

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 issue 1

January/February 2018



**New Minelab
treasure detector**

Inside This Issue

**Fryerstown Camp Report
Xmas Break Up Party Report
Moonabel Camp Report
Latest News
...and more!**

*Peter Maffey who has just pulled up a nugget
from near this reef at the Fryerstown 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 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

PRESIDENT: Susan MOORE

Club management/ representation, Chairperson.

VICE PRESIDENT: Eric GRUMMETT

President's deputy, arranging speakers.

SECRETARY: Tony PAPPAS

Correspondence, meetings, admin.

TREASURER: Warren IBBOTTSON

Annual Accounts, Budget forecast & Banking,

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ian SEMMENS

Compiling & setting out Newsletter, & distribution

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Robyn IBBOTTSON

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

January

No General Meeting.

Thurs. 25th – Tues. 30th: Camp Amherst

February

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 8th – Tues. 13th: Camp Moliagul

Sat. 17th February: Australian Gold Panning Championships Blackwood Vic.

March

Wed. 7th: General Meeting.

Thurs. 8th – Tues. 13th: Camp Wedderburn

Sat. 10—Sun. 11th: Wedderburn Gold Jamboree

Thurs. 29th March – Wed. 4th April: Camp Fryerstown TBC

April

Wed. 4th: General Meeting.

May

Wed. 2nd: General Meeting.

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

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President's Report

By Susan Moore

Well here we are. Another year and I can't believe its 2018. I can remember, as I am sure you all do, the doom and gloom about the millennium bug and its problems with the computers and banks etc.

Well I hope you all had a great Christmas and are looking forward to the new year ahead.

The Fryerstown Camp was held over the Melbourne Cup weekend and we had a great camp. There were so many people with approximately 65 including visitors. We had great days but very chilly nights. After our BBQ on Saturday night Eric showed the video that Rob Shannon did of the Ti-booburra Camp back in July which was very entertaining. On Monday evening 40 of us went to the 5 Flags pub (a very historical pub dating back to 1854) for dinner which was a great success, great food and service. Lots of people found small gold, find of the month – no entry.

It came up at this camp about us having a catered meal for the Melbourne Cup and Easter camps but Louise and I have looked into this it would cost approx. \$25 + per head therefore not be a very viable option even if we could get someone to do it.

The Moonambel Camp was held over the Xmas period was a great success and we had 29 camp sites and 50 members and visitors. We also had a "Happy Hour" which was well attended each night and the weather was perfect with only one hot day however there were nice cool nights. New Year's Eve party was a great success.

Great news regarding the hall where we have our monthly General Meetings as Lindsay has spoken at length to the Monash Council regarding the noise level of the dance group that have their dancing with very loud music every Wednesday and we have won the battle and they are leaving and we are staying put. Well done Lindsay

Special Notes: Please everyone remember to sign in at every camp.

ALSO we must back fill all our diggings, it was noticed by quite a few at the Moonambel Camp that holes were found unfilled, as we all know we are on very shaky ground regarding "Our Parks". PMAV

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.

are doing their best to keep our parks open but this behaviour is ammunition for "Greenies" to close the parks. I am not suggesting that our club members are the culprits, but if we can make sure that we do the right thing and maybe fill in few holes we see even if we did not dig them this may help our cause.

The "buddy system". If you go out detecting in a group please make sure you let someone in the group know when you are leaving, and ensure no one is left alone unless they agree to stay on their own.

Wishing you all a prosperous and nugget filled 2018. Susan.

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 sun-screen, and Slap on a hat.



Members are responsible for their own safety!

General Meetings

By Eric Grummett

As we approach the 38th year since our first meeting, we have had over 400 of them (plus 400 committee meetings), which equates to over 20,000 member attendances. Maybe if we hired the MCG we could have got it all over in one night. Enough of these figures, we will have to stick with our monthly efforts for now, as those stadiums are too expensive.

At our November meeting, discussion was had about arrangements for the Cup weekend and barbecue at Fryers-town.

Decent finds were down this month, so I managed to be awarded the Find of Month with my 3.5 grams from the Tarnagulla camp.

We played a bit of nostalgia with a DVD of some of our camps in the late 80's featuring some members still with us, and sadly, some who have passed on to the heavenly goldfields in the sky. This was followed by a film of the Eldorado dredge near Beechworth.

