

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 issue 4

July/August 2016

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*Gina looking for gold at Havelock*



**132oz nugget found in WA**





## 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.

**SECRETARY:** John CLOSE

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

**TREASURER:** Warren IBBOTSON

Budget, finance matters ( other than subscriptions)

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:** Robyn IBBOTSON

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

Corin Seneviratne

**CLOTHING OFFICER:** Nuvolari Mario SENEVIRANT

**LIBRARY:** Peter MAFFEY

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

Graham MEE & Alistair McKNIGHT

# Events Calendar

## July

**Wed. 6th:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 14th - 19th:** Camp Goldsbrough

**Sun. 10th-Sun 17th** Camp Tibooburra

## August

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

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

## September

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

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

**Thurs. 29th - Tues 4th Oct.** Camp Tarnagulla

## October

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

**Sat. 22nd:** PMAV AGM

**Thurs. 27th - Tues 1st Nov.:** Camp Moliagul

## November

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

**Thurs. 17th - Tues 22nd:** Camp Talbot Norburys Road

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# President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

You will notice that this newsletter contains 'Forms of Election' for nomination of the new committee at our Annual General Meeting, to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, when all committee positions will be declared vacant.

Our present secretary, John Close has indicated that he will not be available for re-election. John has carried out these duties for the last 3 years and among other things has undertaken the transition from paper applications for permits to computer applications. We owe John a debt of gratitude for his dedication. Unlike other executive positions within an incorporated club, there is a government requirement to have a full time secretary that they can contact – ever since the position of 'public officer' was removed and those duties given to all club secretaries. This means that unless we get a Melbourne based member nominated for the position, then the future of our club will be in jeopardy.

In June the Geelong detecting club finished up after about 40 years because they were unable to form a committee. If you think you may be able to carry out this function for the club, please contact me or any other committee member to discuss the matter. The last thing our club needs is to not have any one nominate for the position prior to or on the night of the AGM and for me to have to inform Consumer Affairs that we are unable to form a committee!!

At the June meeting we launched the new club web-site. To view the new site, the address is [www.victorianseekersclub.org.au](http://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au) or merely Google 'Victorian Seekers Club' and it will appear near the top of the list. Many thanks to our hard working editor, Ian Semmens who has spent many weeks arranging the content of our web-site.

Recently the club received an invitation to make a written submission to a Government body called The Forest Industries Task Force as we were identified as an organization involved in the State Forests. Eric has completed an on-line survey and I completed a written submission outlining the club's concerns regarding the creation of the proposed 'Great Forest National Park.

At our last committee meeting it was pointed out that the club now has quite few new members attending camps and we do not necessarily know their names and they certainly do not know the majority of older members. This

may lead to new members feeling isolated. While we have always required members attending general meetings to wear their name tags, we are now requesting all members attending camps to put their name tags in the glove-box of their cars and to wear them while around the camp-fire.

In July I and a number of club members will be off to Ti-booburra so the Goldsbrough camp will need older members to assist with the running of the camp. Wishing everyone good health and great detecting. Lindsay.

For those members who have not yet paid their annual subscription



## Public Dump Points in Victoria

- Ararat Dump Point: 4 Alexander Ave. Ararat , Grid Ref. 37:16:49.7S, 142:56:0.8E
- Bendigo Showground Public Dump Point: 42A Holmes Rd., North Bendigo, Grid Ref. 36:44:18.3S, 144:16:17.5E
- Clunes Public Dump Point : 70 Bailey St., Clunes, Grid Ref. 37:17:38.1S, 143:46:51.2E
- Harcourt Public Dump Point 6 Bridge St., Harcourt, Grid Ref. 36:59:40.3S, 144:15:45.3E
- Kyneton Mineral Springs Stopover: 219 Burton Ave., Kyneton, Grid Ref. 37:14:7.1 S, 144:25:9.1 E
- Seymour Public Dump Point: Cnr. Wallis & High St., Seymour, Grid Ref. 37:1:14.6S, 145:8:6.0E

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# General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our May meeting was highlighted by the presence of geologist Andrew Bales, who gave us a very informative talk on the occurrences of gold nuggets and some clues on the best ways we can read the ground to locate them. Luckily for us, Ian Semmens videoed the event, and has produced a very professional DVD for us to view, entitled 'How to Find Patches of Gold'. It is now available for loan to members only, through our library on a strictly 4 week turn-around. For those who cannot get to meetings, contact a committee member to arrange to receive a copy.

