

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

NOV/DEC 2018

VOL. 39 ISSUE 6

Special points of interest:

* Your new
Committee
for 2018/19
p3

*How to
make a sub-
mission to
VEAC p6-7

*Supporting
BUGU p7

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Sept camp 5
report—
Eaglehawk

Oct camp 8
report—
Harvest
Home

Also:

News, and in-
formation for
members only:
new members,
Almoners re-
port, camp di-
rections

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

President's report BY SUSAN MOORE

Well here I am your Presi-
dent again. This been the
first Newsletter since the
election of the new commit-
tee I would like to thank
Tony Pappas Secretary,
Eric Grummett Vice Presi-
dent, Paul Hart Treasurer,
Nola Pappas Newsletter
Editor, Pam Griffith Mem-
bership Secretary, Tina
Wheelan Social Secretary,
assisted by Louise
McGough—who is also
Librarian. Alex Eram Cater-
ing Officer, Steve Iorlano
Clothing Officer, new mem-
ber Mark David and of
course all the Field Officers
who make the club tick and
were willing to take up or
remain in their positions.
(See p3)

A special thank you to out-
going position holders: Ian

Semmens (Newsletter Edi-
tor since 2012!) and Sue
Hodges for their valuable
contributions in the past.

In regards to the VEAC
Submissions please go to
veac.vic.gov.au and look for
the submission application
form and lets all try to do a
submission in the hopes
that our efforts will be no-
ticed and we can have a
favourable outcome, this is
most important not just for
us but for all Victorians.
(More info on page 7)

It is that time of year again,
Christmas will be here be-
fore we know it. I am look-
ing forward to the Christ-
mas Picnic/BBQ on the 9th
December (second Sunday
of December) at Wicks Re-
serve in The Basin (full info
on page 4). Always good
fun and hopefully we will
have nice weather again

this year. Don't forget to get
your raffle tickets for the
hampers even if you can't
make it to the picnic you will
be notified if you win.

I look forward to our
Moonambel Camp which I
always find relaxing, just
confirming the cost for
Moonambel camp site is the
same as last year \$12.00
unpowered site and \$15.00
for powered site which I feel
is great value for the ser-
vices that are there for us.

I will be in full retirement by
Christmas, and looking for-
ward to doing more camps
in 2019.

I would also like to take this
opportunity to wish you all:
*A Merry Christmas
and a very Prosper-
ous and Happy New
Year for 2019,*

Susan

Find of the Year 2017-2018!

*Each month we invite our
members to present their
recent finds to be judged
in our "Find of the Month"
competition, and at our
AGM, just one of these (if
presented) is selected as
Find of the Year...*



Congratulations to Craig W on this 7.5oz beauty!

Don't forget to bring along
your next find to our Novem-
ber General Meeting for judg-
ing... and to be in the running
for the prestigious **Find of
the Year**. You've got to be in
it to win it!

Let's celebrate our successes.
It's nice to see what we're all
searching for!

General meetings & AGM

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT



Eric, Tony, Susan and Paul conducting the meeting

SEPTEMBER

Our September meeting was all about our AGM with the results for positions listed on page 3 and Financials on page 10.

A discussion was held on the VEAC Draft Report just out, and to remind our members going to Eaglehawk to attend the meeting with the VEAC council members at their Community Drop In Session in Bendigo on Friday 7th to ask questions and express concerns about what they are proposing.

It was no contest for the Find of Year with Craig W's 7.5 oz nugget.
(See page 1)

Unfortunately we did not have any nominations for Find of Month.

OCTOBER

Come the October meeting, it was more discussion on VEAC and to encourage members to submit their submissions by the new extension date, due the 10th December.

(More info on page 7)

Our guest speaker was Bill DeCarli, researcher and author of 'A Dead Man's Dream', proving the 'true' whereabouts of Lasseter's Reef.



