

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 issue 3

May/June 2018

***Big nuggets are still being
found in Victoria.***



Inside This Issue

Wedderburn Camp Report

Fryerstown Camp Report

Recent Gold Finds

...and more!

Ken W. hard at it while Peter M. looks on 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 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

PO Box 15, Mt Waverley BC, VIC 3149

Committee of Management

PRESIDENT: Susan MOORE

Club management/ representation, Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Tony PAPPAS

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

TREASURER: Paul HART

Annual Accounts, Budget forecast & Banking,

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Pam GRIFFIN

Subscriptions, membership records,

RESEARCH OFFICER: Rob SHANNON

Information about outings, field activity.

CATERING SUPERVISOR: Alex ERAM

SOCIAL SECRETARY: Tina WHELAN
Sue HODGES

Organizing social functions, raffles, theatre bookings, etc.

ALMONER: Louise McGOUGH

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

Nola PAPPAS

CLOTHING OFFICER: Eric GRUMMETT

LIBRARY: Louise McGOUGH

FIELD OFFICERS: Bob LAKE, Ivan ALBRECHT, Brian McGOUGH,

Lindsay TRICKER, & Paul GRIFFIN

Events Calendar

May

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

Thurs. 17th - Tues. 22nd: Camp Talbot

June

Wed. 6th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 7th - Tues. 12th: Camp Maldon

Sun. 10th - Sun 24th: Special trip Tibooburra

July

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 5th - Tues. 10th: Camp Heathcote

August

Wed. 1st: General Meeting.

Thurs. 9th - Tues. 14th: Camp Inglewood

September

Wed. 5th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 6th - Tues. 11th: Camp Eaglehawk

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President's Report

By Susan Moore

I would like to welcome all our new members. With Warren resigning as Treasure it has caused us some problems as he is hard to replace. He was also acting as Membership Secretary which his wife was originally attending to. As they are both suffering from health issues they have called it a day, we wish them well and hope they stay in touch. We have replaced Warren with Paul Hart as Treasurer and Robyn with Pam Griffiths who has very kindly come to our rescue and we wish them both well in their new roles and thank them both very much for their much-needed help. All the committee are behind them to help them through this rough patch. Your understanding in this matter is much appreciated.

Easter camp at Fryerstown was fun. My first camp since Christmas, really enjoyed my break from work and the household chores. I Love the markets Saturday at Chewton and Sunday at Castlemaine and enjoyed the Saturday night dance at the Chewton Hall which is run by Jim Cole (who very generously allows us to prospect on his land) and his friend Marilyn who do it to raise money for the Red Cross. the Red Cross/CWA ladies did a great supper and they raised over \$700.00 this time.

Everyone seems to enjoy our games such as Stake Your Claim and the Treasure Hunt and of course looking for the elusive gold.

Roast dinner on Sunday under a lovely clear crisp and starry night went down very well. Lindsay, Bob and Joyce (ex member) did a great job with the roast lamb, beef and ham and we had a great range of salads, hot veggies and deserts all supplied by the members to share, Jim and Marilyn came as honorary guests for dinner and played three songs for us. The raffle run by Sue Hodges was great and raised \$333.00.

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

It's your newsletter, so have your say!

Send them as a Word file or a jpeg to Ian Semmens at ian@regentvideo.com.au

The deadline for the next issue (No. 4 June/July) is 20th June.



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/vic.seekers

- CAMP PHOTOS AND INFORMATION
- CLUB EVENTS
- NUGGET STORIES
- MEMBER'S FINDS (GOLD AND RELIC)
- NEWS ARTICLES
- VIDEOS
- AND MUCH MORE!

New Members

- Chris Schultz
- Tim Hunter
- Michael and Kathy Davies
- Dean and Briony Richards.

Welcome and Good Luck!

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!

General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

Our February meeting was highlighted by a visit from Andrew Giles of the Victorian Historic Mine Shaft Chasers who gave us a fascinating rundown of their group's pastime activities of researching, discovering and exploring old mine shafts around Victoria. Their aim is to record these underground mines so that we have a visual history of their contents. As Victoria was the world leader for many years in the 19th century for gold produced by underground mining, we have literally hundreds of kilometres of these tunnels below us, some over a kilometre deep, mostly around Bendigo, Castlemaine, Ballarat, and the Walhalla areas.

Due to health reasons our treasurer Warren Ibbotson has had to suddenly resign his position, and so nominations were called for a replacement from the floor. As a result Paul Hart has offered to take the role on, thank you Paul. Paul has had previous experiences with treasury work, and with a little help from Jim Darrah who manages the PMAV treasury, we will soon have our house in order. Pam Griffin has also taken on the position of membership secretary to replace Robyn Ibbotson who is also receiving health care.