The find of month for May went to Anja McKnight for her 7gms of gold found on our Creswick trip.

In June we had a busy night, with firstly Ian giving us a presentation of our fabulous new website which is now up and running showing us all the benefits and information available on a really professional and easy to use site, which can be accessed on [www.victorianseekersclub.org.au](http://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au). Ian was congratulated for all the many hours he has spent getting this all together, which is will be a great asset to our clubs future. The administration of the site will be served by Corin Seneviratne ([corin.prospect@gmail.com](mailto:corin.prospect@gmail.com)) and Nola Pappas ([nolaandtony@hotmail.com](mailto:nolaandtony@hotmail.com))

After Ian's presentation, our guest speakers Wendy Harris and Gary Warke from SBA Amalgamated gave us a run down on their products and services which mainly involved the smelting and refining of silver and gold into ingots for the bullion trade, and alloys for the jewelry industry. They also manufacture medallions to any customers requirement and electrical contacts for heavy duty switches. Anyone who has gold that they would like to have refined and made into an ingot or to sell to them, phone them on 9762 6278 or email them at [reception@sbaamal.com.au](mailto:reception@sbaamal.com.au), or [www.sbagroup.com.au](http://www.sbagroup.com.au)

Find of month was a beautiful amethyst pendant found by Paul Hart.



Members listening attentively to Andrew's talk on the geology of finding gold.

For our July meeting Ian will be giving a presentation on Cricket Buckles and Alex Eram will be talking about his recent prospecting trip to WA. For August, author and gold map producer Doug Stone will be releasing his new book on relics found by metal detectors in Australia. Some pages will have items found by VSC members and will be offering it to us for a discount for signed copies.

## Find of the Month: May

Anja  
7gramNugget



## Find of the Month: June

Paul Hart  
Pendant



## Other Finds: June

Thomas M.  
Diamond Ring



## Other Finds: June

David Gothard  
Pendant





Gary Warke from SBA Amalgamated displaying the medallions that they make.

**Winter is back with force!**

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## VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER  
For the year 2016-2017

I, .....  
Nominate .....

For the following position:

Seconded by .....

Accepted by .....(Nominee).

To be handed over to the Club's Secretary  
no less than 7 days prior to the AGM on 7th  
September 2016

### Vacant positions:

- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| President            | Information Technology |
| Vice president       | Officer                |
| Secretary            | Catering supervisor    |
| Treasurer            | Almoner,               |
| Membership secretary | Librarian,             |
| Social secretary     | Catering supervisor    |
| Research officer     | Field officers         |
| Newsletter editor    |                        |

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Car based camping in 1918.



# May Camp Report

## Havelock

*By Francine Gilbert*

Perfect weather, no flies, no mosquitoes, no rain, no wind, a little sun. We had 35 people round the big camp fire and 5 visitors.

Next to the camp we had a detecting test patch, which kept everyone busy.

Ron, François, and I were lucky to have a private detecting lesson with Barry, thanks mate.

The usual raffle was conducted on Saturday night and thanks go to Tina and Val. The treasure hunt, organised by Lindsay, was run on the Sunday morning and kept us busy for a while. Lars is \$20 richer, Bob \$10 and Claude \$10

Also on Sunday, Graham spoil us with parties pies, with tomato sauce, and some members went to the Golf Club for diner

On Monday we had the pleasure of sharing a lovely damper made by our new member Shirley. Lindsay spent a lot of time teaching the art of detecting to many new chums, Merci Monsieur the President.

It is nice having a small camp.  
To finish a good outing, I, with my new detector found two small NUGGETS!  
Once more, it was a great week end...



Ken finding his tiny nugget after much searching, that he dropped the previous night while showing other members his finds.

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# June Camp Report

## Redcastle

*By Lindsay Tricker*

The club last visited Redcastle nine years ago and this ended up being a plus for those who attended this time.

I arrived on the Friday to find about 12 camps set up. A heavy shower of rain had fallen about an hour earlier so the ten kilometres of gravel road from Costerfield to the camp site was quite muddy in patches making a mess of car and caravan. The weather then cleared up for the duration of the camp with some of the best detecting conditions we have had in a long time.