Guest speaker: Bill DeCarli

He was certainly very convincing with his mountain of evidence that the reef was in fact 600 miles east of where Lasseter took people to look for it in 1930. He believes Lasseter never found a reef in 1897 as claimed and based his knowledge on information given to him in 1917 by a surveyor called Harding, who did find a reef while prospecting at Artunga. Bill confirmed his belief by trekking out to his estimated position, first locating the three pointer hills and the flat top hill looking like a 'quaker hat'. A large reef was located there and

tests showed 4g per ton. Aboriginal land claims hindered a mining company's attempts to develop it. It is a project we may hear more of soon due to other interested parties looking at it. For full information get hold of a copy of his book (I have a copy I can lend).

Louise M won the Find of Month with her 2g nugget found in WA and made into lovely pendant.



October winner of Find of the Month award

Next month I will be screening a DVD on tips for metal detecting nuggets.

Eric

The editor welcomes camping and detecting-related articles, letters, photos, comments, stories, jokes, recipes, and sale items, to publish in the newsletter.

**Next Submission deadline
4th January 2019
(DOC or JPG preferred)**

Your new Committee of Management 2018-2019

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Susan Moore
Vice President & Research Officer:	President's deputy, arrange speakers. Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration	Tony Pappas
Treasurer:	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking	Paul Hart
Membership Secretary:	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records	Pam Griffin
Newsletter Editor:	Newsletter compilation and distribution	Nola Pappas
Information Technology Officer:	Website and YouTube administration	Mark David
Catering Supervisor:	Supper at General Meetings, special occasion camp catering	Alex Eram
Social Secretary:	Organising social functions, raffles, theatre bookings etc	Tina Wheelan
Almoner (& Social Secretary):	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc	Louise McGough
Library Officer:	Managing library at General Meetings	Louise McGough
Clothing Officer:	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings	Steve Iorlano
Field Officers:	Assist new members at outings, manage camp-fires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up duties	Bob Lake
		Brian McGough
		Lindsay Tricker
		Ivan Albrecht
		John Close
		Mark David

Events calendar

NOVEMBER 2018

- ◆ Thurs 1st-Tues 6th Nov—Cup Day weekend camp, Moliagul—catered dinner Sat night bring salad/dessert
- ◆ Wed 7th November—General Meeting, Mulgrave

DECEMBER 2018

- ◆ Wed 5th December—General Meeting, Mulgrave
- ◆ Sunday 9th December Christmas Picnic, 11am onwards, Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Mel 65 D8) *details below*
- ◆ Tues 25th December—Tues 1st January Christmas/New Year camp, Moonambel (camp/facilities fees payable)

JANUARY 2019

- ◆ (Note: No General Meeting in January)
- ◆ Thurs 24th January-Tues 29th Jan—Australia Day weekend camp, Chute

FEBRUARY 2019

- ◆ Wed 6th February—General Meeting, Mulgrave
- ◆ Thurs 7th—Tues 12th Feb-Camp (TBC)

November 2018

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat	Su
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2018

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat	Su
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Christmas
is coming!

Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 9th December!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 9th December from 11am onwards at Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Melways ref 65 D8).

Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin-Olinda road, turn right into the Reserve.

* Drawing of the Christmas Raffle: 3 HAMPERs TO BE WON!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

* Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)

* Door prizes

* Bring 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 BBQs and water on premises. BYO table, chairs, food and drink. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Come along to this break up party and support the club. You're sure to have a great time !

Sept camp report: Eaglehawk

BY GRAHAM MEE



Eric's artistic shot of the camp framed from inside the old boiler

Eaglehawk: The first of the Spring Camps with a great crowd of 29 keen members turning up for the event which included Gisela & Peter with their new luxury van



Peter and Gisela showing off their new van

and a visit from Anja & Alistair just back from their trip to Western Australia.

The weather was very kind to us with only one day of rain, which thankfully occurred at night, so most members were out early detecting during the day with the evenings being spent around the camp fire enjoying the usual nibbles, drinks and gossip.

