

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 37 issue 6

November/December

27oz nugget
found in Victoria



Alistair's 14g nugget

Inside This Issue

Chute Camp Report
Tarnagulla Camp Report
Recent Gold Finds
Detector Tip
Bacteria excrete gold



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 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: www.victorianseekersclub.com.au

email: eric.grummett@bigpond.com

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

Events Calendar

October

Sat. 22nd: PMAV AGM Rawson

Thurs. 27th– Tues. 1st Nov. Camp Moliagul,
Melbourne Cup Weekend

November

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting

Thurs. 17th - Tues. 22nd Camp Talbot

December

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Sun. 11th: Xmas Break up Party Wicks Reserve

Sun. 25th Dec. - Tues. 3rd Jan. Xmas Camp
Moonambel

January

No General Meeting.

Thurs. 26th - Tues. 31st Camp Amherst

February

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Thurs. Date to be confirmed Camp Goldsbrough

March

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Thurs. 9th - 14th Camp Wedderburn

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President's Report

by Lindsay Tricker

The annual general meeting was held this September and I have commenced my third term as your president. The committee has remained the same except for the following three changes: Peter Maffey has stepped down as Librarian the position being taken over by Louise McGough who is also the almoner. Val Lippingwell has retired as one of the social secretaries (after an eight year stint)- Sue Hodge has stepped into the breach assisting Tina Whelan. John Close has handed over the position of secretary to Bruce Johnson. Bruce has been a member of the club since about 1989 and we welcome him onto committee.

I expect that the club will continue with the same format which has proved so successful over recent years with the main events being Easter, Melbourne Cup, the Christmas picnic and to a lesser extent New Years Eve.

We will continue to schedule camp dates and location to coincide with the Wedderburn detector jamboree and the Laanecoorie Gold Bash.

A question which is often asked by members is 'can we go to a new camping spot on diggings which haven't been detected out? Finding a new area large enough for our club to camp on which is close to alluvial gold fields has always been a challenge for our research officers. Firstly let me say that there really isn't any old diggings which have not been detected. We are restricted to the extent that any area we choose must be accessible in all weather to a conventional drive motor vehicle towing a caravan. It must also be an area that the authorities will permit us to camp in. Having said that, if any members know of areas which fit our criteria, then I sure that the research officer, Rob Shannon or any other member of committee will take your suggestions on board for discussion.

The editor welcomes articles, letters, photos, comments or detecting stories to publish in the newsletter.

It's your newsletter, so have your say!



Vic Seekers
are now on
UHF 12



Seekers' Christmas Party

Sunday 11th December, from 11am
Wicks Reserve - The Basin (Mel 65 D8)
Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin -Olinda road
turn right into the Reserve.
(Electric BBQs and water in the premises)

- * Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (gold machines are a "no-no")
- * "Stake Your Claim"
- * Drawing of the **Christmas Raffle**.
One huge hamper plus two more hampers.
- * Door prizes
- * Bring along your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket on arrival.
Electric BBQ available, BYO table, chairs, food and drink, don't forget the AEROGARD. and sun cream!

Almoner's Report

by Louise McGough

I Want to thank Virginia, for doing a good job while I was away in the west

A get well card was sent to Margaret Hollis, and she is now on the mend.

Reiner Wuderlich is in hospital having been run over by his own vehicle when the handbrake failed and is expected to make a full recovery.



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General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

To be advised



Rudi Paoletti of Adventure Maps giving the members a passionate account of the setting up and maintaining of the Historic Gold Tracks.

For those who have won a
"Find of the Month"
You are invited to submit
your find to
the November Meeting
For the judging of
"Find of the Year"



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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!



At the last meeting we were honored with the presence of a number of senior members of the Club.
L. to R. Thomas Mameletziz, Alan Allman, Margot Pimplet, Lindsay Tricker, John Douglas, Ted Cox, Joan Heraud, Ron Whittling, Eric Gummatt and Jim Laundy.

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Prospector	950gm	5mm	750mm
Faith	500gm	4mm	600mm
Jewel	450gm	4mm	450mm

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Theatre Night

"Yes Minister"

At the Athenaeum Theatre, Lillydale
Friday 11th November
Meet before at 6:30pm for a meal or
the show only at 7:50pm
Contact Tina on (03) 9878 9886 for details.

