

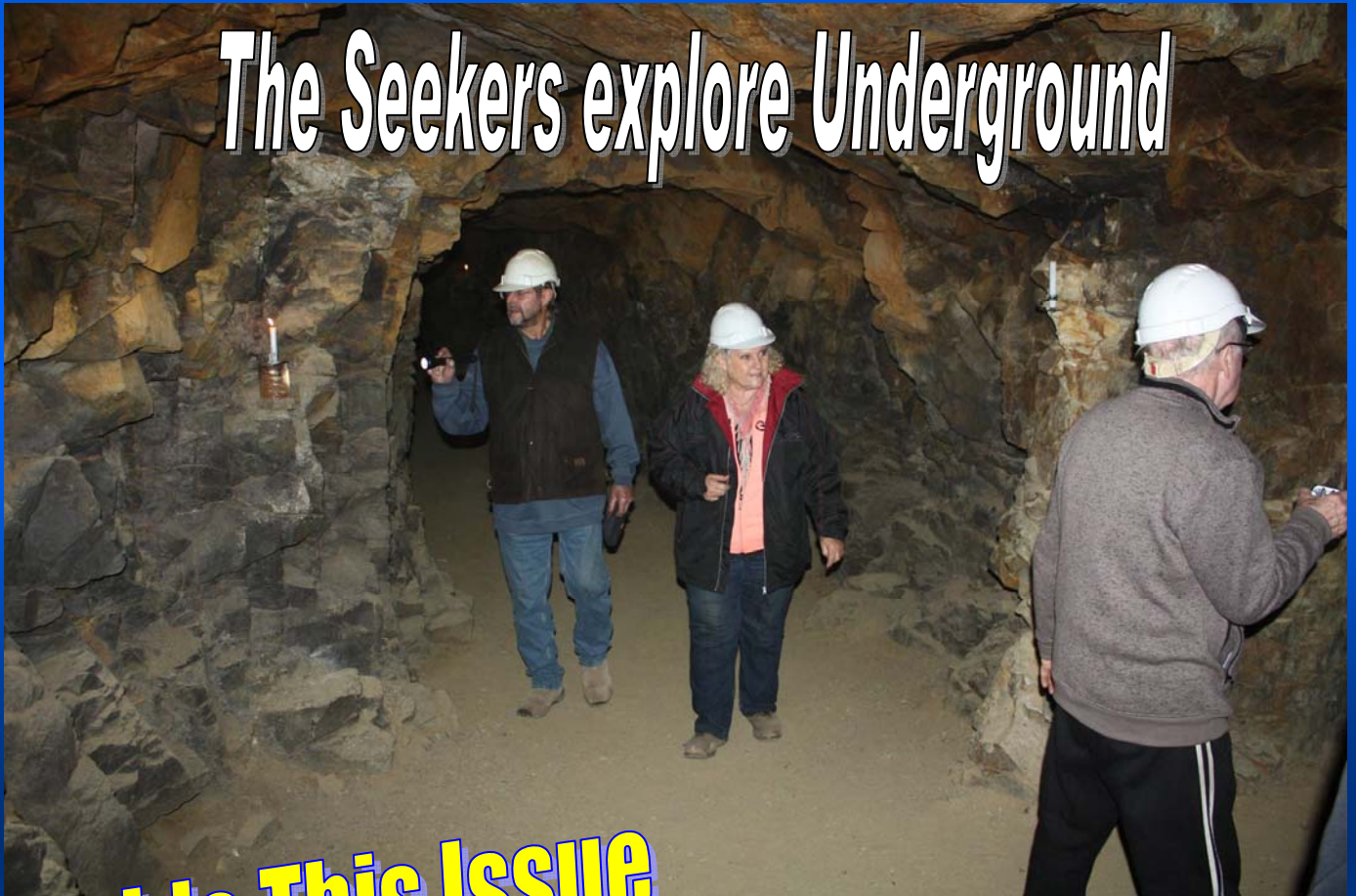
# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 issue 4

July/August 2018

## The Seekers explore Underground



## Inside This Issue

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**...and more!**

**VSC Member Finds 43gram  
nugget at Talbot Camp**





## 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: [www.victorianseekersclub.com.au](http://www.victorianseekersclub.com.au)**

**email: [eric.grummett@bigpond.com](mailto:eric.grummett@bigpond.com)**

**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

## 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**

## October

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

**Thurs. 4th - Tues. 9th:** Camp **TBA**

## November

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

**Thurs. 1st - Tues. 6th:** Camp **TBA**

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# President's Report

By Susan Moore

Hello to you all. It has been a really good time for the club with so many new members signing up so far this year.