Friday afternoon saw 12 members attend the VE-AC's (Victorian Environmental Assessment Council) open day held at Lake Weeroona, Bendi-

go, where we all voiced our concern over the proposed lock out of our usual detecting areas. Lots of questions were asked and we are all going to submit our written comments of our disapproval. Let's hope they listen to us.

Saturday night was the most popular night with some great prizes on offer with the raffle, once again organized by Peter M. Well done Peter and to all the contributions donated to the raffle. Also, many thanks to Eric (our firewood collector)

for providing us all with some great camp fires.

Sunday night saw the usual Party Pies night

with a special treat from Jenny with her home-made Scones with Jam & Cream. I missed out as they went like hot cakes but I intend to be on the front row next time. Well done Jenny and many thanks from happy members.

The following is one of the stories told by a member around the camp fire one night. I just have to share it with you as it knocked me out. It went something like this....."During the depression our Mum used to make our underwear out of the empty Flour

bags" !.....to which another member chirped in.....

"You had underwear" ?

I forgot to do the "Finds" for this camp but a rough estimate is about 40 plus pieces of gold, a 3 grammer being the biggest, with quite a number of specimens, rocks and other items of interest.

Tuesday saw most of the members leave for home to other commitments so ending another great Club event. See you all at the next camp.....be there.

Graham

Paul G and Tony P unloading firewood



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Making your submission to VEAC

BY PAUL HART

As we know, the Dja Dja Wurrung and Green Groups such as the Victorian National Parks Association (VNPA) are actively pushing to restrict access to more public land and waterways. VEAC (Victorian Environmental Assessment Council) has conducted a study into areas in the Central West of Victoria and have already produced a draft report including recommendations to the government.

Only a small number of Seekers members have actually made a submission to VEAC regarding the potential loss of areas that we can go prospecting...

If you care about this issue but don't know what to do, **below are the basic steps to make a written submission**. Recently the finish date for submission was extended until the 10 Dec 2018 but it is suggested that you get yours submitted ASAP.

The VEAC website (www.veac.vic.gov.au) has a lot of information and is well set out. This information from the VEAC site explains how to make a submission:

There is no required format for submissions, except that **you must provide your name and contact details**, including an email address if you have one. Submissions may be made online or by sending your written submission by post or email.

For **email submissions** send to veac@delwp.vic.gov.au

For **online submissions** type or copy and paste, <http://veac.vic.gov.au/investigation/central-west-investigation/upload> into your web browser and simply fill in the required information.

For **postal submissions** the address is:
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
Level 39, 2 Lonsdale St
Melbourne 3000 Victoria, Australia

- All submissions will be treated as public documents and will be published on the VEAC website after the close of the submission period. The name of the submitter will be identified as part of each published submission, but personal contact details will be removed before publication.
- Confidential submissions are discouraged. If there are exceptional circumstances that require confidentiality, please contact VEAC before making your submission.
- Material that VEAC considers to be potentially defamatory or could impact on the privacy of individuals will be removed before publishing.

In speaking to a number of individuals and reading other submissions below are some thoughts and guidelines when you are writing your submission:

- *VEAC, BUGU, Seekers want our submission to **be as specific as possible** eg refer to specific locations eg Wombat, Wellsford, Mt Cole, the Pyrenees, monetary values (\$ spent in local areas, \$ spend camping, \$ spent on detecting equipment, vans, 4WD etc). Value of finds \$*
- *Prospecting/detecting has a very low environmental impact - we take all rubbish with us, we remove lead bullets from the environment. We are certainly not miners.*
- *For most of us it is a social activity/hobby which is great for our physical & mental health*
- *We contribute to the economy through spending on our hobby*

Please also remember:

- don't just copy someone else's submission word for word
- don't criticize other bush users eg 4WD, trail riders etc.

Eric has already made a submission on behalf of the Victorian Seekers club.

Your individual submissions are still very important.