September Camp Report

Chute

By Lindsay Tricker

Photos By Ron H.

I arrived at camp Thursday afternoon to find six camps already set-up and the camp-fire already established. That evening light rain began falling and it continued most of Friday only pausing Saturday evening.

The raffle was conducted by Peter Maffey and John Close and the 22 members in attendance enjoyed the warmth of a lovely fire.

This camp-site had ample fire-wood available, much of it already cut up as the area is a designated domestic fire-wood gathering forest and the locals only take the larger logs leaving the smaller pieces behind.

The wet conditions saw a couple of 4 wheel drive vehicles become bogged while out detecting – one vehicle having to be winched out. Because the ground was virtually mud, no treasure hunt was held Sunday morning.

Sunday was the best day of the camp and most detector operators found gold. The rain returned Monday causing many to head for home. Hopefully the weather will be better for the Tarnagulla camp.



At the Chute camp at around 1.30 am a very large tree decided to fall, missing Jim and Pat's Van by inches. As a matter of fact the top leaves brushed the van. A very lucky escape. No one was hurt other than a bit of a shake up. Sorry for the photo Pat didn't realise you was in your Pj's



A wood "chimney" inside this log directs the flames upwards around the evening campfire scene.

VSC POLO SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE!



And VSC
CAPS!



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 Mario SENEVIRANE

October Camp Report

Tarnagulla

By Smoked Salmon
(Ken Whittaker)

Wearisome weather warnings won't worry wandering wand wavers.

From the Wednesday through, the weather was wonderful. A wind gust now and then, a couple of showers during the night, failed to deter our intrepid members, who I'm sure, just like me, enjoyed another excellent camp and detecting adventure.

Photos of caravans being bogged, (no names mentioned John & Bob) but this only occurred to those who went off the beaten track in a turning around process. Understandable, with some surface water about, but, the main camp area was solid. With a little help from their friends they were soon back on hard ground.

All of the dams were full and gullies running with fresh water, quite a change from the environment of the past few years. As a result, the adjacent overflowing dam provided an amusing chorus heard during the night, being the constant "*boggle boggle book, - boggle book bob*" and "*Bob book bobbie gobble*" coming from the resident frogs, pausing irregularly, then away again. Beautiful.

Spring has sprung and the local ants are "queening". And to our Past Pres. Eric's alarm, some of them invaded his pants leg looking for a nice nesting spot, resulting in a new type of bush dance yet to be copyrighted and patented.

Again a pleasant Saturday night, and thanks to Peter M. & Bob & Virginia L. for doing the formalities. The gold report reads as usual, Al with a nice 14 grammer, Lars with a varied group of "species", and some other bits were shown. 3 little species for yours truly.

An added feature for this camp was the nearby Laanacoorie Gold bash event. Some attended the various events over the weekend and quite a few of our members went to the BBQ on the Saturday evening, proving the chance to catch up with old friends.



Alistair's 14 gram nugget.



John Garcia cooking some dinner over the hot coals.



Fields of yellow in paddocks with the recent rains.

More Tarnagulla Photos



Anja & Alistair McK. around the camp fire at evening.



Rob S.'s new Van.
Great detecting weather was a nice welcome.



John C. stuck in the mud.



Virginia and Bob at the camp site.



Tarnagulla Camp scene.



The Gold Bash at Laanecorrie.

Gold Price Report

by Ian Semmens.



60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g Last Close: 52.99



Special Event

Moliagul Camp Melbourne Cup W/E Hot Chicken Dinner



Free Hot Chicken Dinner.
Saturday 29th Nov. Evening Dinner.
Bring yourself, salad and/or desert.

Plus:

- **Special Cup W/E Raffle**
- **Cup Sweepstakes**
- **“Fashions on the Field”**

Dress up for judging of this fun event.

**We have had some great
appearances in the past events.**

A Short Story – Kingower Camp – August 2016

By Ken Whittaker

After the raffles on the Saturday night, about 10.30 PM there were only myself, “Alex the Chef” & “Peter the Rumanian” left at the fire, enjoying a glass of wine. I related to them a little fable that I had heard once. It was a story in that one would receive in the bank at just past midnight each day, the amount of \$86,400, and it had to be spent by midnight that night, and it could only be spent on yourself or your friends.

None of it could be saved, or invested, or left to inheritance, or put in your Super, and at each night, just before 12PM, any money left over would disappear, but, be replaced again, another \$86,400 just after 12.00.