Well it's been a difficult few months since Warren and Robyn left us, but it seems with the much-appreciated help, time and effort put in by Jim Darragh helping Paul (our new treasurer) out with the purchase of a new lap top and accounting package (MYOB). Jim has been very busy loading all our information onto the new lap top and keeping our accounts in order as Paul had plans to go to Western Australia before he signed up as Treasurer, we are at last seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Paul is now back and picking up where he left off with Jim. Also, a big thanks to Pam Griffin stepping in as membership secretary she also had travel plans, but Tony stepped up to the mark while she has been away, now Pam is back on-board Tony and Nola are on a hard-earned holiday to Europe.

It is unfortunate but Ian our Newsletter Editor feels he has run his course and he needs more time for his personal life and projects, so he will be resigning at the end of this term in September. We are now on the look out to recruit a new editor, so anyone who feels they can handle this position and has some experience with Publisher please let us know. The newsletter is published bi-monthly and Ian has done the hard yards and a great job of setting up our newsletter so take over should be relatively easy. In saying this all committee positions will be made vacant for re-election in September.

Ian has also done quite a lot of research on our Projector which is dying, the cost for repair was \$400-\$500 with no guarantee that it would last any real amount of time,

therefore at the General Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June it was put to a vote on the Club purchasing a new projector, and it was a unanimous decision that we go ahead with the purchase. Ian is looking into this for us.

Our Gary & Warren Smith Car Raffle cheque for \$800.00 has been collected and banked. Many thanks to all who purchased tickets to make this possible, and a big thanks to Lindsay who organised and sold the tickets, it's a great boost to our coffers.



## VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.

### NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER For the year 2018-2019

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

#### 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	

All Positions on the committee become vacant at the next AGM in September and all members who wish to make a contribution to the club are encouraged to nominate.

This Year we have a particular need for a  
**Newsletter Editor**

So if you have the desire please get nominated.

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# General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

At our May meeting we had as our guest speaker, Sally Garden from Wilkgard Technology, who specialize in Explorer caravan antenna systems. She gave us a very informative talk about how we can obtain an optimum reception in most areas without using satellite technology. She pointed out that transmitters in different areas can send out either horizontal or vertical signals and are directional, which means that antennas need to be versatile so that the correct configuration is used. The Explorer antenna, by a simple adjustment, caters for both. For a phone app to give us the best directional signals, see DTVAntennas (for android phones) or antennamate on iphones.

Many people have trouble with pixilation on their screens and according to Sally, 90% of the problem is caused by cable connections, usually the connection through the wall. Wilkgard have the solution using a special wall plate using screw connections (F type) and can also incorporate a signal booster powered by 12 volt. For more information go to [www.explorer-rv.com.au](http://www.explorer-rv.com.au) and a You Tube demonstration on [www.tinyurl.com/wilkgard](http://www.tinyurl.com/wilkgard) Jim and Pat Darragh who watch a lot of TV in the bush bought the new antenna and are rapt at the difference it made. Anyone interested in purchasing any Wilkgard product can get 10% discount by showing club identification, such as your badge.

The find of month went to Francine for a nice gold bracelet.

Our June meeting showed plenty of empty seats with many members off on interstate destinations for winter. Because of the problems we have had with our projector, we have been quoted about \$500 to fix, and as it is now

considered old technology, it was recommended by a majority vote that we would look at replacing it. Ian Semmens will report to the committee with quotes.

Our guest for this meeting was Toby Houldsworth from Core Prospecting, which is a small mining company he has set up to obtain the rights to explore and develop some old mines around Victoria. He is currently waiting on approvals for an underground operation at Percydale (near Avoca). Toby explained his plans for the project of which he has great optimism for success. He also has plans for further leases in Redcastle.

His biggest hurdles to start, are the huge bureaucracy demands for the multitude of permits required. Meanwhile he is contracting with the Morning Star mine at Woods Point, (from which he came especially for our meeting). I think he and Robert Shannon Would make a good pair.

There are interesting videos on You Tube about the Morning Star mining operation, just look up Morning Star Mine Woods Point. For those that missed the meeting, Ian videoed the talk which shows the pioneering spirit of the modern miner which will be available as soon as he has time to edit it.

As we didn't have any offerings for find of month, no awards were given.

Next month we will have a refresher video on first aid, which is a subject we all should be familiar with.



Sally Garden from Wilkgard displays the vertical orientation of their Explorer TV antenna at May's Meeting.

For more information see Part 1 of the TV Reception article on page 14.



