

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

**Special  
points of  
interest:**

\* p6 First  
Aid—  
DRSABCD &  
snake bites

\* p7 150th  
anniversary  
of the Wel-  
come  
Stranger

\* p9 Photo  
of the  
month

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Jan camp 5  
report—  
Chute

Feb camp 8  
report—  
Amherst

**Also:**

News, and in-  
formation for  
members only:  
new members,  
Almoners  
report, camp  
directions

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

APR / MAR 2019

VOL. 40 ISSUE 2

## The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

### President's report BY SUSAN MOORE

It's great to see our new members, along with visitors, attending our camps and meetings. Don't forget to introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome!

I would like to apologise for not being able to attend the funeral of John Close, but was glad to hear there was healthy representation from the Club. Unfortunately I had other commitments due to Ivan's ill health over the last few months, but he seems to have recovered well (keeping fingers crossed).

This is the time of year I look forward to as we get a few public holidays enabling us to at least attend the Easter Camp – always our biggest camp of the year. The next camp is Labour Day long weekend

8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> March at Wedderburn, which coincides with the Minelab Wedderburn Detector Jamboree (see page 4 for details)

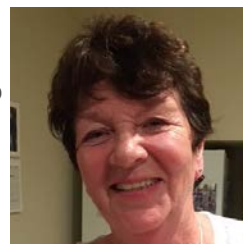
Next camp for us personally will be April for Easter so I look forward to seeing lots of you then.

It's good to be able to follow the camps even when you can't make it, through the newsletter camp reports and Facebook posts. Don't forget to share your best photos with us!

There has been some interest expressed in organising a beach outing this year, and maybe Christmas in July at Moonambel – so stay tuned for more on those. And the annual trip to Tibooburra is being planned for June—dates

yet to be confirmed.

I am doing the almoners report for Louise in this edition, as she has had to resign her positions due to Brian having some health issues. Virginia Lake has stepped up to the mark and will continue as almoner until September when elections will be held, so thank you



Virginia! Louise and Brian's situation has also left their positions of Librarian and Field Officer vacant, so please let me or another commit-

tee member know if you are able to fill-in these roles. We wish Brian a speedy recovery and hope to see them both around the club again soon.

Regards

Susan

## Finds of the Month Feb 2019

**Congratulations to Eric G for his 5g nugget, and to Paul H for his titanium ring in the Artifacts/Jewellery category!**



*Each month at the General meeting we invite our members to present their recent finds to be judged in our "Find of the Month" competition, and be in the running for Find of the Year.*

Don't forget to bring along your next find to our next General Meeting for judging.

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

## General meetings & AGM

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT

### FEBRUARY

There has only been one meeting since my last report, so this is rather brief...

A large turnout of about 40 members including 6 visitors attended the February meeting, which shows that all is healthy with membership interest in our club's affairs.

Pam Griffin was declared the winner of our auction of the WA tour donated by CGS Tours with their generous bid, and so will

now accompany Paul on their adventure later this year. (*More info p10*)

Our speaker was to be Rita Bentley from PMAV but unfortunately, due to her illness could not attend. So at short notice Francine stepped in with a talk about an Australian RAAF flyer John Bell and 3 others, who in WW2 flew an ill-fated secret mission to rescue Madam De Gaulle and her family from France in 1940. The plane was believed to have been

shot down over Ploudaniel, near where Francine lived. Their bodies were recovered and buried in the local cemetery where the graves are regularly maintained to this day. John Bell came from Farina in South Australia where an annual flyover is held each year as a memorial. Thanks also goes to Francois for his thorough research.

Rita will try and make it next month.

If you have contacts or suggestions for future guest speakers, let me know!

The find of month was won by yours truly with 5.0gm from the Chute trip!

Eric

### Interested in joining?

Contact us through our website [www.victorianseekersclub.org.au/how-to-join](http://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au/how-to-join) 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.

*For dates and venues, see p4 in this newsletter*

### Membership fees:

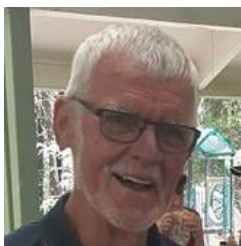
Family Membership \$65.00 p.a.

