much welcomed as the landscape was very parched and thirsty

The weekend weather was a perfect for detecting, temperatures around 25 degrees with a lovely breeze, cloud cover, some prospectors were keen to be out and about early, with members heading in various directions

Saturday evening brought excitement, I think one particular find of 36grms created a touch of "gold fever", found by Gary, a guest member of "Matt the Tailor". Club President Lindsay was rewarded with a specimen find which after being cleaned weighed 20grms. In Lindsay's words "It paid for my new coil". There were a number of smaller finds from other fellow prospectors, and congratulations to all of those members who had a "lucky strike". A few missed out but I am sure it won't deter their spirit to be out there looking to find that elusive gold nugget in the future.

The sit around the imaginary fire was fun, we did miss Francois's "fire". The usual discussion and bantering discussion about the days finds. Laurie and I retired a little earlier to the camper trailer, and a short time later a ruckus emerged from our camper. It mystified or amused fellow campers as they couldn't work out if Laurie and I were having a domestic or a little evening fun and it was not until Laurie emerged from the trailer to reveal I had been bitten in 3 places by a large bull ant, which he dispatched. Lindsay came to the rescue with the Stingoes and antihistamines, so a big thanks to ever prepared Lindsay. A reminder to always be prepared for unforeseen events

Sunday night saw campers once again sit together, share a glass or two and discuss the days events or in this case yesteryears events. The evening revealed that some members have hidden acting talents, most of us love British Comedy, have hidden or suppressed acting/singing tal-

ents. There was even a discussion on who went to a so called "better" Technical School? The night heard much laughter under a beautiful evening sky, with the planets literally aligned above us under a beautiful full moon

There were approx 21 members in attendance, most stayed through until Tuesday, with some members choosing to stay until Wednesday

Look forward to catching up with you all soon, until then may your life be filled with good health and laughter, it is the best medicine

Late News: On the last day Frank M. found a +40 gram-nugget.



Frank & Georgena and their dog at the camp.



This beautiful nugget was found at 2 ft in depth in virgin ground and weighed in at 36 grams. Gary is the proud owner of the nugget who followed Matt Kelava this morning with Robert Shannon to a spot Matt found gold many years back. Well done Gary Beer in the nice find.



Rob's 6.8 gram nugget.



Tony P. & David G. enjoy a drink at the end of a day's detecting



Lindsay's 18 gram nugget
After being cleaned up in acid.



Just another non-descript piece of ground and yet this is where the 36 gram nugget of Gary's was found.



Frank's 46 plus gram nugget found on the last day!



...and the rain came down, though thankfully, only briefly.



Golden Orb spider waiting for its prey to be ensnared in its web..

October Camp Report

Talbot

by Graham Mee

Yet another great Monthly Camp with 24 members and 5 day visitors in attendance and it was good to see Eric on a short visit to the camp getting used to his new leg repair.

We were also joined by the Bendigo Prospecting Club as there had been a double booking for the camp site. This did not present any problems however as we all share the same interest in our outdoor activities, in fact they did quite a lot of Coil testing with various Makes and sizes of Coils on Loan from the Manufacturers and some of the results were very impressive.

The Saturday night raffle went off quite well with the President doing the honors by running the whole show. Well done Lindsay and watch out Val & Tina as you might have some competition there.

The nights were passed away around various members sites where drinks, nibbles, old jokes and downright whoppers were shared by all.

The weather was very kind to us as we suffered only two very hot days with the nights cooling down which made for a good nights sleep and ready for the next day's slog.

The gold count was again very impressive with a total of 84 recorded pieces with the biggest nuggets among them being a 15, 13, 7, 4.5 & 2 at 3 gram, and made for a total estimate of just over 2 Ounces. Now who was it that said all the gold is gone at Talbot ?

The camp ended with nearly all members leaving on Tuesday and the remaining on Wednesday.

All in all, a great camp, shared by a great crowd.

See you at the next camp.....be there.



Kay & Virginia
Taking
it easy
at the
camp.



John C. looking very happy with his 3 gram nugget.



Geoff K's great
15.29 gram
nugget
detected using
the GPZ 7000
on virgin
ground.



Alistair's
13.1 g.
and 6.6g.
nuggets



Claude & Lars.



Bob H., Tony and Nola P.



The Three Wise Monkeys.