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# May Camp Report

## Talbot

*By Ken Whittaker  
Photos by Rob Shannon*

All of our camps are good but some are special and this was one of them. All aspects of great camping and detecting were prevalent. Great weather, mild but not unpleasant, a good turnout of a mixed lot of campers. We had some 40 + people being a mixture of members, old and younger, three new members, visitors, and even past members turned out. (John & Joan Bone dropped in for a chat).

A survey of the accommodation range included - High end caravans, 5<sup>th</sup> Wheelers, single axle & duel axle caravans, canvas and rear entry vans, camper-trailers, stand alone tents, motor homes, and "Troopy" type accommodation independent vehicles. Gary and Jenny turned up with a brand new caravan and their dog Mayer approves of the new interior.

There is no need to mention the great fireside evenings with Bob & Craig doing battle to create the biggest bonfire, nor to mention the raffle organisers and firewood collectors, sign-in tent bringers, so I won't.

Along with the aforementioned information a seemingly good lot of gold was bought forth by some lucky coil swingers. The nuggets ranged from 42g & 22g to 5g and lots of smaller examples of the yellow stuff. There is a view, that the gathering together in the bush, with good company and our nature all about, that the finding of a nugget or

two is, in fact, just a bonus.

Several members took some time off out of the detector harness, and on the Sunday attended the Talbot Sunday market. Rob returned with a well kept old timers mine oil lantern and a 1920's "depression era" handle operated sieve "Cradle Rocker". The others just returned with some food goodies and a smile.

It was great to see the patriotic content of the camp itinerary too, in that in regard that the weekend being a "Royal Wedding Weekend" we had the pleasure of a brief visit from the "Royals" themselves with Briony & Dean representing the royal couple. They left a lasting impression.



A great find! 42grams of gleaming gold.

Below: Seekers main camp scene.





# More Talbot Photos



The happy finder of this 23 gram nugget is Allan.

Graham M. always cooking up some hot pies and sharing them with the very grateful members.



Close up of the nugget



Peter S. nuggets from his patch

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

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Rob's 5 gram nugget



Collins nugget's kept him busy



# June Camp Report

## Maldon

By Ken Whittaker

Photos by Rob Shannon

Well, how about that. "The who didn't go to Tibooburra Camp?" was well attended. 18 Seekers taking up 13 camp sites managed to find a few level spots on the hilly ground that most of us chose to park on, except Bob & Virginia who selected the lower ground.

With the very close-by town beckoning, many of the group enjoyed the holiday and touristy ambience of Maldon with attendances at many of the features of the district being utilised.

Due to a lack of available firewood and persistent drizzle on the Friday, a camp fire did not eventuate until the Saturday evening, mostly thanks to a local resident (who expressed an interest in joining the club). He made available some transport "pallets" and along with a little local firewood a roaring fire was soon up and going.

Peter and Virginia again did the raffle resulting in the usual camaraderie under a clear sky. Rob had arranged a discounted private tour of Carman's Tunnel mine for the Saturday afternoon and most of the camp went there.



Shirley, Craig, Geoff, Kay & Pat about to enter the Carman's Tunnel Mine.



Around the campfire on Saturday evening.

One feature occurrence was that 15 members and visitors enjoyed a wonderful Sunday dinner meal at a 165 year old local pub called the Kangaroo Hotel, the only one of its name in Australia. A delightful meal and surroundings kept everyone smiling.

Then on the Monday even more local attraction in the form of a steam train ride undertaken by 6 members, and Geoff and Kay reported that the train travelled at 25 kilometers an hour, with lots of steam and loud whistles at the rail crossings and after refilling with water did the same thing on the return trip.

The reader might note the lack of mention of any detected gold, and that is because as far as I know very little was found, with Dave holding the record of 2 bits for a total of 1 gram. Having left on Monday morning perhaps the writer would be ignorant of any lucky member on that day.

On the way home I stopped in at Maryborough and joined the PMAV Rally in support of resistance to the Draft Joint Management Plan for the Dja Dja Wurrung Parks and Reserves. Several other of our members had attended as well.

Overall, a pleasant weekend with again some visitors and prospective new members.



Seekers entering the mine..



Ray our guide pointing out the quartz reef to the Seekers members with Bob having a real good look!



# July Special Camp Report

## Tibooburra

*Report & Photos by Eric Grummett*

This year we had 22 members making their way up to Tibooburra for a winter break, including new members Dean and Brioney, Nigel and Franka, and Bruce from Sydney settling into the Granites Caravan Park. Every year we always having someone meeting up with a member of the wildlife, this year it was Peter and Mieke who managed to send a 'roo to his maker, resulting a \$2000 job for his insurance company.

