

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 issue 3

May/June 2016

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*Anja detecting in the Club's Treasure Hunt at Fryerstown.*





## 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: \$65.00**

**Single Membership: \$40.00**

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

**Subscriptions are due and payable from the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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:** Nola PAPPAS [noelaandtony@hotmail.com](mailto:noelaandtony@hotmail.com)

**CLOTHING OFFICER:** Nuvolari Mario SENEVIRANE

**LIBRARY:** Peter MAFFEY

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

Graham MEE & Alistair McKNIGHT

# Events Calendar

## 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 - 19th:** Camp Goldsbrough

## August

**Wed. 3rd:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 11th - Tues 16th:** Camp Kingower

## September

**Wed. 7th:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 8th - Tues 13th:** Camp Chute

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# President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

In the Newsletter of September 2015 I wrote about some of our members who are also members of the Melbourne branch of the PMAV, who had attended a very enjoyable trip organised by the PMAV to Tibooburra, NSW. I wrote that if sufficient interest was shown by our members I would organise a club trip to Tibooburra this coming July. A lot of interest has been shown and I have been waiting to see when the Federal Elections were likely to be held to enable members to get voting out of the way – although postal and absentee voting would be available. I have settled on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of July until Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016 (inclusive) as the dates. Members interested in attending whom I don't see personally at meetings or camps can telephone or email me with their names. I have produced an information sheet to assist members who have never been previously to Tibooburra and I will ensure a copy is made available. We will be staying at 'The Granites Caravan Park' situated in the township of Tibooburra. It is not possible to book sites in the park – it is 'first in best dressed' situation. The park has been recently extended the powered sites, so there should be ample room.

At the recent Easter camp, at which more than 80 members attended, a number of our older members expressed concern at the size of the camp and thought perhaps we should cap the number of members in our club which presently stands at 205. Committee discussed this proposition and the majority decision was not to cap the membership. It was pointed out that through natural attrition the membership has been relatively steady over the last few years. We now have many members in their seventies and eighties – we need to keep viable and keep the door open for younger members. What has become apparent is that our committee members, while capable of making decisions and organising events, are not able to physically perform all of the functions to carry out what is required – especially at the larger

camps like Easter and Melbourne Cup long weekends. As a consequence, ordinary club members will be expected to offer their help and also assist willingly when asked to assist. I recall in the past a member when asked to do something at a camp responded, "I am not on the committee!"

The club web-site has also been under review and plans are under way to replace the existing web-site with a newer more user friendly version. Approval to proceed with the initial set-up expenditure was approved at the April General Meeting.

Difficulty is still being experienced in getting answers from Parks Victoria's Permit section. It now appears all future permits will attract a fee of about \$123. Therefore all up-coming camp sites are planned to be held in forests not under their control.

We have been fortunate that the summer period has finished without any major bush-fires occurring in the central gold fields area. We can now look forward to smaller camps with a cosy camp fire again. See you at the next camp. Lindsay.



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# General Meetings

*By Eric Grummett*

Those who didn't attend the March meeting missed out on a most entertaining guest speaker, 'Ron the bottle-oh' who entertained us with his bottle collecting experiences over the years, sometimes digging through the night in restricted areas so as not to be seen, sometimes finding very rare bottles worth thousands of dollars. He is known to many bottle buyers world-wide, and has a knowledge second to none on values and types of bottles. Many of us had collections which he assessed and described their uses.

Find of month went to Paul Hart with a beautiful Tiffany bracelet.

At the April meeting, some long discussions were had on the creation of a new website which was well researched by Ian Semmens, and it was agreed to go ahead with it. A website is a very important part of our club structure and should be maintained.

The Vice President of the PMAV, Olly Oleszek was our guest speaker who discussed how important the PMAV was to all prospectors, and should be a moral responsibility to become actively involved in to help protect our access to gold areas. He also gave us an update on the Public Land Access Council (PLAC) which is the combined group of bush users of which we are a member, fighting to maintain access to the proposed Great Forest National Park in Gippsland.

Find of month for April was won by David Gothard with a diamond wedding ring.

Our guest speaker for May will be Andrew Bales who will be talking some more about indicators, and his website 'Gold Gear', whereby you can sell any of your obsolete prospecting equipment quite cheaply.

For our June meeting we have SBA Precious Metals coming to tell us about refining gold and silver to produce ingots, medallions, gold chains, bracelets and pendants. They also manufacture electrical contacts for industry. SBA supplied the PMAV with the 1oz proof silver medallions some of us have bought. They will also buy our gold, or we can have them refine it an ingot for us.



Ron & Terry talking about how they find the bottles.



Members bottles on display..





## Find of the Month: March

Paul Hart  
*Bracelet*



## Find of the Month: April

David Gothard  
*Ring*



Gold Crucifix and medal on a gold chain.