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## Your Committee of Management 2018-2019

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

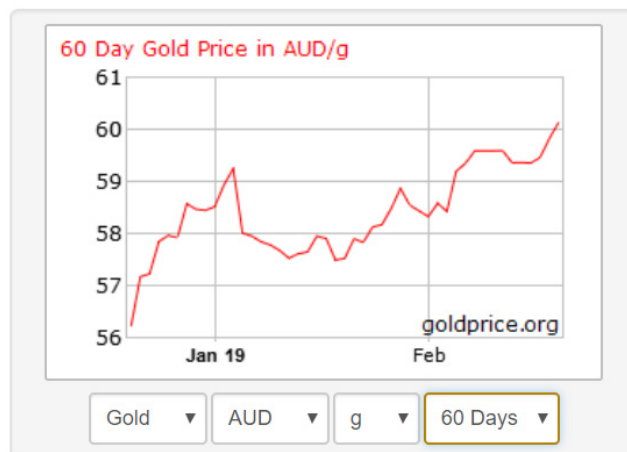


VIDEOS NEEDED FOR OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL !!

See Mark David, IT Officer



### Gold price report as at 21/02/19



## Club calendar

*VSC General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at 8pm sharp, \*Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave*

March						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					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						

### MARCH 2019

- ♦ Wed 6th Mar—General Meeting, 8pm, \*Mulgrave
- ♦ Thurs 7th—Tues 12th Mar—Labour Day weekend camp, Wedderburn (including Wedderburn Detector Jamboree Sat 9th & Sun 10th—*details below*)

### APRIL 2019

- ♦ Wed 3rd Apr—General Meeting, 8pm, \*Mulgrave
- ♦ Thurs 18th—Tues 23rd Apr—Easter camp, Fryerstown

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	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				

### MAY 2019

- ♦ Wed 1st May—General Meeting, 8pm, \*Mulgrave
- ♦ Thurs 16th—Tues 21st May—May camp, Mountain Hut

### JUNE 2019

- ♦ Wed 5th May—General Meeting, 8pm, \*Mulgrave
- ♦ Thurs 6th—Tues 11th Apr—Queens Birthday weekend camp, TBC
- ♦ Proposed dates for Tibooburra trip: 9th-23rd June TBC

## Wedderburn Detector Jamboree Mar 9-10



**Hard Hill Tourist Reserve**  
**Hard Hill Court, Wedderburn 3518**

Annual two day event introducing gold panning and detector demonstrations. **This year sees the return of a GPX5000 as the major prize!**

Bring along the family for a fun filled prospecting weekend on **Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 March** and participate in all the activities to do with detecting and gold panning.

Major gold detector draws, and many lucky draw prizes up for grabs.

**Senior Detector Token Hunt** - \$50.00 for the weekend including breakfast and entertainment on the Saturday evening. \$40.00 for one day.

**6.45am** Breakfast and registration (both days)

**7.45am** Competitors briefing (both days)

**Saturday: 8am to 3pm - Token Hunt** - All tokens found are to be handed in by 4pm.

**Sunday: 8am to 1pm - Token Hunt** - All tokens found are to be handed in by 1.30pm.

Rules & regulations must be adhered to and coils must not exceed 14 inch.

Free entry for non participants.

For more information go to:

<http://www.wedderburn.vic.au/>



# Jan camp report: Chute

BY ERIC GRUMMETT

Due to the very hot conditions preceding the camp and many of us attending John Close's funeral on the Friday, only 12 of us were able to make it this time.

As this area is destined to become a nature reserve under the VEAC proposals, we spent most of our limited time in the immediate area.

We shared the site with about 50 beehives which proved to be the friendly type that didn't have a taste for prospectors, and so kept to themselves busy making honey.

One of our new members Andrew was not a happy chappie when he backed his SUV into a tree which demolished his back window. He certainly knows how to do a proper job of it, why couldn't he just lose the tail light lens like I have done on many occasions in the past? Alas, but

at least Andrew did have a smile when he left after finding his second ever nugget of 0.5gm. Maybe he could offer it to his insurance company as his excess payment?



*Oops!*

The overall gold tally was not great due to our short stay, most leaving on Monday, but notably I managed two pieces of 1.5g and 2.5g and Alistair, 3 pieces for a total of 2.5g.



