

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 39 issue 2

March/April 2018

*VSC member finds a  
lovely 4oz nugget on a camp*



21oz (670g.) Nugget found in WA

**Inside This Issue**

**Amherst Camp Report**  
**Moonabel Camp Report**  
**Latest News**  
**...and more!**

*Finding nuggets at Moliaul*





## 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:** 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

## 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

## April

**Wed. 4th:** General Meeting.

No Camp later in the month due to an early Easter Camp.

## May

**Wed. 2nd:** General Meeting.

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

## June

**Wed. 6th:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 7th -Tues. 12th:** Camp Heathcote

## July

**Wed. 4th:** General Meeting.

**Thurs. 5th -Tues. 10th:** Camp TBA

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# President's Report

By Susan Moore

I would like to welcome all our new members, we've had a great influx since Christmas.

These are the months I look forward to as we get a few public holidays so we can attend at least the Easter Camp. The next camp Labour Day long weekend 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> March at Wedderburn coincides with the Minelab Wedderburn Detector Jamboree.

We did not make it to the last two camps at Amherst or Moliagul but did enjoy the photos/video that Rob Shannon put up on Facebook for us all to see. Well done Rob and thank you once again for all your time and effort. At the Moliagul camp one of our members, Jan, found a very nice 4oz nugget so there is still some gold out there.

Thank you, Eric, for the information on the Australian Gold Panning. One of our members Matt Kelava came second in the Eureka Challenge on the 17<sup>th</sup> February. Well done Matt. Matt also did an interview with SBS which will be televised in March sometime so we are looking forward to watching that.

Bruce our ex-secretary has done some research on our obligation to submit our Newsletter to the State Library Victoria, we will share this Information at the next meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the Easter camp which will be the next camp for us.  
Regards Susan.

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](mailto:ian@regentvideo.com.au)

The deadline for the next issue (No. 3 May/June) is 20th April.

## 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.

**Look the part for this 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 fleece jackets which will be the same as our previous design and will cost \$40.00 each. Caps \$15.00 Contact Eric for orders.

## 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*

At our February meeting it was a pleasure not to put up with the noisy music next door, allowing us to hear ourselves speak, hopefully, we do not go through that again. Attendances at the meetings lately have filled our room to almost capacity, boosted by many new and potential members, which is a healthy sign.

Peter Maffey gave us a very interesting and well informed presentation on the forgotten Boer War in South Africa, in which Australia participated during 1899-1901. It was a war against the Dutch Boers, by the British, who wanted to have control of the colony and for the access to the very rich gold deposits discovered there. Like lambs to the slaughter, Australia sent in large contingencies of troops and bush rifleman to help support the mother country, as we also did in the Second World War. We suffered over 1,000 casualties in this conflict, so it was quite a significant part of our history which wasn't until recently, recognized at the Canberra War Memorial with a remembrance display.

Because Peter's uncle, (Captain Maffey) participated in this war, and left many artifacts and medals of his (displayed to us), Peter felt very strongly about the war not being represented at the Canberra War Memorial. He helped to form a committee a few years ago with other like-minded to raise funds to correct the situation. They worked very hard with this and after much lobbying governments and individuals around the country were able to finally reach their aim after raising half of the required \$4,000,000 ( the government contributed the rest) , resulting in a magnificent display being erected last year for all to see and reflect on. Peter's talk was backed up with many historic books and artifacts and a fund raising DVD.

Peter is to be congratulated on his memorial efforts and for the very informative talk he gave us.

Find of the month went to our hard working secretary Tony Pappas with a 6 gram nugget from our Moonambel camp.

At our next meeting we are having the Historic Mine Shaft Chasers to tell us about their hobby going down old mines from around the goldfields of Vic. which sounds like an interesting night.

For April, I have a video of how gold is extracted by 40,000 miners in the jungles and rivers of Brazil called 'River of Gold', produced by Jacques Cousteau, the famous adventurer. I also have lined up a talk from the director of a mining company to tell us of their mining operations in Victoria, so stay tuned on this one.

## New Members

- Paul LEY
- Malcolm & Karen MARKS
- Nigel & Franca SIMMS

*Welcome and Good Luck!*

## Almoner's Report

*by Louise McGough*

I have sent a 'thinking of you' to Robyn as she is now in a nursing home.

Warren is now very busy and we are all thinking off both off them.

I also sent a get well card to Tina. We wish her a speedy recovery and that she is on board with us soon.