This would go on every day, but, it could cease at any time, without warning, and never occur again.

I then explained that everyone has 86,400 seconds in each day, and it was up to each of us to spend the time wisely, on yourself and/or, on your friends, and of course at midnight a new day would start.

Alex then asked me what the time was and how much money was there left today? I calculated 90 minutes at 60 seconds x \$1 equals \$5,400 each.

To my extreme pleasure, and bringing a little tear to my eye, both Alex and Peter said, “Ken, lets spend some money together before we go to bed.

By the time we went to bed, none of us had any of that days money left in the bank.

Thank you fella's. Life is good.



Victorian Government wants small miners to pay \$900,000 for grass removal

CHRIS McLENNAN, The Weekly Times

August 17, 2016

VICTORIA'S expensive ban on tree removal has extended to grass. Three goldminers have been told to pay \$900,000 to the Victorian Government to search for gold on about 15 hectares of public land.

The treeless and badly eroded land at Talbot in central Victoria has been grazed by sheep for more than a century. Yet the Government's biodiversity experts want a minimum of \$900,000 for replacement native vegetation offsets because the removal of native grass, which would occur during mining, risks the future of the rare Lowly Greenhood orchid.



One of the Gold miners Jason Raats at the potential lease site near Talbot.

"The orchid is not here, has probably never been here," said Carisbrook farmer and prospector Jason Raats.

"There is a small patch seven kilometres away, which they (the Government) include in their modelling to say it might be here in the future.

"The ground is only worth about \$30,000 at auction and there is no way there is that much gold there."

Better start checking your 20 cent pieces!



Picture - Wavy Baseline (Left), Regular Coin (Right)

If you find an Australian 1966 20 cent piece in your change then you'd better take a second look. Did you know that a particular variety of the 1966 20 cent coin could be worth \$100 or more!

In 1966 the 20 cent piece was minted in 2 different locations. About half of those coins were minted in Canberra and half in London at the Royal Mint in Birmingham. Of the 30 million coins minted in London just one of the dies that were used to press those coins was different. There was a small difference that makes this coin unique and worth a great deal more.

The oddity is that one die had a small differing feature. This variety is in the base of the 2 of the 20 on the reverse of the coin. There is an upward curve in that baseline of the 2 often called a wave, thus the nickname the 'wavy 20' or 'wavy baseline 20 cent'. You can clearly see the differences in the "Wavy 20" and the regular 20 cent coin in the image below. The coin on the left has a distinct wave on the top of the baseline of the two. You'll also note a corresponding indentation in the water swirl above the wave. By comparison the normal reverse 20 cent has no wave in either the base of the 2 or the water above the baseline.

Beware there are many forgeries around mimicking this wave often derived from some sort of heat treatment of the metal. A genuine wavy 20 has a gentle curve that is paralleled in the water swirl directly above.

A high grade example of one of these varieties is worth \$3000-\$5000 whilst a banged up coin you might find in your change might be worth \$100-\$200.

Researchers Discover Bacteria That Produces Pure Gold

Bacteria eats poison, poops out gold



The gold you see in the photo above was not found in a river or a mine. It was produced by a strain of bacteria that, according to researchers at Michigan State University, can survive in extreme toxic environments and create 24-karat gold nuggets. Pure gold.

Maybe this critter can save us all from the global economic crisis?

Of course not—but at least it can make Kazem Kassefi—assistant professor of microbiology and molecular genetics—and Adam Brown—associate professor of electronic art and intermedia—a bit rich, if only for the show they have put together.

Kassefi and Brown are the ones who have created this compact laboratory that uses the bacteria *Cupriavidus metallidurans* to turn gold chloride - a toxic chemical liquid you can find in nature - into 99.9% pure gold.

According to Kassefi, they are doing "microbial alchemy" by "something that has no value into a solid [in fact, it the toxic material they use does cost money.

Less than gold, but still plenty], precious metal that's valuable."

The bacteria is incredibly resistant to this toxic element. In fact, it's 25 times stronger than previously thought. The researchers' compact factory—which they named The Great Work of the Metal Lover—holds the bacteria as they feed it the gold chloride. In about a week, the bacteria does its job, processing all that junk into the precious metal—a process they believe happens regularly in nature.