Nineteen members sat round a very cosy fire on the Saturday night. Thanks to the combined efforts of quite a few members who brought in loads of firewood. The raffle was run by Peter Maffey and Virginia – many thanks! Due to the muddy conditions and reduced numbers in attendance, no treasure-hunt was held Sunday morning. Instead, Peter M lead a group of members to the famous winery, Chateau Tabilk .

Sunday evening's camp-fire was especially sociable with sampling of classic red wines and an excellent port. Ron Hollis entertained with several jokes gleaned off the internet. The nearby diggings, not having been flogged for some time surrendered many small nuggets from the mullock heaps – due no doubt to the later model detectors and more sensitive coils. Rob S found two very nice 5 gram nuggets from above some diggings in an area he took members to on the Monday.

Although the nights were cold, down to zero most mornings, the days were clear blue skies with slight breezes. This area deserves another visit before the hot weather arrives.

The next camp at Goldsbrough, like this one, may be reduced in numbers due to members being in WA and the club excursion to Tibooburra. Lindsay.



James found a half grammer here..



Graham Mee giving it a go.



Rob's two nuggets totalling 9.8 grams.



Craig Webb's nuggets find.



# Redcastle Camp Photos



Ian, Peter & Eric about to start detecting at Redcastle.



Marzia helping Raffaele celebrate his birthday with an Italian cake.



Peter M. proving that two golden pumpkins in the hand is worth one golden nugget in the bush.  
(Is that how the saying goes?)



Round the campfire getting warmed up by the fire.



# Gold Price Report

by Ian Semmens.



## Gold hits record high after Brexit vote

The Australian dollar gold price hit an all-time record of \$1,826 an ounce on June 24<sup>th</sup> after Britain elected to leave the European Union, with shares in local gold mining rallying strongly even though the broader stock market tumbled more than 3 per cent. The last time gold was near this price was in mid 2011 when gold reached a peak of AU\$1806.50 per ounce. As the US dollar price of gold rises and the Australian dollar falls this causes a multiplying effect on the Aussie gold price. Prospectors who wish to sell their gold now would benefit from this high price.

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



## AGM in September

The next club's AGM will be at the General Meeting on Wednesday 7th September. Members are encouraged to take on a position to contribute to the club and to give the existing hardworking committee members a break. If you enjoy the club's activities then it is time to put something back into the club.

We especially need a Secretary, without which the club cannot function, so, if you have the talents and interest please let the committee know or use the nomination form in this newsletter.

# News



## Australia's gold production hits 12 year high

Australia's gold production hit a 12-year-high in 2015 as the Australian dollar weakened. Overall gold production totalled 285 tonnes, the highest annual production total since 2003 as the sector becomes more attractive to investors. Even more so now as the Australian gold price has risen significantly.

In 2014, as gold prices slipped and production costs rose, many companies concentrated on mining their richest pockets of gold deposits to maintain their previous high profit performance and this may have helped boost the total for 2015.

## Ranking of Gold Production by Country for 2014

Ranking	Country	Metric Tons
1	China	450.00
2	Australia	270.00
3	Russia	245.00
4	United States	211.00
5	Canada	160.00
6	South Africa	150.00
7	Peru	150.00
8	Uzbekistan	102.00
9	Mexico	92.00
10	Ghana	90.00
11	Brazil	70.00
12	Indonesia	65.00
13	Papua New Guinea	60.00
14	Chile	50.00



## New **Go-Find** Metal Detector From Minelab



Minelab have released a new series of basic metal detectors for the coin and relic hunter called the Go-Find.

This series comes in three models and they are known as the Go-Find 20 (\$199), Go-Find 40 (\$299) and the Go-Find 60 (\$399).

The Go-Find 60 features are its lightweight, low cost, is foldable, has fully automatic ground tracking and it has Red/Green LED target ID. In keeping with the use of modern mobile technology it can also record your treasure locations on Google Maps and it can use a Smartphone App to identify common coins on your phone.

According to Minelab “The GO-FIND 60 is a high performance detector with many innovative features. It is based on advanced digital technology and has excellent detection depth and target sensitivity, better than many detectors in the \$500-\$1000 price range. Perfect for the beginner and also great as a back-up detector for the advanced user, a Minelab detector has never been more affordable – and it’s great fun too!”



The new Go-Find detector can foldaway into a very handy size to travel with.