Peter Graser is recovering from a damaged tendon in his arm and has had surgery on it.

Sophie Meadows is recovering after knee replacement surgery. We wish her 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 informed.



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# January Camp Report

## Amherst

By Robert Shannon

Despite the warmer weather, it was a small enjoyable camp. By Thursday we already had 5 caravans spread out over the camp site and Matt's bus trying to gather some shade. Tony and Nola braved the heat and turned up on the Friday.

Weather wise it was a hot camp which resulted in the low numbers turning up. There was some relief with thunderstorms dropping the temperatures and settling the dust both on Thursday and Friday afternoon. Sunday was the hottest day out of them all at just below 40 degrees. Both Eric, myself and Grahame Mee visited the local pool in Talbot for a swim in the refreshing cool water. I must say it was good value at only \$4, including showers come and go as you wish all day!

Gold does strange things. Thursday no one got gold, Friday no one got gold, Saturday 'BINGO' most got gold! Nothing large in size just the usual small bits. I found a spot where I uncovered a nugget on a slope and invited a few to join me the next day. I found a further three including a nice 1.2 gram nugget but unfortunately no one else found anything.

Most nights were spent under my awning with several others watching both the Men's and Women's Tennis finals of the Australian Open. Monday afternoon during happy hour we celebrated Eric's birthday with a cake, happy birthday Eric!

It was a great small intimate camp despite the heat. Thanks to everyone who made the effort to attend.



A Lonely Bush Grave.



Seekers seeking shelter from the sun.



The sunset over the Amherst Camp..



An old diggers hole, one of many in this area of various shapes, laboriously dug through the hard conglomerate layer, thus preserving it.



## More Amherst Photos



Well, you don't get to see this sight too often during a bush camp.  
Eric modeling the retro look swimwear at the Talbot pool.



Graham M detecting in the bush for a nugget.



Nola & Tony enjoying the camp.

## February Camp Report

### Moliagul

By Francine Gilbert

Photos by Rob Shannon

What a great outing!

François and I arrived on Thursday to be welcomed by Graham M. and the big smile of Rob S. Yes, it was so hot for the first two days. We did not detect but enjoyed the peaceful bush.

By Saturday we had 15 camps and a few visitors. It was so nice to see Anja and Alistair back with their caravan.

Three exciting things happened over the weekend.

- 1) Jan H. found a lovely piece of gold 130.9gr
- 2) I found my bigger piece in Victoria 0.35g
- 3) We had SBS television filming Matt K. for a documentary on gold prospecting.

On Saturday we enjoyed the lovely pies supplied by Graham M.

Moliagul is a good camps site, nice people, pleasant weather and the gold is a bonus. See you at the next camp.



Gathering together to discuss the day's results.



Jan being interviewed by the SBS camera person for a forthcoming segment to be broadcast on SBS.





Jan's 4 oz (136 gram) Nugget. What a beauty!  
Alongside a 4 gram nugget found nearby.



Francine was all smiles after finding some nuggets.



Late last year a 100 ounce nugget was found in the 'Dunolly area'. A few were lucky enough to be taken to the exact spot by a close friend of the prospector who found the nugget. It was on the side of a track leading down to a puddler only 150 meters away. We think it has fallen from a cart carrying pay dirt on it's way to the puddler to be washed.



All that remains of an old house is this chimney at Moliagul

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Jewel	450gm	4mm	450mm

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## More Moliagul Photos



A puddler still



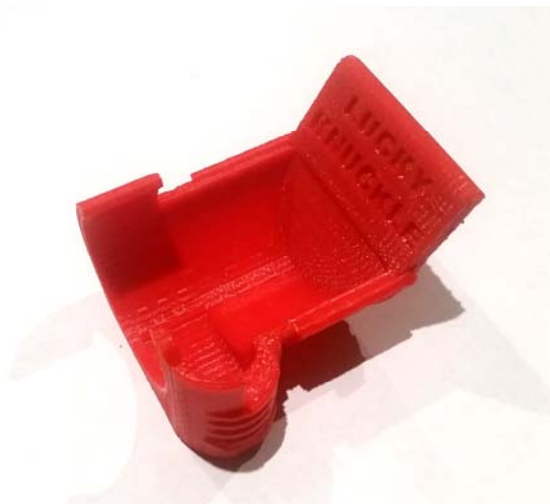
Jan H explaining how he found the 4 gram nugget first, with his finger pointing to the hole a few meters away. He then combed the area and bang! Out came the big one. A lovely 4oz. Nugget.