The weather remained dry for our stay of 2 weeks, not too hot but sunny days, perfect for prospecting except for the flies that were thick on the windless days (they also go to Tibbooburra for winter). Farmers and animals are having

a bad time in the area, experiencing a severe drought, and with no rain falling in that area for many months has dried up most of the dams, sadly leaving many animals dying of thirst and the lack of edible vegetation.

Due the success of the SDC2300 at picking up the very small nuggets, most of us used these machines with mixed results. As we chased mainly the small nuggets, no good pieces over a couple of grams were found. Gold is now very hard to get onto up there as all the known areas have been thoroughly flogged with the 2300's, and any gold got you had to work hard for. To get onto anything decent in the future, new areas and ideas need to be tested.

Our new members Paul and Lisa tried their new dry blower, resulting in finding many small pieces too small to detect, now there is an idea for the future in that dry land. Everyone enjoyed the time there and want to go back again next year.



Briony detecting on in a vast open area scattered with quartz around Tibooburra.



Lisa and Paul working the dry blower with Dean looking on.



Some of the happy prospectors out on the gold field.





## A Message from Rita Bentley:

I have been reading the Draft Joint Management Plan for the DjaDjaWurrung Parks and I am not happy.

This Plan is to replace all existing Park Management Plans for Greater Bendigo National Park, Kooyoora State Park, Kara Kara National Park, Wehla Conservation Reserve and Hepburn Regional Park.

Prospectors lose all round. If this new Management Plan is accepted then we will lose prospecting access to:

another 3,600 hectares (21%) of Bendigo NP,  
another 40 hectares (2%) of Paddys Ranges,  
another 678 hectares (7%) of Kooyoora SP  
another 3,426 hectares (18%) of Kara Kara NP.

This is in addition to all those areas where we cannot prospect now.

It is proposed we will retain access to the 410 hectares of the Wehla CR but the Draft Plan says nothing about future access to the Hepburn Regional

Park where we presently have 100% access. The Report has a space for this but it is blank. An additional document indicates a proposal for us to lose access to 58% of the Hepburn Park. Hepburn is part of the area being 'investigated' by VEAC in their Central West Investigation.

Unfortunately submissions on this plan are now closed. You will find the Draft Plan at <http://www.dhelkunyadja.org.au/the-plan/public-consultation>

There are three documents, the least important to you is the Strategy so concentrate on the Resources and Maps.

You should also note that there is a condition in the Plan that says some areas are yet to be surveyed for aboriginal sites so there may be further restrictions.

Please get involved, tell your friends, share this post and write a submission. Don't forget to copy in your local Member of Parliament.

Rita Bentley, President Emeritus PMAV





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[www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au](http://www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au)



Eric Grummett & Chris (from the PMAV) were invited guests to speak to around 50 students at the Camperdown College in June. They talked to the interested students about prospecting and then went into the school grounds for a practical demonstration on how to use a metal detector.

The school was very appreciative and they sent Eric a large Thank You card signed by all of the children.

## Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold Price as at 22/06/2018

### *Gold Rush: 20 Objects 20 Stories*

A new exhibition is now open at the Old Treasury Building will present the turbulent tale of Victoria's gold rush through the individual stories of just 20 objects. *Gold Rush: 20 Objects 20 Stories* is on display until June 2019.



Gold was first discovered in Australia in 1851 – first in New South Wales and then in Victoria. The finds caused a sensation. Stories of fabulous discoveries in California were already famous and the Australian finds promised the same opportunity. Men throughout Australia immediately downed tools to 'rush' to the goldfields, soon joined by others from New Zealand. By the following year thousands began to arrive from Britain, Europe, America and then China. The impact on farms and businesses was devastating at first. As Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe wrote to his superior in England, 'Cottages are deserted, houses to let, even schools are closed. In some of the suburbs, not a man is left.'

The lure of gold was huge. It represented the opportunity of a lifetime to escape from the relentless cycle of hard work and low pay that was the lot of most people. As stories circulated of fabulous finds literally picked up from the ground, gold fever gripped the imagination of thousands on both sides of the globe. Soon every available vessel had been commandeered for the long journey to Australia, and Victoria was inundated by eager gold seekers. In 1851 Victoria was still a sleepy little outpost of Britain, with a population of just under 100,000. Over the next decade this would double, then double again, to reach 537,847 in 1860, and that only included those who had stayed! Many more had come and gone.



In the early years of the gold rush Melbourne was a city in chaos. Every inch of floor and almost every table and bath in the hotels and lodging houses was occupied. Hundreds at a time spent a night or more on the wharves amongst the barrels and bales. Thousands more went to 'Canvas Town' – a sprawling, makeshift tent city on the southern bank of the Yarra, near where the National Gallery is today. Everything was soon in short supply and prices soared. Canny traders made quick fortunes and there were plenty of rogues ready to fleece trusting newcomers. Most would-be miners set out for the diggings as quickly as they could – while their money lasted.