## How to Find Patches of Gold!

Geologist Andrew Bales visited our club on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May and captured the interest of all members on giving a talk on ‘How to Find Patches of Gold’.

He described in layman’s terms geological signs to look for, including rock types, structural and mineralising features to improve prospectors’ chances of finding gold and ultimately patches of gold. Much of his discussion focused on techniques of how to read old and new ground and provided prospectors whether beginners or skilled operators cutting edge techniques to find more gold.



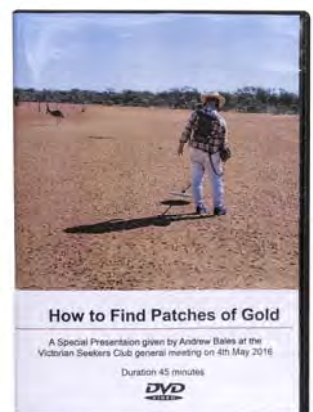
*Ian Semmens filming Geologist Andrew Bales giving a talk at the Victorian Seekers Club on ‘How to Find Patches of Gold’*

Andrew has had considerable interest from these talks, with many prospectors asking if he would undertake further tutorial and field training courses. He has decided to develop this and is offering day courses that will cover unique, easy to understand techniques that will change the way you think and look for gold. If you are interested, more details can be found on his website [RawGold.com.au](http://RawGold.com.au)

## How to Find Patches of Gold DVD

This DVD, as presented to the club by Andrew Bates, is now in the club library and is available to lend to club members only for a maximum time of 4 weeks.

See Eric Grummett  
Or a committee Member.





## Recent Gold Finds



A great find of a nugget weighing 1.1kg (35.4oz) Found near Coolgardie, WA.



Found on 2016-06-17 in Victoria by a prospector on crown land with a GPX 5000. It was 8 inches deep and the signal reported to be very trashy, which is most likely the reason it was still there. It weighs 3.5 ounces.



51oz at 910mm found with a GP3500 with a NF16 inch coil



132oz nugget found near Sandstone in June, 2016.

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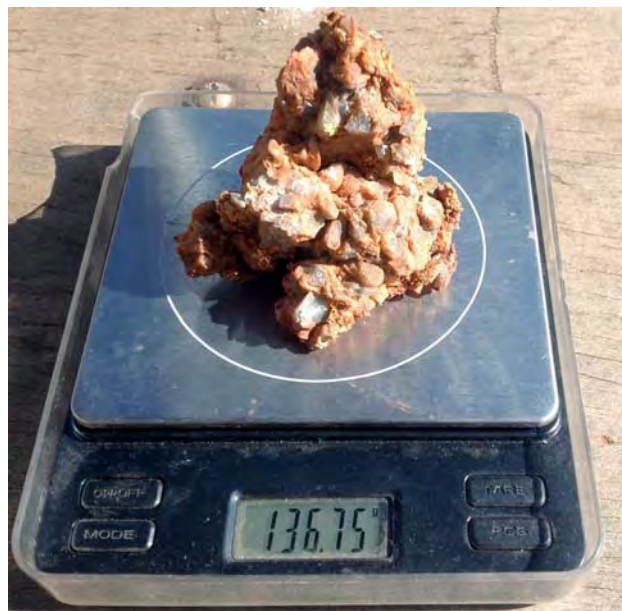
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## Recent Gold Finds



Before and after photos of a locally found nugget. Customer slowly chipped away at the quartz and used some weak acid. Nearly 4oz. Found using GPX5000 and Nugget Finder 14x9" Evolution coil. Source: Central West Prospecting Supplies.



Before and after photos of a rough looking 136 gram specimen found in June, 2016, 2nd photo after 3 days in acid and now weighing 92 grams. It was found with the Minelab 5000 and a 17x11 Nugget Finder mono coil about 300mm in the calcrete.





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Two large specimens that have been found recently on a lease on the old Poseidon Lead near Tar-nagulla. On this lease they are detecting, using heavy machinery and a trommel to treat the dirt. The one on the right weighs over 2 Kilos. Both will be going on display at the Sovereign Hill Gold Museum from August for 18 months.



Found in June here in Victoria. 7.9 Ounces with an old Minelab 2200 using the 11inch DD coil. Down about two feet between two dig holes. (Not by a VSC member)



114g nugget found recently in Victoria.