Making your submission to VEAC and Supporting BUGU

Continued from Page 6

If you require more information and guidance before making your submission to VEAC:

- **The Bush User Group United (BUGU)** is the principal body taking the fight to VEAC. They now have over 10,000 Facebook members and have a very active Facebook site which includes ideas for submissions. BUGU has also printed maps and other documents which Eric has copies of.
- The **VEAC website** has a lot of detail including the draft report for the Central West investigation
- The **PMAV** is active in this fight and has some relevant information on their website and Newsletters
- If you need further assistance Eric Grummett and Ken Whitaker are happy to help and can be contacted by phone, or email.



Support the group that is protecting your rights to enjoy the bush

Finally, you have probably already received requests for funding the BUGU campaign, and if you haven't already, you are encouraged to make a donation.

Go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/bush-user-groups-united>

BUGU bumper stickers are still available from Eric for \$2

The Club will be also be donating on your behalf and this will be discussed at our November General Meeting.



Facebook post by Rita Bentley, President Emeritus, PMAV:

BUGU's, we have a problem. As you would have seen from DELWP's Annual Report, just one our opponent groups - the Victorian National Parks Association received \$332,079 in grants from DELWP in just one year. BUGU's go fund me page has raised a grand total of \$2,710 and a big thank you to those who have donated. Associations are donating separately so we don't lose the Go Fund Me commission so there is quite a bit more in the bank but we are still well short of what we planned for. We quite honestly expected nearly all of you to donate something, even \$5 helps. Election day is 24th November but pre-poll starts two week's earlier so we need to get started. We need to know our budget. We will be working on a final program soon so really need to know how much there is to spend. If you are going to donate please do it very soon.

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Oct camp report: Harvest Home

BY KEN WHITTAKER



Harvest Home camp

"Looking forward to the next one" was the comment in the last report, and what a valid remark it turned out to be. Some 23 camp sites, various types as usual, providing another wonderful weekend.

Understanding the current VEAC and State government moves to restrict us from the bush, I feel extremely sorry for our future generations who may be about to lose the privilege of doing what we do.

There were quite a noticeable number of newbie's and visitors at this outing, Bruce & Max down from NSW, Ian from New Zealand, (he joined the club) and some visitors.

Over the weekend some members took off to the Laanecoorie Gold Bash, intent on buying things. Certain well-known members who should remain nameless, (OK Kay & Rob?) purchased obscure artefacts. Well done people, leaving good dollars in the tourist pool.

The raffles were delayed a little for these "Dine out" enthusiasts, but that was OK as Daylight Savings

was about to kick in.

Which brings one to the weather, which we cannot edit, but in this case was indisputably

good. One could not order a better forecast, perfect for our hobby.

Peter M conducted the raffles in a new format with applaudable success. Find out when you get to the next camp. It was a delight to hear the protestations from one member, Pat D, who amused us all with her cries of alarm which varied with her success during the draw, plus a few comments on the process. LOL.

As for the yellow metal, there was the usual scattering of small stuff but some noticeable finds in that, a newish member, Tony, on his second camp, had his first gold find and scored a nice 8 grammer. Well done Sir.



Tony's 8g nugget!

Anja outdid Alister – again - with a flattish 1.2g.

A certain older per-

son with the initials PM scored a nice chunky 2.9g nugget in my company, at a spot that I took him to. It's your turn next time mate.

Virginia & Gunilla & Gisela whilst doing their usual little 5 or 6 k walk, on the way back, spotted a "sunbaker", but it wasn't gold, it was a brown snake sun-baking. Virginia said she thought it was dead, but, it moved a bit. It is early spring and they are still lazy perhaps. Careful ladies!

To close the report there is only one way to express the summary, "enjoyable, successful, and hopefully, repeatable." Thank you to all for the companionship.

Ken

"It's your turn next time mate."