Although the stories of gold made it sound easy to make a fortune, the reality was very different. Miners worked long and hard in difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions, with no certainty of success. Writer and miner William Howitt described gold digging as, 'a lottery, with far more blanks than prizes,' and many who had travelled half way around the world returned home disappointed. At the same time prices on the diggings were ruinous – not least for the gold licences each miner had to buy. Disappointment fuelled resentment. Agitation against the gold licences spread throughout the diggings in 1854, culminating in the short-lived, but bloody Eureka Stockade. Chinese miners were also targeted by European diggers resentful of their patient success and dogged perseverance.

There is a rich lode of stories of gold-rush Victoria to be discovered and the 20 objects chosen for this exhibition show just how varied they can be. From tiny manuscript dairies kept by men and women on the goldfields, to a replica of the largest nugget found in the world at the time, this exhibition has stories for everyone.

## Law enforcement & emergency vehicles

This article outlines the road rules around law enforcement and emergency vehicles that were changed on June 2017.

### Keeping clear of law enforcement and emergency vehicles

If a police, emergency, enforcement or escort vehicle has its red or blue lights flashing or its siren on, you must:

- Get out of its way
- Give way and stop if necessary, even if you have a green traffic light.

You must also stop if twin red lights are flashing on a road, e.g. outside a fire or ambulance station. You can start driving again once the lights have stopped flashing and the road is clear of emergency or other vehicles.

In emergencies, law enforcement and other emergency vehicles are not required to follow the road rules.

## Passing law enforcement and emergency vehicles

From **1 July 2017** a new road rule has been introduced to improve safety for our emergency and enforcement workers.

You must slow down to a speed that would enable you to stop safely when approaching and passing enforcement, emergency or escort vehicles that are stationary or moving slowly (less than 10km/h)\*, and have either:

- Red and blue flashing lights
- Magenta (purple flashing lights)

An alarm sounding.

You must not exceed 40km/h when passing the vehicle and not increase your speed until a safe distance from the scene (more on this below).

The new road rule does not apply to vehicles on the opposite side of a divided road (separated by a median strip) from an emergency or enforcement vehicle scene.

### Does the new rule apply on all road types?

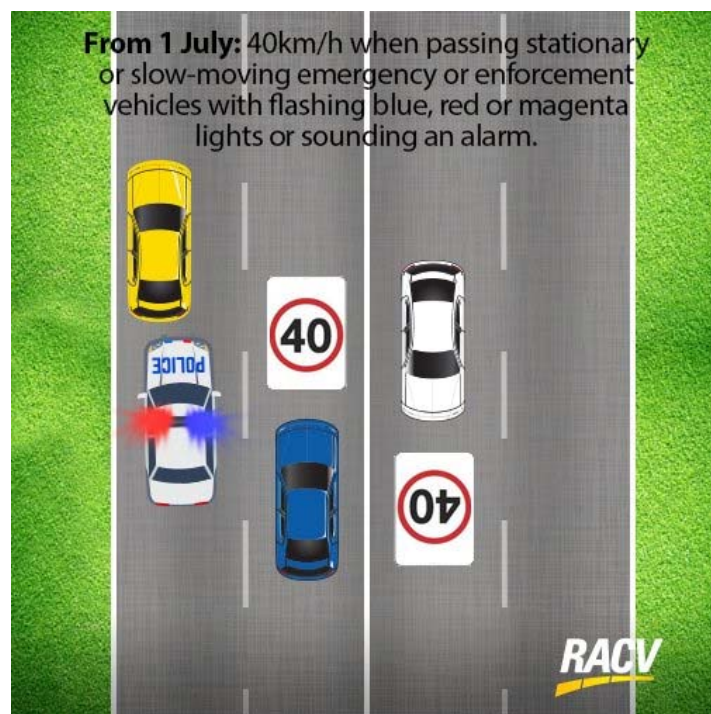
Yes, it applies to all roads, including freeways.

If there is a median strip between your vehicle and the emergency or enforcement vehicle you do not need to slow down.

A median strip is the centre area of the road that separates vehicles travelling in opposite directions. Median strips come in all shapes and sizes. A median strip can be covered in grass, it can include or be a wire rope or concrete barrier or be as simple as a continuous painted island.

For more information go to:

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/road-rules/a-to-z-of-road-rules/police-and-emergency-vehicles>



# Is your Caravan or Camper-Trailer Compliant???

Extract from the Compliance section of the Caravan Council of Australia  
<http://www.caravancouncil.com.au/compliance>

Is your caravan or camper-trailer fully “compliant”? The sad truth is that many are *not*, especially a lot of the early imports. This is especially so with used ex-North American 5th-wheelers and motor homes.