Our last meeting for the year ended with a gastronomy affair with cream cakes and sweets aplenty, followed by a DVD on the story of the events of Eureka 113 years ago. There was no entry in the find of month, so judging was easy.

Discussion was also had about the excessive noise from the amplified music from the hall next to us which prevented us from having speakers. Lindsay has taken it up with the hall management, who assure us that they will not be able to continue with the noise in the future, so here's hoping for peaceful meetings from now on. Thanks Lindsay for the successful negotiations.

For our February meeting, Peter Maffey will be giving us a presentation on the Boer War in which his grandfather Captain Maffey participated. He will also be telling us of the efforts of the descendants to have a memorial display recognition at the Canberra War Memorial, which finally happened last year after much money raising and also pressure on the government to co-operate with funding.

At our March meeting we are having Andrew Giles from The Victorian Historical Mine Shaft Chasers to tell about their activities researching and locating old historic abandoned mine shafts, and then descending down by abseiling to the bottom where they then explore and record the old drives and artifacts down there. When we see these deep shafts, we hope not to go down head first, they show will show us the correct way to reach the bottom. For a preview of their activities, go to Facebook or U Tube. I think it will be a most interesting night.

New Members

- Lindsay & Janet MILES
- Kevin HUBBARD
- Steve & Karen ROKSA

Welcome and Good Luck!

Almoner's Report

by Louise McGough

There was a get well card sent to Rayline White
Get Well sent to Shirley Wallace and her partner, they were both in a car smash ,
Both doing ok.
Robyn Ibbottson is now in Eva Tilley Nursing Home in Kew due to her mobility problems.
Every one else is doing well

Please contact Louise on 0490 156 597 with any information regarding the health of members, and any other significant family event so we can keep other members



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November Camp Report

Fryerstown

By Paul H.

Photos by Ian Semmens & Sue Hodge

The Fryerstown area has a lot to offer and has been a long-term favourite destination for the club over the Easter long weekend. It was decided to return there for the Melbourne Cup weekend, and judging by the turnout of about 65 members and guests, it was a welcome decision. I arrived after lunch on the Thursday and already most of the cricket oval was surrounded by vans and tents. It is estimated that 35 vans and RV's and about 8 tents with cars were in and around the oval over the weekend. Of the people attending about 10 were visitors and Eric G was kept busy introducing the "first timers" to gold detecting and showing them around the area.

The weather was a mixed bag with a few light showers, some warm spells and even an icy start to the day on Sunday when the temperature gauge dropped to about minus 1 degree. Nights were quite cool but we were able to keep warm thanks to the fire pit provide by John C and fire wood collected by John, Eric and Dave.

The weather did not deter our detecting efforts and most of the usual suspects picked up some colour. For example, Rob S had a couple of nuggets around the 2 g, Bob L got a 2.3 gramer, Marius hoovered up 30 micro-nuggets in a day with his new 7000 and I managed half a dozen nuggets for 3 g, a 1797 Cartwheel penny, a halfpenny and an 1851 token showing a lady on one side and a kangaroo on the other with "WJ Taylor Medalist to the Great Exhibition 1851". Lindsay and brother Eddie were picking up small nuggets with their 2300's but Eddie had to leave camp in some pain with a gall bladder issue. Unusual find



Rob detecting between the diggings and the reef.

of the weekend went to Peter Gr who found an old toy train.

Friday was Louise McG's birthday and she had a very merry time. Happy Birthday was sung around the fire and later that night there was an amusing incident involving one Rob S – suffice to say there was more than one full moon that night.

As advertised, Saturday night was the big sausage sizzle with executive chefs Bob and Alex cooking up a storm. Lots of other people pitched in and there was a heap of nice salads and deserts. We had a huge raffle which took \$250 and a swindle which took \$40. Lars again ran a Melbourne Cup sweep and we had 4 draws. Jimmy Cole and Marilyn attended our function. For those who don't know, 93 year old Jimmy has extensive land holdings in the Fryerstown area and for many years he has allowed club members to detect on his land when the club has been in the area.