New Member Kevin H. was a happy man having detected his first ever nugget on the second camp that he has attended with the club.

## New Products

### Lucky Knuckle Protector



The Lucky Knuckle has been specifically designed for the Minelab SDC 2300 Detector.

The Lucky Knuckle is designed to protect expensive replacement parts on your SDC 2300 Metal Detector....saving you money! There is a 12 month manufacturer's warranty.

Price \$19.95 plus \$8.25 postage.

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# New Products

## SteelPhase sP01 Audio Enhance



A new Audio enhancer has been released by Phase Technical and this one promises to fill the shortcomings of other enhancers that we have seen over the years. It has been developed through a collaboration between SteelPat and Phase Technical. The latter business is headed by Nenad Lonc, a name that many of us would recognise from the time that he was the technical support expert with Minelab.

In the words of Nenad;

"I've tried a lot of boosters over the years and most of them did the same thing when connecting an external speaker to them, but some still coloured or distorted the sound.

I was a big pain in Minelab engineers backside to get a good booster into the GPXs for this reason. The detector's Target Volume setting does a good job, but if you crank it too high you can get an erratic machine, causing a required drop in Rx Gain. This is even more evident in the GPZ 7000, and users are well aware by now how much more stable the GPZ runs with a lower Volume setting, BUT, target signals are then harder to hear.

The SteelPhase gives you an extra level of control. When using stereo headphones, the Mode switch gives you 2 types of sound. The Mode 1 position I call normal. Mode 2 changes the sound - it sounds really crisp and somewhat "surround". You can hunt in this all the time or use it as a secondary "target check". It also features a 3 position Filter control, which sets different sound parameters to further customize the sound. Different detectors, headphones and peoples ears all react differently, so you can really tailor the audio to get the perfect sound from your detector. I would find it really hard to go prospecting without one now."

It is early days yet but the feedback on the forums so far is very positive.



The SteelPhase sP01 is shown in the optional pouch.

The price of this SteelPhase sP01 is \$225.00 plus postage. Due to a shortage in supply and a high demand, it is currently only available direct from Phase Technical. Later it will be available from the usual prospecting retailers.

Available from Nenad at Phase Technical on 0409 727 909 or by email at [nenad@phasetechnical.com.au](mailto:nenad@phasetechnical.com.au). For more details visit: [www.phasetechnical.com.au/product-category/audio-2/](http://www.phasetechnical.com.au/product-category/audio-2/)

Look out for a upcoming review of this product in a future newsletter.



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## Doug Stone Gold Maps

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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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## Club News

# Australian Gold Panning Championship



Mario competing in one of the rounds at the event.

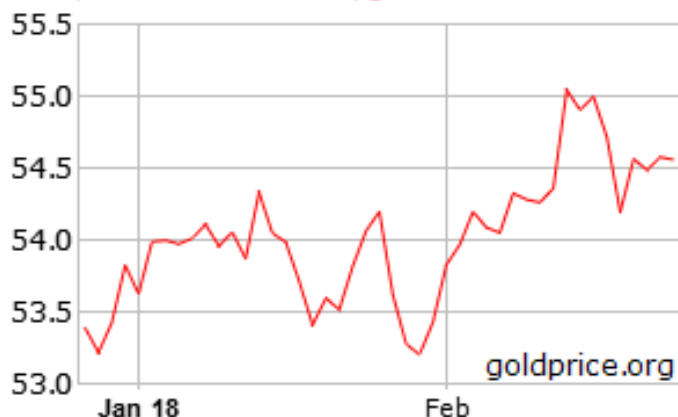
A great day was had at the Australian Gold Panning Championship at Blackwood by all those that competed. This championship was held on Saturday 17th February and was attended by a number of Seekers members.

In perfect weather, our Matt Kelava, who won the event last year fought out for first place, only to be piped out at the finals by Tom Calvert. Eric Grummett had a great day by reaching the finals in the skilled and traditional events. Eric's 17year-old grandson Jeremy and his mate 'Gazza', who has been coming for many years, and is hooked on the panning competition accompanied him for an exciting day. Other members having a go were Francine, Mario, Corin and Jim Darragh.

We all look forward to next year.