When you buy a motor vehicle - or a trailer *over* 4.5 tonne ATM Rating - it will have a Compliance Plate, issued by the federal *Vehicle Safety Standards* (formerly referred to as DOTARS), fitted to it. This means that complete proof-of-compliance with all applicable ADR's (Australian Design Rules) has been submitted to VSS for their engineering inspection and subsequent approval. VSS will then have probably conducted a SUTI (single uniform type inspection) on one of the subject vehicles, to confirm that the evidence does, in fact, accurately match the vehicle description and specifications.

For caravans and trailers *under* 4.5 tonne ATM Rating, this is *not* the case. “Self-certification” is permitted, whereby the manufacturer - or importer - provides a *declaration* on the VIN/Trailer/Compliance Plate, that the vehicle complies with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989.

It has been proven many times that such declarations on many caravans and camper-trailers have been false. Severe penalties can apply in such cases. Many manufacturers and or importers have gotten away with such practices, but when legal actions are instigated against them - or one of their vehicles is involved in an accident (especially one leading to a coronial enquiry) - *serious* repercussions will inevitably occur. In such cases, lawyers and their “nasty” (read, diligent) engineers will dig deep, to best ensure that the truth is exposed.

Since the MVSA 1989 became legislated, all caravans and camper-trailers have been required to have a valid Trailer Plate securely affixed to it. As is the case with motor vehicles, buyers and owners expect that all information on the Plate is true and correct. Sadly, in many instances, this has *not* been the case.

The Plate is legally required to show the following information:

Manufacturer's or Importer's Name:

Trailer Model:

Vehicle Identification Number (17-digit):

Date of Manufacture:

Aggregate Trailer Mass Rating:

The Certification Statement: “This trailer was manufactured to comply with the Motor Vehicle Standards Act 1989”

Often the legally-required Tyre Placard is also included, and possibly other information.

Three of the items required on the Tyre Placard are:

the manufacturer's recommended tyre size: (Without mentioning brand names)

tyre load rating:

speed rating:

All information on the Plate, or otherwise supplied to the public, *must* be true and correct for that specific vehicle. Sadly, many owner/buyers have not been aware of the consumer-protection provided by the *Trade Practices Act* until January 2011, when the *Australian Consumer Law* became uniform legislation. “Merchantable quality” then became up-graded to “Acceptable quality”. “Fit for purpose” is a main consideration when issues arise. Honesty and “duty of care” are also prime considerations. *VSB-1* (Vehicle Standards Bulletin No: 1) is the legal instrument that prescribes the legal requirements for caravans and trailers (under 4.5 tonne ATM Rating).

This can be down-loaded from the web-site:

[http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle\\_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx](http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/roads/vehicle_regulation/bulletin/index.aspx)

The biggest issue that leads to complaints and litigation is “Ratings and Masses”. This especially relates to the “load-carrying capacity” (maximum legal pay-load) of the vehicle. While “Tare Mass” is *not* legally required to be stated on the Plate, one would certainly argue that providing this figure (in writing) is a *critical* duty-of-care responsibility of the “merchant”.

## Load-carrying capacity = ATM Rating - Tare Mass

Many complaints relate to the *actual* Tare Mass being significantly more than the *stated* Tare Mass. The Tare Mass is the measured (not estimated) mass of the vehicle as it leaves the factory, with empty water tanks and empty gas cylinders, but with all equipment and accessories that were stated on the Purchase Contract.

Problems have arisen because dealers or owners have added equipment and accessories later, without requiring the Plate to be up-dated with the true Tare Mass. It is prudent for buyers to weigh a newly-purchased caravan or camper-trailer - both new and second hand- to confirm the actual Tare Mass, at a certified weigh-bridge. The (empty) Ball-loading should also be accurately measured.



## Caravan Ratings & Masses

The GTM & ATM are Ratings... allocated by the Manufacturer

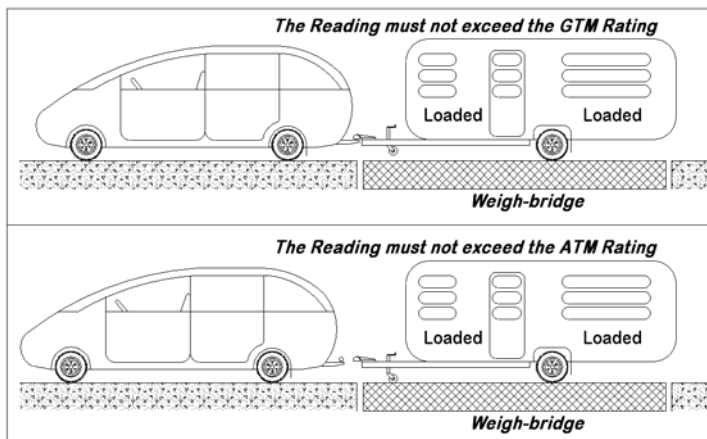
The Tare Mass and Ball-Loading are Actual Masses... that must be measured

The Tare Mass is the actual measured mass of the vehicle as it leaves the Supplier.