In the feel good story of the night Jimmy won a mystery prize which he opened just before the swindle. I was sitting near Jimmy when he unwrapped a nice new wallet and heard him say "I wonder if there is any money in it". There was no money in the wallet but the swindle ticket was drawn and on the 3rd "redraw" Jimmy's ticket came out of the bucket and he had \$40 to put in the wallet. Could not be scripted any better - smiles, laughter and congratulations all around.

The women's walking group was active and my wife participated for the first time. She had a good time despite sore legs and worn out jaw muscles.....

The final event for the busy weekend saw 40 of us go to the Five Flags Hotel in Campbells Creek. Sue and Graham must be thanked for organizing much of this and for ensuring the owners were ready and willing to cater for a large group. The service was good, the food was great value and I think everyone had a good time.

All in all an enjoyable weekend !



The Treasure Hunt on Sunday morning.

November Camp Photos



Eric G detecting and showing off the Club's new polo shirt.



Peter G. detecting out near some alluvial and reef workings.



Thomas M. detecting with his Whites coin detector.



Visitor Mike giving it a go for the first time.



Kay in a gully near the diggings.



Brian McG. out looking for a nugget.



Chris detecting on some surfacing.



Alex is pinpointing a little nugget.



Francios & Francine check out their finds for the day

December Camp Report

Moonambel

By Susan Moore

The Club had a great time at Moonambel. We had 29 sites and 50 member/visitors, so a great success for the local community as well as for us.

Tony Pappas found the best nugget 5.1 gram, lots of members/visitors found small stuff. Tim, a new perspective member, donated 2 camp chairs to the club, which were purchased by Peter Groom for \$20.00.

The weather was great nice days and cool nights, we also had "happy hour" daily mostly organised by Debbie Mudie, thanks Debbie, and it was a very good turn out each night. Also many thanks to Louise McGough for helping me collect the camp fees.

We also had a very successful New Year's Eve party, with games, quizzes, music and fun with most people coming in at 7.30 for dinner and staying the rest of the evening till midnight when we had a Champaign Toast to bring in 2018. With courtesy of the local community we had the hall/room again to hold the party (free of charge).

**Just in Time
for Summer!**



Announcing the fantastic new polo shirts, available now by order for \$30.00 each. Eric G. will have a few sizes at our next meeting to try on. Orders can be also placed for the polar fleecy jackets which will be the same as our previous design and will cost \$40.00 each. Caps \$15.00 each.

Contact Eric for orders on 0488 972 922.



Sunset over the camp at Moonambel.



Tony Papas's 5.1 gram nugget with a little specie.

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Xmas Break-up Party Report

By Susan Moore

Photos by Ian Semmens

The Wick Reserve Christmas Xmas Break Up Party was a great day for club members and the weather was perfect. I hope you all had a chance to see some of the video's that Rob Shannon has put on Facebook for us to enjoy.

Members brought refreshments, a picnic lunch or used the supplied BBQ hot plates and enjoyed the company of each other. Thanks to Jim Laundry for getting there early and preparing the shelter for us and supplying the urn for tea and coffee.

We had a "Stake Your Claim" competition, followed by the popular Token Hunt and then to wrap the day up we had the Christmas Hamper Raffle.

Stake Your Claim was won by Bruce Johnson, Peter Smitts 2nd and Tony Pappas 3rd.

Peter Smitts found the most tokens, 22 in all to win \$20.00. Bob Lake had the winning key to "open the box" to win \$50.00 and Mario Senevirant won the Lucky Token prize of \$50.00.

Christmas Hamper winners were Louise McGough 1st prize, Peter Graser 2nd prize and John Close 3rd prize.



Spectators for the Token Hunt: Maureen, Tina, Susan & Sue.



The kids were really enjoying the Token Hunt.



Marking out the coordinates for "Stake Your Claim".



James in the Token Hunt.



Prize winners for "Stake Your Claim".
L to R: Bruce J., Peter S. & Tony P.



Raffle Prize winners. Just ignore Rob in the middle. He was standing in for Louise McG. who couldn't be there..



Robyn H. in
the Token
Hunt.



Peter G. digging up a token.



Brian S. in the
Token Hunt.

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.



Lindsay T. in
the Token
Hunt.



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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".

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New Minelab Detector

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Gold Detecting Mode

Gold Mode operates the high single frequencies of either 20 kHz or 40 kHz to detect gold nuggets in mineralised soils.