The find of month went to Jan H for his monster 4oz nugget found at Moliagul (see last issue of the newsletter).

At our April meeting it was agreed that the club will purchase a new laptop computer and new accounting program to facilitate a more open and user friendly system of handling our finances and memberships.

The find of month went to Gary H for a 3.5 gram nugget from Wedderburn. Thomas also offered a nice

gold ring for judging.

The night was finished with a video of 'Rivers of Gold' produced by Jacques Cousteau showing us how the effects of gold fever on the central Brazilian area some 35 years ago. We saw 40,000 prospectors literally ripping apart a mountain with almost bare hands, and carrying the spoil in sacks weighing 40 kg up steep ladders to be paid a pittance of royalty by the mine owners. Also the use of mercury for amalgamating was extremely dangerous.

Next month we will have a representative from the Wilkgard Technology Group to talk about TV antennas and how we can achieve an optimum reception almost anywhere. It is a topic I am sure we could all get good advice. For June I have Toby Houldsworth from Core Prospecting to tell us about his companies work on resource development and moving underground assets into production.

Members are reminded that human waste is not to be dumped in the bush but is to be disposed of at home or a Public Dump Point.

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

Almoner's Report

by Louise McGough

A getwell card sent to Bev G after her back surgery.

A get well card sent to Alex E as he has had a knee replacement.

A card sent to Ian G after experiencing the effects of the recent bushfires in Terang.

A 80th Birthday card sent to David G

Finally a 70TH Birthday card sent to Carol S



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MarchCamp Report

Wedderburn *By Robert Shannon*

Typically, the Wedderburn camp is held at the same time each year to coincide with the Wedderburn Gold Jambo-ree. This is renowned as a hot camp weather wise, and this lived up to all expectations once again! Temperature's again reached the mid 30's which was bearable however, a welcome dry cool change swept through later at camp.

It was a decent turn out despite the warmer weather with 37 accounted for and a handful of visitors, who we made feel welcomed. The Wedderburn Gold Jamboree was a big hit with the members. Both Eric and Matt entered the gold panning competition but unfortunately didn't make it to the finals. We hear each year during the token hunt on 'Hard Hill' of gold being recovered. This year was no exception with a report (and photo) of a 40 gram nugget being found!

Gold found at camp was mostly small, however Gary found a lovely 4.3 gram nugget (his largest find to date) so well done to you Gary! Alistair scored a nice 1.5 gram nugget and Geoff a 1.6 gram nugget.

A very enjoyable camp, lots of laughter and new friends being made all the time. If you see a new face at camp, be sure to go up and introduce yourself to them and make them feel welcomed.



The 4.3gram nugget above, and right, it's finder, Gary



There must be something in the water out there that has strange effect on your hair.

Below: Seekers main camp scene.



More Wedderburn Photos



Matt K.
taking part in the
Gold
Panning
competition.



Ken W. giving the
cameraman (Rob) a
lecture.



Anja is excited
about something...

April Camp Report

Fryerstown

By Virginia Lake

Photos by Rob Shannon

What a great camp! The weather was kind with warm sunny days and cool nights and no rain in sight. There was a great sense of camaraderie throughout the camp and many activities for those who wished to participate.

We arrived Thursday morning to find the oval was nearly half full. In total I believe we had 79 campers although there was only 65 at the dinner Sunday night as some had other commitments and needed to return home.

As usual Friday morning the local CFA called into camp with their collection tins for the Royal Children's Hospital; members gave very generously and the Vic Seekers Club donated \$50.

The Chewton market on Saturday morning is always a favourite with club members and this year was no different.

Fourteen members attended Jimmy Cole's dance in Chewton on Saturday night raising over \$700 including \$100 Eric collected from people not attending the dance. This money is donated to the Red Cross. Anyone who has ever been to the dance can vouch for the great supper served half way through the dance. It is worth going to the dance just for the supper.

Sunday morning Francois and Francine set up *Stake Your Claim*. Sophie M won 1st claim, Kathy D 2nd claim and Lars L 3rd claim. Other games were on offer throughout the day such as Horse-



The three winners of *Stake Your Claim*, from L to R:
Lars, Sophie and Kathy.

shoe throwing and Bochie. Several people have asked for the *Egg & Detector Race* back, so if you want it back on the agenda please let the committee know.