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## Recent Coin & Relic Finds

### Beginner finds coins worth £100,000 (\$AU180,000) within 20 minutes of buying first detector.

May 29th, 2016, England

Source: Daily Mail



It's always nice to encounter a little beginners' luck when you're trying out a new hobby. But if the phenomenon strikes on your inaugural treasure hunt, it can mean a significant pay-day.

Wesley Carrington was just 20 minutes into his first metal detecting trip when he unearthed a hoard of Roman gold coins estimated to be worth £100,000. Yesterday he jokingly suggested he may have 'peaked early' in his treasure hunting career.

The novice revealed he had bought a basic detector from a local shop and headed straight out to woods to try his new gadget. His initial finds included a spoon and halfpenny piece but then the machine started bleeping to indicate metal some way beneath the ground. After digging down around seven inches he unearthed the first of 55 'solidi' – gold coins – dating back more than 1,600 years. Stunned experts later returned to the site and discovered a further 104 coins, describing the haul as 'spectacular' and of 'national significance'.

The remarkable story behind the find emerged yesterday at a formal inquest which was held to decide if the coins qualified as 'treasure trove'. Hertfordshire Coroner Edward Thomas ruled that they did and the coins will now be sent to the British Museum for a formal valuation before they go up for auction. Any proceeds made could be split between Mr Carrington and the owner of the land where the find was made. Mr Carrington revealed he had exposed the treasure by copying techniques he had seen on a clip on YouTube. He told the inquest in Hatfield: 'I've never been metal detecting before. I just thought I would give it a go.' He said he bought the cheapest detector he could find and then headed to the local woodland near St Albans in Hertfordshire. 'I would say after about 20 minutes it beeped,' he said. 'I dug a hole. I've watched a couple of YouTube clips to see how you do it.

'I dug up a bit of ground and started breaking it up. I found a coin that was gold-coloured, with a Roman figure on it. I knew what it was but I didn't realise the significance of it.' He then found two together and as he carried on searching he reached a total of 55. 'When they all started coming out it sort of merged into a blur,' he said.



Examination of the coins revealed they spanned the reigns of five or six Roman emperors, from Honorius to Gratian, and had been minted across different parts of Europe, including modern-day Italy, Germany, France, Turkey and Greece.

Julian Watters, the finds liaison officer for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, said: 'I've been in the job for ten years and it is certainly the most spectacular find. 'I don't know what the odds would be of this happening. Just to put it in context, I had only previously seen four Roman gold coins out of 50,000 finds.'

Mr Carrington said he has since joined a metal-detecting club and been out with his detector again but had not found anything.

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# Gold Finds from WA

## Discovery reignites interest

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May 23, 2015,



The discovery of gold nuggets worth almost \$30,000 has reignited interest in a historic gold mining region in the Northern Goldfields.

ASX-listed White Cliff Minerals has revealed a prospector unearthed two substantial and several minor nuggets at the aptly-named Mt Remarkable project, about 25km south-east of Kookynie.

The two biggest nuggets were 310g (10 ounces) and 248g (8oz) with an approximate value of \$27,000 at current gold prices.

Experienced geologist and White Cliff managing director Todd Hibberd said the company planned to strike while the iron was hot by following up the finds with drilling in June or July. "We won't leave it to go cold," he said. "The discovery of two gold nuggets of that size is a significant find that upgrades the prospectivity of the Mt Remarkable project." The size and strength of the gold anomaly is highly encouraging and warrants follow-up drilling.

Perth-based White Cliff has held ground at Mt Remarkable since listing on the Australian Securities Exchange in December 2007.

Prospectors have up to 60 permits across White Cliff's 185sqkm project, which remains virtually untested, although there are several old workings in the area. Mt Remarkable is not far from operating gold mines Gwalia, Granny Smith and Sunrise Dam.

## Giant Crystal Cave

Cave of the Crystals or Giant Crystal Cave is a cave connected to the Naica Mine 300 metres (980 ft) below the surface in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico. One of the world's most spectacular geographical discoveries was the cave of giant crystals with its selenite crystals of a size never seen before.

Most of them measure six meters in length, with some of them reaching eleven meters. The temperature at this depth varies from 45°C to 50°C, while the percentage of humidity ranges from 90 to 100%, meaning that human beings cannot survive there for longer than two hours. Read more at:

National Geographic website link:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/crystal-giants/she-text>