1981 Sovereign mounted on a chain.

Other finds for March and April:



Post 1898 cap badge of the **Royal Warwickshire Regiment**; The **Royal Warwickshire Regiment**, previously titled the **6th Regiment of Foot**, was a line infantry regiment of the British Army in continuous existence for 283 years. The regiment saw service in many conflicts and wars, including the Second Boer War and both the First and Second World Wars. Found by Paul Hart.

## Almoner's Report

*By Louise Gough*

Barry Weston has been ill in hospital and he is home now with ongoing treatment. A get well card sent from the Seekers Club.

We have just heard that Margaret Hollis has been in hospital having a operation and she is also now recovering at home. I have sent her well wishes through Facebook from the Seekers Club



# March Camp Report

## Wedderburn

By Graham Mee

Yet another great Wedderburn camp enjoyed by the 20 Members, 2 Visitors and 2 Guests in attendance.

With the Detecting Jamboree being the main attraction, the club was again well presented at the event with Paul H taking out one of the Major prizes, that being the X TERRA 305 Metal Detector. Well done Paul for a great effort on some of the hottest detecting days.

Also well done to Peter Maffey on his great effort over the 2 days at the Jamboree for explaining to all about the new proposed changes that are on the cards to our State Parks in Victoria.

It looks like the "Greens" are at it again with their far reaching proposal to name change all State Parks into National Parks thereby excluding and severely restricting all Outdoor recreational activities such as Fishing, Hunting, Trail Bike Riding, 4 Wheel Driving, Camping, Horse Riding, Timber Production, Bee Keeping and of most concern to us, Fossicking & Prospecting. So if you wish to carry on with your Hobby, then voice your protest against this proposal now before it is too late. See article in this newsletter for further details of petition.

The Saturday Raffle organized and conducted by Peter M went off quite well and many thanks to the members for their donations.

Just the one incident to report and that was when James, on returning to his vehicle after a hard day detecting, was dumbfounded to find that his vehicle would not start. This involved a long foot slog back to camp for some assistance which was promptly supplied by our Secretary with a tow back to camp. Well done John.

Luckily James is a member of the RACV who were called out the next day and quickly fixed the problem quite easily by fitting a new 15 cent fuse to the electronic management system. So it looks like spanners and screwdrivers are a thing of the past now with the latest technology....sure better than getting your hands dirty any day.

Due to the Jamboree being the main event and taking up most of the time, there are no gold finds to report this time but I heard of a few "lumps" being found around the camp area.



The much loved party pies supplied by Graham Mee.

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# Easter Camp Report

## Fryerstown

By Ericka

As usual the Easter camp was very big, members arriving as early as Saturday the week before. The disused cricket ground was a lovely new location, very flat with plenty of room and even some picnic tables and benches. I counted 40 camps on Good Friday with a few more arriving on Saturday, also some day visitors. Unfortunately Gina didn't feel well and had to leave; also John Close who received an urgent phone call, his mother was admitted to hospital with a heart condition, we wish both ladies all the very best.

The egg race on Saturday afternoon was fun, the winners were: Ladies- Francine Men- Alex. Next was the "Stake your claim" activity. The 3 lucky winners of the nuggets were: 1st Mieke S. 2nd Jenny B. and 3rd Carol M. (a prospective new member). Some lovely walks were taken by the ladies' walking group, the weather being cool to mild, ideal for detecting but not so good for sunbaking.

Easter Sunday started with a visit from the Easter bunny (Petronella) handing out chocolate eggs. The Easter bonnet competition late in the afternoon had a few entrants and Jenny B. came in first with her huge and colourful creation. Then followed the Sunday Roast, Pork, Lamb and Ham with potatoes, vegetables and lovely salads followed by all sorts of sweets.. The raffle was a huge success with \$364 collected and the auction of detecting equipment donated by various members netted \$275.

The treasure hunt was held the following morning and the lucky winners were in the ladies: 1st Emily, 2nd Anja; and in the men's 1st Graeme H. and 2nd Peter S. Not only did Peter S. receive \$10 for the second find he also dug up a Cartwheel Penny. For those interested- George III (the mad king) 1797 is the first coin struck with a steam driven press.

Plenty of small gold was found, Peter G. very lucky and over the moon with his 5.5gr. nugget.

Last, but not least, a big Thank You to the committee and members for all the help with the preparation and cleaning up of the pavilion, the supply of the fire pit and wood, the organising of the egg race, stake-your-claim, raffle, auction, treasure hunt, the clean-up on Monday morning and of course the cooking of the roast as usual by Lindsay. I hope I have covered it all.

Goodbye friends - God bless  
Ericka

P.S. Hopefully Hans, the visitor from Germany, managed to find a "cheap" room in Ballarat before catching



The men line up for the egg & detector race.