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Fossicking Code of Conduct

BY TONY PAPPAS, SECRETARY

Hi to all club members, just letting you know that I have received 10 information booklets from the NT Government on:



Fossicking Code of Conduct Pastoral Land

If you would like a hard copy I will have them at our next meeting or you can download a copy from this address:

https://fossicking.nt.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/567631/code-of-conduct-fossicking.pdf

Tony

Member's submissions

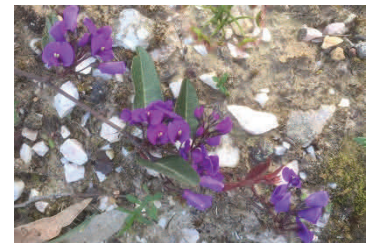
Paul H's prize in the token hunt at Laanecoorie Gold Bash.

A special token was hidden on the last day which Paul was lucky enough to find.

Prize included a pin pointer, maps and a cap.



There's more than metal to detect in the bush!



Eaglehawk: Orchids by Eric

Eaglehawk: Spot the echidna! by Paul and Pam

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Camping and detecting tips

Prospecting is an enjoyable activity however there are some inherent dangers on the goldfields.

Members are reminded to take care to avoid the risk of falling in any open shaft, trench or costeen. Avoid water hazards such as dams, streams and rivers especially if rapidly flowing. Use care when walking through the bush and 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, spiders ants and scorpions.

It is not advisable to prospect alone. Team up with a mate.

Code Red Fire Days Notice

In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.



During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and Forests.

Camp may also be cancelled during other periods of severe weather.

Gold price report as at 20/10/18



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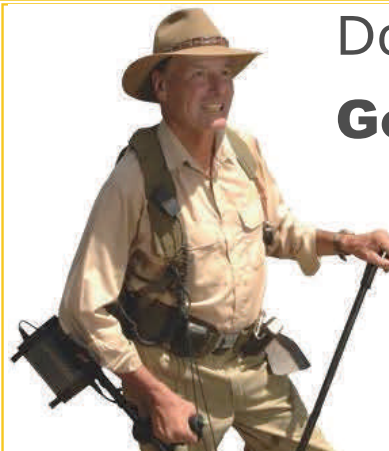
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Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".

www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

Camping and detecting tips cont'd



The Club has a **Minelab GPX4500** detector for hire on club

The charge for members is \$5 for ½ day, \$10 for a full day. (Non-members is \$10 for ½ day, \$20 for full day.)

See Eric G. or Lindsay T.

Why not share your camping or detecting tips in our next issue?



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.

METAL DETECTING



What my friends think I do.



What my parents think I do.



What society thinks I do.



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- Nugget Finder & Detech coils
- Nokta&Makro Detectors
- Recovery Tools





The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.
(Reg. No. A0001477T)

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Email:

vicseekersclub@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VictorianSeekersProspectingClub/>

The purposes of the Club are to:

- Promote the skill of prospecting using metal detectors and other suitable equipment in the search for gold, other precious metals, minerals, gemstones, coins, artifacts and relics.
- Encourage and foster friendship and co-operation amongst people interested in the above pursuits.
- Collaborate with other similar clubs and organizations.
- Hold meetings, lectures, demonstrations, field outings and competitions for the furtherance of members' prospecting skills and experience.
- Engage in fund raising activities for the bona fide purposes of the Club.
- Encourage all members to act in an environmentally and socially responsible manner, and in accordance with the Law.

Our prospecting activities are governed by a code of conduct as laid out in the Club Rules including respecting owners of private property and respecting the natural environment, hence our motto: "SEEK BUT DON'T DESTROY"

Summer is coming!



Our new lightweight polo shirts are perfect for summer. Available now by order for \$30.00 each. Samples available at General Meetings to try on.

Caps are just \$15.

Orders can be also placed for the polar fleece jackets at \$40.00 each.

Interested in joining?

Contact us through our website or by email to be invited along to a couple of General Meetings or camp outings to understand the club and its activities before applying to join.

Check out our website:

<https://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au/how-to-join>

Membership fees:

Family Membership \$65.00 p.a.

Single Membership \$40.00 p.a.

Plus one-off joining fee:

\$10.00 single, \$20.00 family

Subscriptions are due and payable by the 1st of July each year.