## Gold Price Report

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold Price as at 22/02/2018

## Recent Gold Finds

**Minelab SDC 2300 and GPZ 7000 Strike Gold**  
From the Miners Den Blog:



A nice 9.26oz. specimen.



And here's a 4.5oz specimen.

From the Miners Den Blog:

"Our staff in Miners Den Brisbane had the recent privileged to see a couple of amazing pieces of gold found in Queensland.

Using the Minelab SDC 2300 metal detector and Minelab GPZ 7000 metal detector our customer was able to find a couple of great pieces. The smaller nugget, 4.5oz was found with the SDC 2300

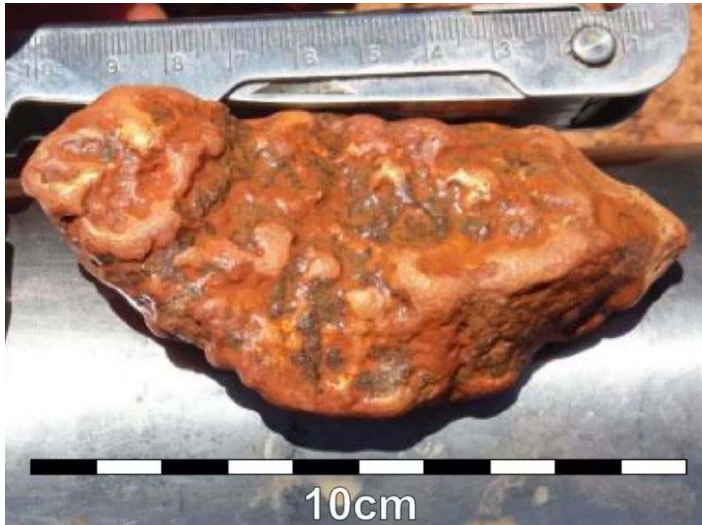
The larger nugget, 9.25oz was found on the first day out with his brand new GPZ7000."

*Editor's note: The blog called these nuggets but they are really specimens.*



# Large gold nugget found in Western Australia

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHIC NOVEMBER 03, 2017



21oz (670gram) nugget found during prospecting the lease.



Other nuggets found on the lease.

The unearthing of the large gold nugget follows a suite of discoveries in the area over the past month leaving prospectors hopeful for even bigger yields in the near future. A LARGE gold nugget weighing over half a kilo has been unearthed in Mertondale in the goldfields of Western Australia, close to a now abandoned mining area. The nugget weighed in at exactly 21 ounces (670.3 grams) and was discovered by prospectors of a relatively young mining company, Magnetic Resources.

It's been a record few months for the prospectors who have found more than 50 ounces— worth around \$82,700— of large gold nuggets in the area, all discovered at shallow depths with just a metal detector. The area between Leonora and Laverton, where the string of gold nuggets have been dug up is located on pastoral land. But George doesn't see this as an issue. "We have acted quickly to ensure Magnetic benefits from any nuggets recovered by signing a tribute agreement with the local pastoralist." Magnetic Resources is now exploring the area for more nuggets.

"We are very impressed by the size of these nuggets, 10oz and 21oz, which appear to have come from an underlying bedrock source near existing aeromagnetic targets in an emerging gold province," said the Magnetic Resources managing director George Sakalidis.

## Man finds enormous gold nugget in North Queensland

ANDREW BACKHOUSE, Townsville Bulletin

November 15, 2017



AN enormous gold nugget has been found by a man in North Queensland.

The prospector found the 1.1763kg gold nugget (37.7 troy oz.) in a field in the Charters Towers region worth about \$63,814.

The nugget was 15cm below the ground and discovered using a Minelab GPX 5000 detector.

"When I found the first nugget I was super stoked because that was my biggest ever," the Queenslander said, who wishes to remain anonymous. "I would have been really happy with just that but after I'd calmed down, I went back to the same spot, restarted my detector and after just two or three swings I found the big one. "It's fair to say I was emotionally overwhelmed at that time," he said.

The man had been searching a particular area for a while that day and was ready to leave. "But I gave it another quarter of an hour and then with five minutes left I got this fairly good signal — not too loud but I was confident it was gold — so I started digging.

"At first, I didn't know just how big the nugget was because the scales I had with me only went up to 500 grams. It wasn't until later when I got home I found out I'd broken the kilo mark."

"It was beneath some vegetation so it was a bit of a challenge to get to, but now I'm thinking maybe those roots are keeping some other big nuggets safe ready to be found another time."