The dinner Sunday night went well, Lindsay cooked the meat to perfection and everyone needs to pat themselves on the back for the salads and sweets, we had more than enough with lots of variety. Thank you to the carvers Bob Lake, Joyce B and Lindsay Tricker also to the overseers Susan Moore, Sue Hodges, Peter M and Shirley who ensured everyone got their meal quickly and in an orderly manner.

Entertainment was supplied by our guests Jimmy Cole and Marilyn who played three tunes. Lighting & generator supplied by Bob Lake and Robert Shannon; Fire pits supplied by John C and Geoff K. Thank you to all those I have failed to mention; your contributions are greatly appreciated. The raffle raised \$333.

The Treasure Hunt was held Monday morning with James S finding the 1st token \$30, Bob Lake the 2nd token \$20 and Brian S 3rd \$10. Monday night 23 of us went to the hotel at Campbells Creek for tea and were made most welcome.

Over the Easter weekend Tim H, Kathy & Richard D and Briony & Dean R joined our club. Ray C upgraded his membership from Single to Family. I take this opportunity to welcome them to our club and wish them good fortune in finding that elusive gold.



Michael's first detected nugget was on this camp.

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Javel	450gm	4mm	450mm



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Jimmy Cole and Marilyn entertaining the members Sunday night.



Around the campfire on Sunday early evening.

More Fryerstown Photos



A four pence coin made of silver and minted in 1842. These are rarely found.



Gathering around the campfire in the evening.



Alistair's Nuggets - the biggest is 2 grams.



Immi's Gold.



Tony P.'s's Nuggets

Below: The sun is setting over the campsite at Fryerstown.



The remains of the Spanish & Cornish Mine.



Maldon Camp Information

CARMAN'S TUNNEL



Carman's Tunnel was commenced around 1882 by the Great International Quartz Mining Company, as an attempt to drive a tunnel right through Mt Tarrangower, intersecting the rich gold-bearing reefs that had been mined previously from shaft-type mines on the mount. Work was abandoned at the end of 1884 after progressing only around 600 metres. No gold bearing rock was cut, but the tunnel gives an excellent insight into the mining techniques of the 1880s. The tunnel was opened to the public in 1964 by the Maldon Progress Association and is operated today by a Committee of Management.

It is known locally as **Carman's Tunnel** from the gully in which it is located.

The 570m (1870ft) long Tunnel is dry, clean, spacious, level and easily accessible to all ages. Wheelchair friendly.

Like the miners who drove the Tunnel, you will see by candlelight the unaltered features and techniques of gold mining in the 1880s just as they were left. Experience the tunnel's warmth in the winter and coolness during the summer periods.

TUNNEL TOURS

Parkins Reef Road, Maldon 3463

Saturdays, Sundays, Public Holidays and School Holidays (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, and Good Friday) Tours operate 1:30pm, 2:30pm, and 3:30pm. Each tour takes 30 – 40 minutes. Parties may be limited to twenty persons for ideal viewing.

Admission Charges

Adults \$7.50
Children \$2.50



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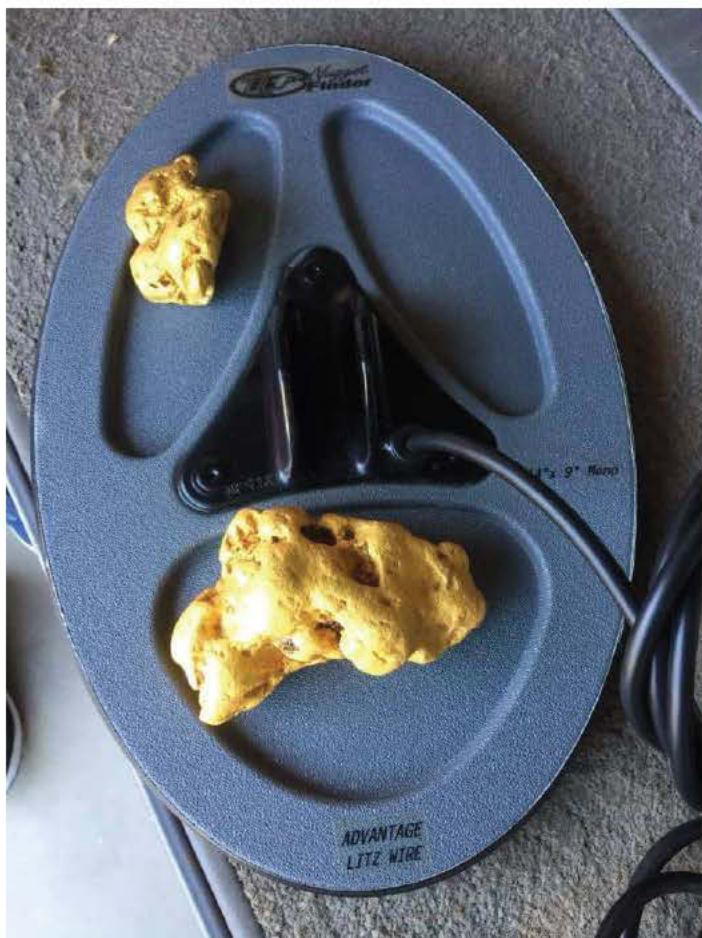