The vehicle is fitted with everything that was stated on the Purchase Contract.

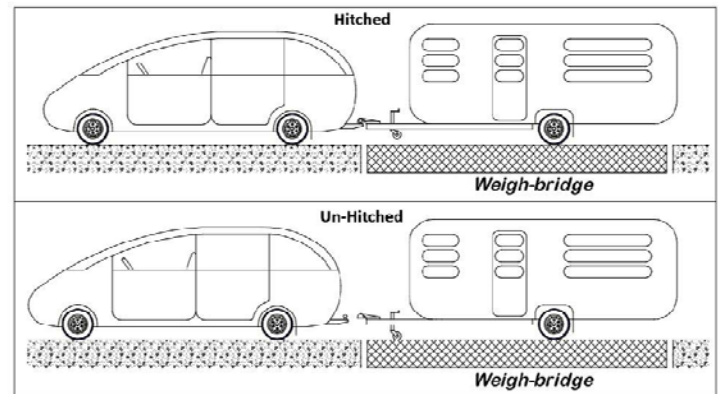
The vehicle is empty. The gas cylinder(s) and the water tank(s) must be empty.

Drawing 1 shows measuring the "Axle-Loading" Must not exceed the GTM Rating.



Drawing 2 shows measuring the "All-Up Mass" Must not exceed the ATM Rating

$$\text{Load-carrying capacity} = \text{ATM Rating} - \text{Tare Mass}$$



The Ball-Loading is the *difference* between the two readings

ATM: Aggregate Trailer Mass (Rating)

GTM: Gross Trailer Mass (Rating)

The GTM Rating must *not* exceed the *lowest* of the "Axle-Group" Ratings.

The "Axle-Group" comprises the:

- Wheels & Tyres
- Suspension Structure
- Springs
- Axles & Wheel-Bearings

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Tow-Vehicles:

- GVM: Gross Vehicle Mass (Rating)
- GCM: Gross Combination Mass (Rating)
- RAC: Rear Axle Capacity (Rating)
- Maximum Permitted Towing Capacity: (Rating)
- Maximum Permitted Coupling Download Capacity: (Rating)
- Tow-Bar: Maximum Permitted Towing & Down-load Limits: (Ratings)

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# TV Reception for Caravans

## How do signals work and what's it to do with me?

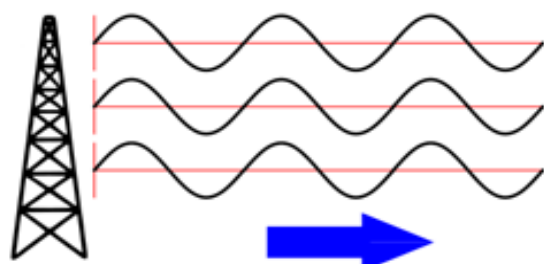
*An article by Sally Garden from Wilkgard Technology Group (makers of the Explorer-RV brand of antenna systems) as a follow up on her informative presentation to members at the May general meeting.*

To many caravanners, the concepts related to television signals and antennas is a foggy subject. As a result, they fall into the trap of relying on an "expert" to advise them on the best antenna or products for their caravan.

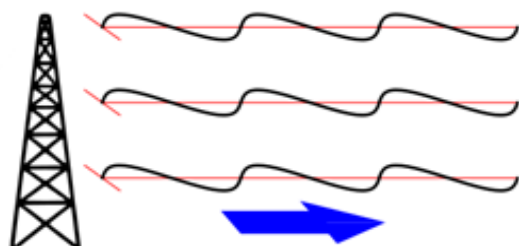
Terms such as a signal, wavelength, transmitters etc are often thrown around and not knowing what they mean can make the subject seem daunting – leading to poor purchasing decisions. These concepts can be explained quite simply and once understood can save you money.

### **The elusive television signal:**

Put simply, a television signal is a type of energy and it travels through space around us and without it your antenna cannot display a picture on your TV. We are unable to see it with our eyes, but its quality, characteristics and size can be measured. If you were able to see it, it would be like a wave pattern. This signal that has a wave pattern (or polarisation) can be either running vertically or horizontally.