The new Equinox 800



The display panel on the Equinox 800

Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold Price as at 18/01/2017

Recent Gold Finds



Research versus Reward

GPZ 7000

November 13, 2017

By Tryhard – Victoria, Australia

I am a big believer in research versus reward and I have proven this over and over again.

In this modern age time is precious and I see many people in the field simply picking spots through no more than a simple drive by. Don't get me wrong I don't mind this as it often leaves lots of areas untouched by the modern detectorist. As for myself, I spend many hours on the computer trolling the internet for old and modern gold articles helping me pick a likely spot to detect. I love to read 1890+ mining literature and after reading through some old 1939 mining reports (wow what a wealth of information) I decided to give a new spot a go. I did a reekie of the area, spending over an hour walking around, and the big thing I noticed was lots of old timers workings and no detector holes, this is not a common occurrence this day and age as most areas have seen modern day detectors.

This of course meant one of two things, either all the

gold was gone or no one has been out in recent times to detect the area. Personally I get very excited when I come across an area without modern detector holes. So off I set and within 1 minute I struck my first target, a nice .5g pieces water worn. I kept working and yet another piece .2g water worn. It only got better. The next target was about 18 inches down a 5g piece water worn. At this stage I was like a big kid in a candy store, and the best was yet to come. Under a large dead tree branch a nice low high signal very subtle and easily missed. I cleared the area and 3 feet and 1 hour later out popped a whopping 20g piece (SG weight).

The best part of the day was I then had to race home and watch my son's basketball team win 32-25. Thumbs up, a great day in all.

Yet once again the power of the "Z" DVT technology has amazed me, the GPZ14 snagged this 20g piece at 3 feet in (High Yield/Difficult, Sensitivity 11) amazing for the coil size. Don't underestimate the power of this setting as it has proven to me just how good it is time and time again.

Settings for the area:

High Yield / Difficult

Sensitivity: 11

Audio Smoothing: Low

Tone: 33 [Great for the deeper targets]

Threshold: 26

Ground Tracking: Auto

Article courtesy of Minelab

Club News

The Vic Seekers Facebook page has had to change its page name.

It is now:

Victorian Seekers Prospecting Club

Check it out now:

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

[VictorianSeekersProspectingClub](https://www.facebook.com/VictorianSeekersProspectingClub)

Thanks to Rob for setting up the new page.

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17th February 2018
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For details contact Marcus Binks
0418 474 427

Body found in search for missing WA prospector.

Editors Note:

As a cautionary message to members to take adequate care when detecting in very high heat conditions, especially in Western Australia, comes this very recent story from a Perth newspaper.

10 January 2018

Police say the body of Rockingham Senior High School deputy principal Justin Paul Davies has been found in the Mid West of Western Australia. Emergency crews resumed their search at 6am this morning for Mr Davies who had been missing since Monday.

It is understood Mr Davies' body was spotted lying under a tree by aerial crews at about 10am. Police say he was found with two litres of water. The death is not being treated as suspicious and a report will be prepared for the coroner.

Mid West Police Inspector Dave Hooper said the death was a tragic event. "Our condolences are with the Davies family," he said. "This also serves as a reminder of the unforgiving nature of our outback. "It was very hot out there with temperatures in the high 40s."

The 48-year-old was prospecting in the Cue area with other family members when he failed to return to camp about 6pm Monday night. Mr Davies was staying at Webb's Patch, which is about 24km east of Cue. Police officers from Cue, Meekatharra, Yalgoo and Geraldton as well as SES personnel were searching via air, vehicle and foot.

In another missing prospector story only two week prior to the previous story this strange event occurred. This has kept the search and rescue squad and the local SES very busy.

Prospector found trying to hitchhike to Victoria

PerthNow

December 26, 2017

UPDATE: A tourist feared missing in 40C heat in WA's Goldfields region has been found at a Norseman BP trying to hitchhike back to Victoria.

Adam Galvin had been prospecting with a friend near Carosure Dam in Mulgabbie, about 150 kilometres north east of Kalgoorlie. The friend said he last saw Mr Galvin around 10am on Christmas Day and alerted authorities.