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Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".
www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

Recent Gold Finds



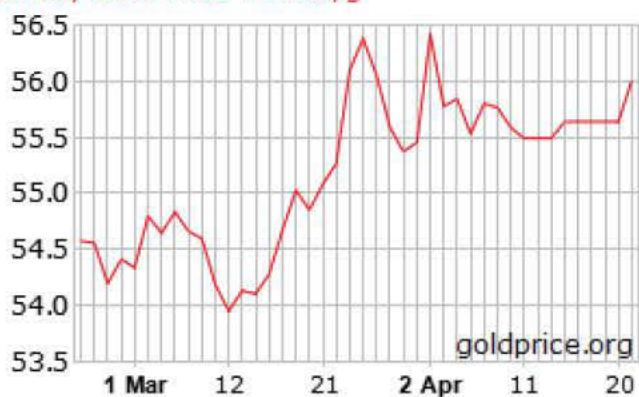
Two sizable nuggets, however no details are available for them.



This lovely solid gold nugget was found today out in Inglewood area. The weight is unknown but it looks north of 10 ounces. Unfortunately it wasn't found by one of our members but keep on swinging folks you never just know!

Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold Price as at 22/04/2018



No information on this one though it is a very deep hole and a very large nugget if it is real.



Nearly 200grams of gold and specimens from the Dunolly “Glory Hole”.
Nice find by a lucky prospector recently in the Dunolly area. Apparently it was all found in one hole part of an untapped reef, also known as a 'glory hole'.
Credit: Dunolly Caravan Park.



This 1.763 kg nugget was found by Syd P in December 2016 in Victoria’s Golden Triangle.
A photo of this nugget was first seen in the 2017 March/April newsletter issue but we thought that it was such a beauty it was worth another different shot of the nugget.

History of Maldon

In 1836 an early exploration party, led by Major Mitchell on his return journey from Portland to Sydney, crossed the Loddon at Newstead and passed south of Mt. Tarrangower. It is believed that he passed through the Maldon area, as his initials were said to be found carved on a tree in the Nuggetty Ranges.

Settlement of the area followed soon after, the region having been explored in 1840 with the intention of establishing an Aboriginal settlement. The settlement was established on the Loddon River near Mt Tarrangower in 1841. A Pastoral Run Licence was issued for the 100,000 acre Cairn Curran property in 1840 and one for the 61,200 acre Tarrangower property in 1842.

Gold was found on the Cairn Curran property at the end of 1853 in the region that was first called Tarrangower, eventually to be called Maldon. A Polish captain, Mechosk, and a group of prospectors are credited with finding the first gold at the base of Mt. Tarrangower in Long Gully, near the Royal Hotel. The subsequent rush to the area increased the population to an estimated 20,000. Later finds in Eaglehawk and Porcupine Flat saw the population increase to about 40,000 people. Lack of water made living difficult and the washing of the gold had to either wait until it rained, or the dirt was transported to the Loddon River or Muckleford Creek. The initial finds of alluvial gold petered out after two years and most of the miners moved away. At first the finds of gold-bearing quartz were ignored, as the means of extracting the gold proved too difficult, but with the alluvial rush over, miners then turned to investigating the reefs that had been discovered and looked for ways of crushing the quartz to extract the gold. As the tunnels became longer and the shafts deeper, and the cost of mining and processing the quartz became

greater, the mining passed from small groups of miners to large companies. This changed the appearance of the region from a tent and shanty town with thousands of shafts and their heaps of dirt, to a scene with tall chimneys, poppet heads, steam generators, batteries and the large mullock heaps. This reef mining went to great depths, nearly 700 metres in the case of the South German mine, when underground water flooded the mine. The richest of the mines was the Nuggetty, which was only at a depth of 75 metres when the reef ended.

In all, there were approximately 40 mines in the region. The region produced over 2 million ounces of gold, which is over \$2,100 million at today's prices (*Jan 2016*). This is the official recorded production; the total gold production was impossible to record. Today, Maldon only has one underground mine that is operational intermittently. The district is still believed to have potential gold deposits that could yield more gold than was ever taken out of the area.