So yes, basically, *Cupriavidus metallidurans* can eat toxins and poop out gold nuggets.

It seems that medieval alchemists were looking for the Philosopher's Stone—the magic element that could turn lead to gold—in the wrong place. It's not a mineral. It's a bug.

Note: The above post is reprinted from materials provided by Michigan State University



Doug Stone Gold Maps

Australia's leading books on gold prospecting and goldfields maps.

Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".
www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

Recent Gold Finds

'I could barely believe my eyes': Aus-sie prospector uncovers massive 4kg gold nugget

Yahoo7 News on August 25, 2016, 5:09 pm

The Victorian prospector who found a massive four-kilogram gold nugget, worth an estimated \$300,000, says he couldn't believe his eyes when he made the "once in a lifetime" find.

Instead of retiring, the man says he plans on purchasing a caravan and travelling across Australia after splitting the proceeds with a couple of close mates he had made a prospecting pact with.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, had been digging at the far southern edge of Victoria's Golden Triangle and thought he'd stumbled across rubbish when he first saw the 4.12kg nugget.

Instead of retiring, the man says he plans on purchasing a caravan and travelling across Australia after splitting the proceeds with a couple of close mates he had made a prospecting pact with.



Another big Victorian nugget!



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Nice chunk of gold weighing in at 121 grams, just shy of 4 ounces. The owner didn't want to disclose any information.



These found in the last month by a member wanting to remain anonymous.



A very rough nugget found in Victoria.



A 10 ounce nugget found near Dunolly.

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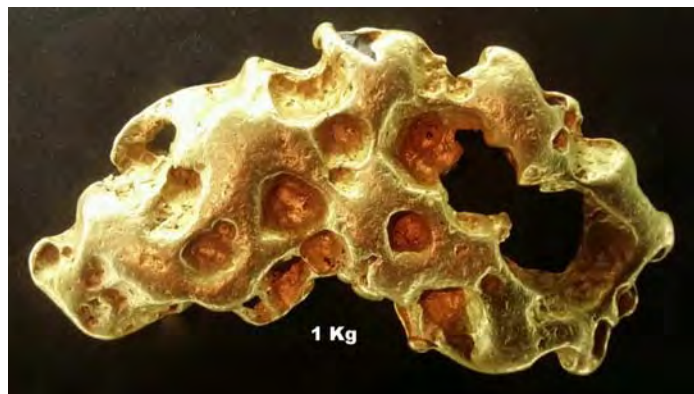
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Great Video on the Poseidon Lead gold mine



The Thrill of Gold is a 35 minute documentary on the Big Hope Gold Mine located on the Poseidon Lead near Tarnagulla. The mine workers dig with bulldozers and excavators to get to the layer of soil containing the alluvial gold. In the dozed areas the bigger nuggets are picked up with the metal detector. The gold bearing soil is then treated in the gold plant with trommels, jigs and sluices to extract the gold. Some large gold nuggets have been found along with large quantities of smaller and fine gold.

More videos will follow. www.gold-gusti.ch

The Video is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-Dv-UM1Bkl>

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Directions and Maps for
forthcoming Club Camps are
available to members only.

Poets Corner

The Prospectors Dream

By Ken Whittaker

Many try and many dream
While prospecting for gold
There's always tomorrow – see
No one knows what it will hold

Today's luck was a little down
Better days have we all have seen
No metal stuff for a Kings crown
Nor enough either, for a Queen

But as we talk around the fire
Telling tales of past treasure
The smiles on faces do abound
With memories that pleasure

He found a big one up North they say
He should have been in the West
Cos Johno did even better still
But of course he is the best

A private lease is the diggers dream
One rich with quartz and ironstone
A wide golden, thick white seam
Its there, its yours, alone

We'll swing and swing with a bigger coil
And put the best settings on
Hour by hour ongoing toil
That bit's been done and done.

Go slow and wide – settle down
All day to do this bit
What's that, nice sound
Just another piece of sh*t

But two steps on, so soft and sweet
Heart jumps – this is it
Dig down, dig down, stuff this bloody heat
Good gold, nice gold, a good chunky bit

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Detector Tips



Try this neat detector tip fro Rob Shannon. These 12mm chair leg tips from your local hardware store makes a great protector for the coil cable connector when not in use.

New Members

- James and Patricia DARRAGH

Welcome and Good Luck!



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