Tina gives directions for the Women's egg & detector



The Amigo Grummett Brothers



## More Fryerstown Photos



Anja finds a token in the Sunday morning Treasure Hunt.



Graham H. wins a prize in the Treasure Hunt.



Peter B. in the Treasure Hunt



Round the campfire on Sunday Night getting ready for the Dinner.



# April Camp Report

## Creswick

*by Sue Hodges*

Graeme and I arrived on the Wednesday to find there were several campers already present, and over the ensuing two days the total number amounted to 21 vans and about 6 tents.

The weather was ideal for this time of the year, warm days with a few cool nights, and a strong southerly wind providing some challenges for a few campers.

The local market on the Saturday morning which many attended, provided us with locally made produce, providing the opportunity to mix with the local community.

One couple from the club will remember this outing after they accidentally left their black pooch tied to a post outside the supermarket, not realising this until arriving at the market. They hastily returned to town to collect their little dog with apparently little distress from dog or owner.

That night the raffle was postponed due to the windy conditions, and therefore conducted the following night, raising \$164.

Sunday night 31 members dined out at Creswick Roasts, with many overwhelmed by the size and price of the meals. Thanks again to Ron for his research into this venue (ideally we will attend there again).

Eric visited the local information centre, providing

members with walking maps for the ladies, and various other points of interest in the area including a recommended visit to see the Eureka Exhibition of 19th Century Goldfields Jewellery at Ballarat.

As this was a new site, it was ideal for accommodating our varied camping requirements.

Our presence certainly created interest amongst the locals, particularly those utilising the walking track. I believe many small pieces were found, the biggest one being about 5 grams found by Anja.

Thanks again to all who contributed to make this camp a great success, from organising this ideal site, the collecting of firewood and the setting up of two fires on the Sunday night to accommodate the numbers present.



Mariusz Godecki showing off his prize he won at the raffle. I think it suits him



The old Creswick Soccer ground becomes a Seekers camp site



## More Creswick Photos



This is Tavistock Hill which was extensively sluiced.

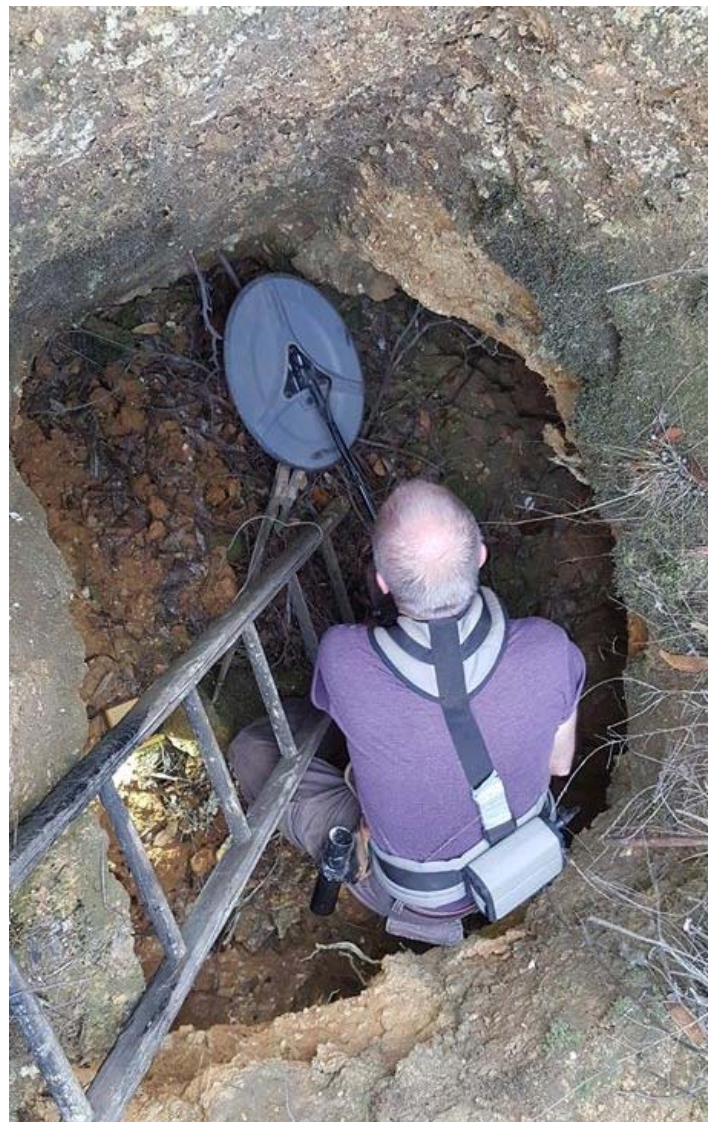


Anja's 4 grammer and some other smaller nuggets

## Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g

goldprice.org



Hmmmm, so that's how these two get gold nuggets!  
Alistair down an old diggers hole.