A massive air and land search got under way on Monday and Tuesday before police confirmed the 45-year-old had been located safe and well. "It appears that a motorist, unaware that Mr Galvin was being searched for, picked him up and dropped him off in Norseman," a police spokesperson said. "He was attempting to hitchhike back to Victoria."

It remains unclear why Mr Galvin did not alert anyone to his plans to return home.

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Gold History

Submitted by Rob Shannon

Gold near Melbourne.

MELBOURNE, Monday.—Senior-constable Ryan, who is stationed at Black Flats, in the Oakleigh district, to-day reported to the Chief Commissioner of Police, that a reef, showing good gold, has been found at a depth of 60ft. from the surface, by P. Holland and his sons, near the junction of the Spring Vale-road and High-street, close to the Mountain View Hotel, six miles from Oakleigh. Mr. Holland stated that he obtained 5oz. of retorted gold from one ton of stone; and small pieces of the reef, which were handed to Mr. Chomley by Senior-constable Ryan, contained rough gold. The locality has been visited by numbers of persons, and a good area of the ground, which is private land, has been pegged out.

In the interest of members who wish to dispose of their toilet waste while returning home please take note of these Public Dump Point Sites.

- 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,

Get your camera out!



If you are at a camp it may be a good idea to take a few photos for the benefit of those who were there, and for the members who cannot make it, so we can all share in the great experience of a Seekers detecting camp. Maybe get some detecting ones as well as the camp shots. Then post them on Facebook or send them to the editor for publication in the newsletter.

Don't just rely on the usual few club photographers to do it. They can't always be there to do it.



Wedderburn Detector Jamboree

10th & 11th March 2017

At Hard Hill Tourist Reserve

Sunday Major Draw

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Gold Miners Could Use X-Ray Technology to Detect Unseen Nuggets

The CSIRO has developed a way to use powerful x-rays to rapidly and accurately detect gold in ore samples and created a new business that is set to lead the world in gold analysis.

In an industry facing declining ore grades, rapid analytical technology has the potential to unlock substantial productivity gains in gold mining and production, and open up a significant new market for real-time analysis services in on-site applications.

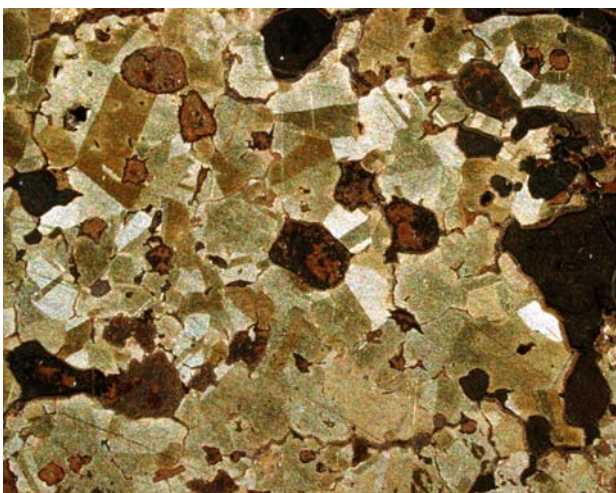
For example, gold processing plants may only recover between 65 and 85 per cent of gold present in mined rock. Given a typical plant produces around \$1 billion of gold each year, this means hundreds of millions of dollars worth of gold is going to waste. Even a modest five per cent improvement in recovery would be worth around half a billion dollars annually to the industry.

The technique – called PhotonAssay - uses high powered X-rays to bombard rock samples and activate atoms of gold and other metals. A highly sensitive detector then picks up the unique atomic signatures from these elements to determine their concentrations.

Although the basic principles of this analysis method have been known for decades, the complex nature of the technology has meant that the technique has found only limited commercial application to date.

The PhotonAssay is two-to-three times more accurate than the standard industry 'fire assay' technique, which requires samples to be sent off to a central lab, where they are heated up to 1200°C. Not only is the sample destroyed in the analysis but the fire assay results also can take several days to deliver.

The PhotonAssay can deliver results in a few minutes without generating any of the toxic waste products problematic in other assay systems.



The structure of gold under the microscope.

January Outing: Amherst

Thursday 25th to Tuesday 30th. Maps and directions for camps available to members only

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No unattended fires.

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.

February Outing: Moliagul

March Outing: Wedderburn

Maps and directions for forthcoming camps available to members only

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