Rob's 3 grammer.



Talbot campsite.



Round the pretend campfire Saturday Night.

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Gold Price Report



spades, pistols, sluices and pans. It was the “bling” of its day and represented diggers’ claims for legitimacy and power.

M.A.D.E has gathered over 150 rare, fascinating and exquisite pieces for the exhibition, which traces the development of this subversive form of wearable decorative art and significant objects from the Australian goldfields 1851 to 1901, plus some key international examples.

Date: Saturday 16 April – Monday 4 July, 2016

Hours: 10am – 5pm, Seven days

Cost: Adult \$12, Children 6-15 \$8, Under 5s are free, Family pass \$35.

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Easter Camp at Fryerstown

March Thursday 24th to Tuesday 29th

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. Supper will be provided.

SUNDAY:

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

☺ Men’s and Ladies’ **Easter bonnet (hat) competition**.

Fancy Dress competition -

This year the theme is “pyjamas”. This will be held Sunday evening before the dinner.



Roast Dinner - 6.30pm. ☺ Choice of 3 different meats: ham, pork or beef. There is no cost for members however for non-members it is \$5.00 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 at 9:00am, Men’s and Ladies’ events.

☺ “Stake Your Claim” Your chance to win a nugget.

Member's Aussie Road Trip

A Prospector's Wife

by Catherine Daniels

Many things are shared and enjoyed in a marriage - holidays, bottles of wine, anniversaries. There is one thing, however, where the enjoyment is definitely more one-sided, that being prospecting. I've tried to enjoy it - really I have, but I just can't seem to get the same thrill as my husband for digging in rock hard earth beneath the scorching sun to find some rusty wire, or poking the coil in-between rocks to aggravate angry, camouflaged reptiles and not to mention flies that love to get in my eyes and nostrils. However I do enjoy the places we've travelled and the challenges, characters and sights along the way. Here is a collection of the more notable ones.

Challenges

I managed to sever a nerve in my hand while cutting an avocado, on a wet afternoon about 110kms from Kalgoorlie, resulting in a mad rush along slippery, muddy tracks to the emergency room. It was the first time in my life (other than being born) I'd been on the receiving end of hospital attention. Thank heavens they've come a long way in 50 years!

Another, and far more serious incident, was when fellow camper and keen prospector Peter fronted up at our caravan around 7am one morning looking very pale and in excruciating agony - resulting in another hair raising trip to the emergency room via rutted, pot-holed dirt tracks. Peter ended up having major surgery (a couple of times!) for a twisted colon in Kalgoorlie. That prospecting location is now always referred to as 'twisted gut campsite'. Of course Ralph, our emergency driver, ended up needing his own emergency treatment for root canal, thankfully whilst we were still in Kalgoorlie. Later he developed '7000 sciatica', due to the weight of the latest detecting equipment. Then I, non-driving wife, had to drive him to hospital. Scariest 3 blocks I've ever driven!



Ralph and dog at London Bridge, Sandstone.

People

A young man who's parents decided to name him after a famous painter, was a memorable character. We came upon this Dutch traveller alone with just his ex-fishing

truck for company in Leonora's remote back blocks, where he had decided to extract precious metals from electronic waste, on the side of a hill. As you do. He wasn't having much luck on that front, and his visa was nearing expiry. I'm not sure if his plan for finding an Aussie girlfriend to allow him to stay in the country longer ever panned out, but the name Rembrandt is forever etched in my memory.

Whether the people you meet are a recently divorced Korean university professor looking to shoot a movie about gold prospecting (which he'd never tried, he acquired a new Garret Detector though) in Western Australia, or a heavily accented Chinese gentleman happily growing chickens and vegetables in the middle of the desert. Unless I left Beaumaris' comfort zone to travel around with my prospecting husband, there is no way I could have even imagined meeting people like this. I couldn't have even imagined making this stuff up!

Places

Twisted gut campsite was also notable for the dam that's just 'heaving' with yabbies, as one local put it. Walga Rock at Cue, little sister to Uluru, is equally amazing with its rock art, sitting in a carpet of wild flowers. Abandoned buildings - eerie, but somehow attractive. Sunsets - outback ones are phenomenal; ditto night skies. We are currently in Geraldton, and the war memorial here for HMAS Sydney II is a striking one. On a hill overlooking the Indian ocean a golden dome of 645 sea gulls, representing all those souls lost on the ship, and a nearby bronze statue of a lady, bracing against the sea wind, waiting for her beloved sailor to return, is certainly a moving experience.