The wealth of the new Tarrangower settlement prompted the government to establish a town and an initial site to the north of the existing town was surveyed by John Templeton in 1854. The site chosen was not popular with the residents and a later survey by Thomas Adair in 1856 included the irregular street pattern from Spring Street to Camp Street with a regular grid pattern from Camp Street to Franklin Street. The intention of Adair was that the new town, which he named Maldon, should be located in the section with the regular layout, but the local preference was to make the junction of High and Main Streets the town centre.

Maldon was declared a municipality in 1858 and the main growth of the town occurred from this time, with the construction of a court house, a hospital, a market building, two bank buildings and 10 churches. Later buildings constructed were the

State School, two of the largest stores, Warnock's Beehive Store and Dabb and Co's Store, the Post Office and the Temperance Hall. In addition to these buildings there were 60 hotels, three theatres, billiard parlours, skittle alleys, cafes and accommodation houses. At this time Maldon was ranked as the eighth largest town in the State.

By the end of the First World War, gold yields started petering out and mines began to close. The North British Mine, the last of the large mines, closed in 1926. From that time, with the mines closing and with the Great Depression, people started leaving Maldon and half of the houses were moved to other towns. Some of the residents remained and the population dropped to nearly 1,000 people but the town continued, virtually unchanged.

In 1964, a study by the School of Architecture of the University of Melbourne resulted in the National Trust of Australia giving the first ever classification of "a notable town" to Maldon in 1965, not because of the presence of any classical architecture, but for its unspoilt historic character. The town is now protected, with building and renovating in the historic precinct controlled by strict planning controls.

This is a proud place, preserved by not having become a part of the 'progress' which has overtaken most other old Australian towns. Its people realise they occupy a piece of history which no amount of gold now could buy. At Maldon the air is sweet, the wildflowers flamboyant, the lemons and limes fragrant, the roses brilliant, the wattles and almond blossoms wild against the sky, the elms and white gums gentle screens under the afternoon heat, and the people friendly. The pace, if that is what it should be called, is easy. The rush is over but the secret stays.
John Larkin author of: 'Maldon, Australia's First Notable Town'.



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NGV



From Eric Grummett

NGV Melbourne have a most interesting exhibition on at the moment at Federation Square called Colony; Australia 1770-1861 showing us over 600 works spanning paintings, books, sculpture, prints, photographs, furniture, and even taxidermy specimens. The event lasts until July 15th, and anyone interested in our past should go along for this rare chance to see this.

Colony: Australia 1770-1861 / Frontier Wars

NGV Australia will host two complementary exhibitions that explore Australia's complex colonial history and the art that emerged during and in response to this period. Presented concurrently, these two ambitious and large-scale exhibitions, Colony: Australia 1770-1861 and Colony: Frontier Wars, offer differing perspectives on the colonisation of Australia. Featuring an unprecedented assemblage of loans from major public institutions around Australia, Colony: Australia 1770-1861 is the most comprehensive survey of Australian colonial art to date. The exhibition explores the rich diversity of art, craft and design produced between 1770, the arrival of Lieutenant James Cook and the Endeavour, and 1861, the year the NGV was established.

Colony: Australia 1770-1861 is on display from 15 March – 15 July 2018 and Colony: Frontier Wars is on display from 15 March – 2 September 2018 at NGV Australia at Federation Square. Tickets and information are available from the NGV website: NGV.MELBOURNE

To inform our new members and a reminder for existing members:

Vic Seekers is on YouTube!



So far a total of 21 videos have been uploaded to our [Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaT2i94zvarPXrXn0) channel. Views range from 50 to over 1100!

Members are invited to submit further videos as this is a great way to share our tips, techniques and (sometimes) triumphs.

Check it out now: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaT2i94zvarPXrXn0> Szjpw

Or just search in YouTube for **Vic Seekers**

Thanks to Nola Pappas, our Information Technology Officer for setting this up.

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Well..., it has finally happened.
Rob has flipped his lid.

VSC member Ian Grummett and his family have had their dairy property near Terang in Western Victoria badly affected by the recent fires there. To view some video footage of the damage you can go to Eric Grummett's Facebook page. Ian and his family has our sympathy and support during this difficult period.

Campers Please 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.



Tibooburra Special Trip

There is a Special Trip to Tibooburra starting on the 10th June going to the 24th June. Stay as long or as short as you like. For more information on this detecting trip please contact Eric Grummett

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