# Recent Gold Finds



I had the pleasure of meeting with the finder of this gold today. I am sure most of us could only dream of being this lucky but finds like this are possible. Rare but possible.

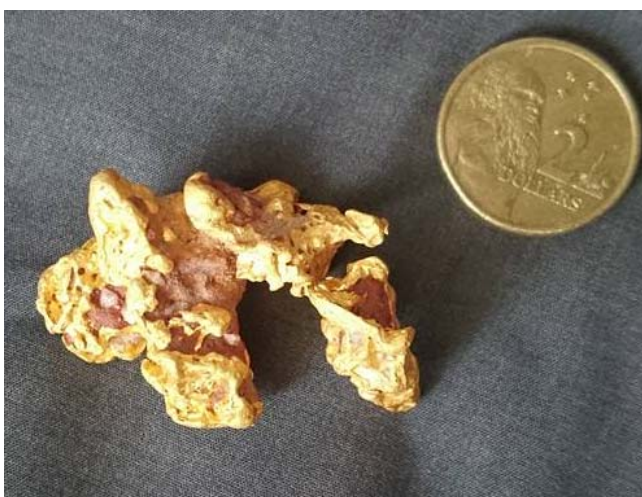
Found in WA, approx 33 kilograms. In dollars about \$1.7 million....

Source: Finderskeepers Facebook page.

Found by a well known Victorian prospector in the golden triangle over the last 4-6 weeks.

6 pieces for a total of 234 grams or 7.5 ounces, many other smaller pieces were also found.

Not a bad for a month's work!



35 grammer found at Amherst on 21st April 2016



Fine dendritic crystallised native Gold on white quartz from the Excelsior Mountains, Nevada, USA.



## Recent Gold Finds

### Nuggets finds by Dennis O.

Recently there has been found a total of 93.86 grams (3.018 oz) of gold by member Dennis O. in what he has called the "The Ugly Patch". The largest nugget is 55.76 and it was found at 12" in depth and the small gold found near it added up to 38.1 grams and ranged in depth from ½" to 2". The detector used to find these was a Minelab GPX4500 in enhance as the ground was extremely noisy with a Commander 11" Mono coil. All the targets were very clear. Thanks Dennis for submitting the photo and details.



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Nice 5oz nugget found in WA this week. (Not by a VSC member)



2.5 & 5 oz nuggets found in WA about a foot deep and with a Coiltek Anti-Interference coil with a Minelab GPX4000.

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## More April Meeting Finds

Found recently by Paul Hart was a Cole's Book Arcade medal or token, circa 1885. This gilt medal is one of a series of medals offering maxims and proverbs issued by E.W. Cole at his Book Arcade. He called the medals 'little missionaries for the spread of educative knowledge' (Dean, 1988, p.36).

According to Sydney Endacott, an employee of Cole, customers were charged three pence for these medals (which he prefers to call tokens) which, when the Arcade was particularly busy, gave them admission to the second-hand books gallery where the orchestra played. Each medal could be exchanged for three pence worth of goods, but most were kept. The pierced ones were sometimes worn as pendants or on pocket watch chains. The medals served as perpetual advertisements of the Arcade (Victorian Historical Magazine, February 1962). George Dean suggests that the medals were also given

in change at Christmas time, and could be used to operate amusement machines (presumably including the symphonion and hens, although these only required one penny to operate).



Cole had his first medal

stuck in 1879 and his last one about 1903. The medals were variously gilded, silvered or bronzed, replicating the coinage then circulating, or plated with nickel or white metal. The medal blanks were usually made of copper or brass, but some might have been bronze; aluminium was also sometimes used. In all, perhaps 300,000 medals were struck, in 97 types. Only 50 types are known to have circulated (George Dean, 1988, A Handbook on

E.W. Cole: His Book Arcade, Tokens and Medals).





## May Outing: Havelock

## June Outing: Redcastle

These Maps are only available to members.

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**No unattended fires.**  
**FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.**

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**No unattended fires.**  
**FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.**



## More Recent Gold Finds



Story by Kris Wright: (Not a member)

I spent 3 full days with the GPZ 7000 over the weekend (last weekend), and I finally got the wife to have a swing with the SDC. I called her over as I had a faint signal running in General, Difficult, smoothing off, threshold 10 and sensitivity 20. At 650mm (25 inches) down we saw it and it was on it's edge. 41 grams and the very first piece of gold the wife has ever watched being dug up. We had someone with us with a 5000 and the new 18 Coiltek Elite and no matter what setting we tried, it just did not see it. The more I use the Z the more I fall in love with it. Can't wait for the 19 inch coil.



Ericka H. Concentrating hard on a signal during the Easter Treasure Hunt.



Members recent gold finds.



### 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.