Vertical Wave Pattern



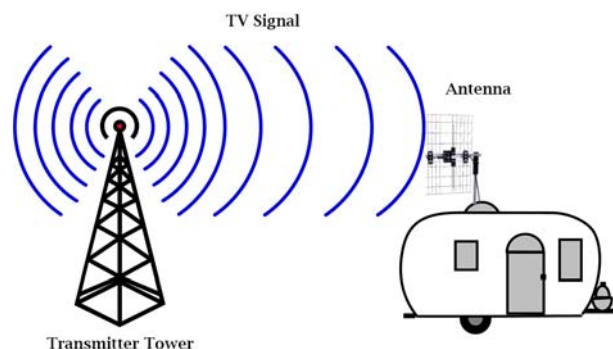
Horizontal Wave Pattern

### **Where does a television signal come from?**

Broadcast companies build large towers that produce and broadcast (send out) a signal. This tower is called a transmitter. There are three general sizes of towers which are best described as "Daddy Bear" the largest, "Mummy Bear" medium size and "Baby Bear" the smallest tower. The size of the tower determines how far the signal travels from the tower.



The Broadcast companies embed data onto this signal, and together they are transmitted into the world ready to be picked up by your antenna, distributed down your cables and connections and bingo!, your TV shows a picture.



### **Antennas**

This is where your TV antenna comes in. Its primary purpose is to pick up that signal and send it down your cabling connections in your house or caravan to your TV. Here it runs through electronic components in your TV that pulls off the information embedded in the signal that produces the picture.



Vertical orientation of antenna if your local transmission is vertical.



Horizontal orientation of antenna if your local transmission is horizontal.

There are phone apps to give us the best directional signal information. For android phones there is **Digital TV Antennas** or **DVB-T Australia**. For iPhones there is **antennamate**. These will also tell you if the transmitter is sending a vertical or horizontal signal. Once you know this you can then position the antenna in the correct orientation.

*Continued on page 16.*



# How do signals work and what's it to do with me?

*Continued from page 14*

## **Sounds simple so why is it sometimes so difficult to get a signal?**

Several factors can affect this:

**Environment** – Television signals obey the physical universe and bounce off anything solid. Hills, trees, well you name it, can weaken the signal. Also, the further the signal has to travel the weaker it gets. A good antenna will be able to function effectively despite the barriers.

**Inferior antenna** – As stated above the antenna needs to be able to grab signal in all sorts of environments as it is expected that a caravan will be travelling here, there and everywhere in varied environments. But in addition to this, it needs to be able to pick up the different types of television signals. Sometimes your caravan may be in an area that only transmits a vertical signal. If your antenna is only able to receive horizontal signals and is unable to be adjusted simply by turning it, it will not be able to receive it. It sounds crazy but around 80% of antennas that are on caravans today are unable to be turned vertically to pick up a vertical signal.

**Inferior cables** – Another common problem is low quality or faulty cables. Think of it like a hose. If the hose gets a kink in it, the water will only come out in dribbles, and the same applies for a signal travelling down a cable.

Wilkgard Technology Group make the **Explorer** brand of antenna systems. Explorer has developed a range of complete systems to suit any situation.

## **The Nomad Antenna**

This is our "Top of the Range" travel anywhere and everywhere amplified Antenna. The amplifier comes with a filter that eliminates interference known as pixelation.

## **The East Coast**

This antenna is for travel on the East Coast of Australia. It is ideal for well populated areas where TV pictures are easily achieved.

## **The Optimizer**

This antenna is set up for canvas. Like the East Coast TV pictures are easily achieved in small community difficult spots.

## **The Upgrade Kit**

This is for existing explorer users wanting the best digital pictures.

The Antenna is not a single item, it is a complete kit. It contains an Antenna, connections, cable, TV plate, Short Fly Lead and more. All together to bring you great pictures. So, the key here is to have an antenna system that meets the specifications of picking a signal in any environment and on any frequency.

For more information contact Wilkgard Technology Group, 03 9975 7555 or [dissem@wilkgard.com.au](mailto:dissem@wilkgard.com.au)  
13/12 Edina Road, Ferntree Gully, Victoria.  
Or visit their website: [www.explorer-rv.com.au](http://www.explorer-rv.com.au)

*Useful resources for DTV transmitter sites:*

**[www.ozdigitaltv.com](http://www.ozdigitaltv.com)**

**<https://myswitch.digitalready.gov.au>** This site also gives polarization information.

Android App: **DVB-T Australia**

**Digital TV Antennas** (DTV Antennas)

iphone App: **antennamate**

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