Finally

It is already late November and we're sitting on an Indian Ocean beach, enjoying the sun, sipping Gin & Tonics and watching the wildlife. Life doesn't come any better than this!

We left Melbourne six months ago and in one way or another we have been active every day. Being on the move versus staying at home - makes time move at least double speed - or rather that's how it feels.

And prospecting? While the 2015 season has closed, the amount of gold that could be/should be/must be/ was to be/actually - found, well that's a fishing campfire story waiting to be told!

Best regards to all
Cath Daniels

Gold Finds



Word in that this gorgeous nugget has just been found in Vic. The weight is 3.65 ounces and it was found with a SD2200 at only 3 inches deep. The target must have screamed like a coke can but lucky enough the prospector persuaded and dug up the target.

(Unfortunately not found by a VSC member)

Club News



This old (late 1980s) Goldseeker 12000 detector was donated by a generous member and will be auctioned at the Easter Camp, along with a dolley pot. The detector is really only suited to a collector rather than any serious detecting.

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VSC Annual Subscriptions

By Lindsay Tricker

The costs of running the Victorian Seekers Club have increased and annual fees no longer cover expenses. In addition to this, for a number of years committee has discussed the obvious inequality between fees paid by a single member as against those paid by family membership. A family membership includes an adult couple and their children aged under 16 years. For the purpose of statistics only the adults are counted in a family membership. At present the single members are 27% of the membership but contribute 37% of the annual fees. To address this imbalance and also increase fees to a sustainable level, for the financial year commencing 1st July 2016 the fee for Single membership has been reduced by \$5.00 and the Family membership has increased by \$10.00. The new fees will be: Single membership \$40 and Family membership \$65. While single members as a group will still be contributing 4% more in proportion to their numbers, it is a much fairer position than previously existed. The last change to annual subscriptions occurred two years ago.

New Coil from Nugget Finder



The NEW NUGGET FINDER 15" Round Evolution coil is now available for \$495.00

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Victoria Caravan, Camping & Touring Supershow 2016

The 2016 Supershow promises to deliver more caravans, pop-tops, tents, camper trailers, 5th wheelers, motorhomes, campervans and 4x4 off road and touring accessories than ever before with over 15,000 square metres more space than last year. Many of these products will be on display for the first time, meaning visitors to the Supershow will experience them before anybody else! Plus there will be plenty of tourism information available from all over Australia.

When: 24-29 February 2016

Where: Melbourne Showgrounds, Epsom Rd, Ascot Vale

Times: 9:30 – 5:00 Daily (9:30-4:00 on last day)

Just across the road from the January Harvest Home camp site, is a recent open cut mine which exposed the vein from the Harvest Home Reef line. So far over 120 ounces has been extracted.



Thanks to Rob Shannon for this item.

Fosterville Gold pours its 1,000,000th ounce of gold.

Bendigo Advertiser, 3 February 2016

By Chris Pedler



Andrew Aitken, Nathan Coyle and Curtis Doherty with the milestone ounce. Pictures: NONI HYETT

The gold mine has now poured one million ounces since opening in 2005.

President and chief executive of Newmarket Gold, which owns Fosterville Gold Mine, Doug Forster said the milestone showed the mine was world class. “Not that many mines reach a million ounces, so it really is a world class mine,” he said.

“There are super deposits around the world, even in Australia, so to produce a million ounces these days, in a fairly depressed gold cycle where it’s harder for miners to be profitable really is important on a number of aspects.

“It’s hugely important to our team of employees that have achieved this one millionth ounce.

“The credit goes to the team in Bendigo and at the Fosterville mine. We are pretty fortunate and this is just the start for Fosterville. We think this mine will go for many more years to come.”

Mr Forster said it took seven years for Fosterville to pour its first 500,000 ounces but only another four years to reach the one million ounce mark.

The mine is one of only 10 plants around the world to implement the innovative Biox technology – a bacterial oxidation process that liberates gold from certain types of ore, with reduced air emissions and energy requirements compared to conventional processing.

“A lot of the gold is encapsulated in sulphide and we have to use bacteria to feed on the sulphide and liberate the gold,” Mr Forster said.