# Gold Prospectors



What my friends think I do



What my wife thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What my mum thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

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### 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.



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## Club News



Matt with friends Gino & Laurie at the Moliagul Camp.

SBS Television is producing a short documentary on Seeker's member Matt Kelava focusing on his gold panning and detecting activities. Matt came to SBS's attention after winning the Australian Gold Panning Championship 5 times and who has also travelled overseas to represent Australia in the World Gold Panning Championship.

The SBS camera operator was at the Moliagul camp filming Matt and other Seekers members, and some attention was given to Jan's 4oz nugget. Later the camera operator was at the Australian Gold Panning Championship filming there as well.

The documentary will be aired on the program The Feed on SBS32 Viceland sometime in March. The Feed is on Monday to Thursday at 7:30pm.

We will advise members on the date by email when it is confirmed.

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## Mining downturn prompts out-of-work miners to eke out a living prospecting for gold

By Tom Edwards

**An East Kimberley prospector says the mining downturn is forcing more people to go in search of gold to make ends meet.**

( ABC News )

Martin Ynema owns mining leases around the old Halls Creek town site, the birthplace of Western Australia's gold rush in the late 1800s. He said a lot more people were trying to make a living by prospecting for gold and they were not necessarily following the rules.

"What's happened is a lot of people are now out of work, so they're buying detectors and going anywhere where they think they can find their fortune so they can retire," Mr Ynema said. "As long as the detector points in that direction that's where they go. "They don't seem to worry too much about whose properties or leases they are or if they're encroaching on anyone's toes."

Mr Ynema said he was frequently contacted by prospectors wanting to stay at his accommodation in the old town of Halls Creek. He said he was happy for them to prospect on his leases in exchange for supplies, but many did not bother to ask for permission. By his estimation, prospecting for precious metals and stones had increased by 200 to 300 per cent in the Kimberley in the past few years. "Maybe one in a thousand make a good quid out of it," he said. "The rest of them really lose money ... it's a lot harder than what most of them think. "Some of them are very lucky; they strike the odd patch. They might get a few ounces, but [for] most of them it's a matter of hundreds of little pieces for a gram."

But despite the odds, Mr Ynema said he believed prospecting would continue to grow in popularity. "The less money that's in the system, the more people will go out prospecting," he said. "They'll go back to panning dishes, small sluices, anything they can get 10 or 20 dollars a day so they can live."

Prospectors need written permission. The Department of Mines and Petroleum confirmed prospecting had increased in popularity in Western Australia in recent years. Executive director mineral titles Dr Ivor Roberts said a miner's right was required to pros-

pect on crown land, including pastoral leases and vacant crown land.

"Anyone wishing to prospect within the area of an exploration licence must have written permission from the tenement holder or apply for a 40E permit," he said. "Written permission from the tenement holder must be obtained for anyone who wants to prospect on a mining lease or prospecting licence area."

On a pastoral lease, prospectors cannot not go within 100 metres of an occupied building or within 400 metres of a livestock watering point without permission from the pastoralist. Heavy fines apply for unauthorised mining.

## *Easter Camp at Fryerstown*

March Thursday 29th to April Tuesday 4th

### **Another exciting camp. Fun for everyone!!**

#### **SATURDAY:**

☺ **Chewton Market** - handicraft and produce from local stall traders; all day, next to the Albion Hotel.

☺ **Egg race** - 5pm. Ladies' event followed by Men's. Balance a hard boiled egg in a holder on your detector and run a short course through camp.

☺ **Chewton Old Time Dance** - After dinner in hall behind the Albion Hotel. Supper will be provided.

#### **SUNDAY:**

☺ Gum boot tossing

☺ Bocce

**Roast Dinner - 6.30pm.** ☺ Choice of 3 different meats: ham, pork or beef. There is no cost for members however for non-members it is \$5.00 per person.

**Please bring salads and sweets.** Keep your dinner ticket for the Door Prizes.

☺ Games for all ages and genders.

☺ **Songs, sing along, sketches, jokes, etc. This is your chance to present an act. Go on, Have a Go!**

#### **MONDAY:**

☺ Special Easter treasure hunt at 9:00am, Men's and Ladies' events.

☺ "Stake Your Claim" Your chance to win a nugget.

☺ Damper Bake Off

**Be there and join in the fun . . .**



Maps and Directions to forthcoming camps  
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