*Eric's finds*

A great campsite and gold prospects, so we should give it another go in the cooler weather before we lose access to it.

Eric

"We shared the site with about 50 beehives"

*Chute campsite*







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# First Aid — DRSABCD & snake bites

ST JOHN AMBULANCE AUSTRALIA

DRSABC action plan (and D where a defibrillator is available) is crucial to all serious first aid situations:

## DRSABCD

IN AN EMERGENCY CALL **TRIPLE ZERO (000)** FOR AN AMBULANCE

D

Dangers?

Ensure the area is safe for yourself, others and the patient.

R

Responsive?

Check for a response: ask name, squeeze shoulders.  
**No response?** Send for help.  
**Response?** Make comfortable and monitor response.

S

Send for help

Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance or ask another person to make the call.

A

Open Airway

Open the mouth and check the airway for foreign material.  
**Foreign material?** Place in the recovery position and clear the airway.  
**No foreign material?** Leave in position.  
Open the airway by tilting the head back with a chin lift.

B

Normal Breathing?

Check for breathing: look, listen, feel for 10 seconds.  
**Not normal breathing?** Ensure an ambulance has been called; start CPR.  
**Normal breathing?** Place in the recovery position and monitor breathing.

C

Start CPR

30 chest compressions: 2 breaths.  
Continue CPR until help arrives or the patient starts breathing.

D

Attach defibrillator (AED)

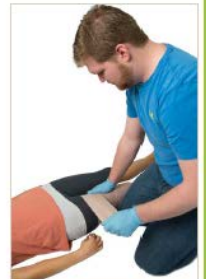
and follow the voice prompts.

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THIS INFORMATION IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR FIRST AID TRAINING. FORMAL INSTRUCTION IS ESSENTIAL. © St John Ambulance Australia Inc. 2018

## WHAT TO DO For Snake Bites:

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Lie the patient down and ask them to keep still. Reassure the patient.
- 4 If on a limb, apply an elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide) over the bite site as soon as possible.  
Apply a further elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide), starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.  
Use clothing or other material if an elasticised roller bandage is not available.  
Apply the bandage as tightly as possible to the limb.
- 5 Immobilise the bandaged limb using splints.
- 6 Keep the patient lying down and completely still (immobilised).
- 7 Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. If possible, mark the location of the bite site (if known) on the skin with a pen, or photograph the site.
- 8 Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.



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# 150th anniversary of the Welcome Stranger



After Chute, Francois, Francine and I attended Moliagul to join the 150 year celebrations of the discovery of finding the world's largest gold nugget, named the Welcome Stranger.

Organised by the PMAV Maryborough branch and BUGU, about 50 prospectors and families enjoyed a great get together with a sausage sizzle, cold drinks and a live country and western duo under the shade of large trees.

A treasure detecting hunt was also run for the kids.

Regards  
Eric



*The story of the Welcome Stranger...according to [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Welcome_Stranger):*

The **Welcome Stranger** is the biggest alluvial gold nugget found, which had a calculated refined weight of 97.14 kilograms (3,123 oz). It measured 61 by 31 cm (24 by 12 in) and was discovered by prospectors John Deason and Richard Oates on 5 February 1869 at Moliagul, Victoria, Australia, about 14.6 kilometres (9 miles) north-west of Dunolly.

Found only 3 cm (1.2 in) below the surface, near the base of a tree on a slope leading to what was then known as Bulldog Gully, the nugget had a gross weight of 109.59 kilograms (3,523.5 oz) (241 lb 10 oz). Its trimmed weight was 78 kilograms (2,520 oz) (210 lbs), and its net weight was 72.02 kilograms (2,315.5 oz) (192 lbs 11.5 oz).

At the time of the discovery, there were no scales capable of weighing a nugget this large, so it was broken into three pieces on an anvil by Dunolly-based blacksmith Archibald Walls.

Deason, Oates, and a few friends took the nugget to the London Chartered Bank of Australia, in Dunolly, which advanced them £9,000. Deason and Oates were finally paid an estimated £9,381 for their nugget, which became known as the "Welcome Stranger". At February

2019 gold prices, it would be worth US\$3.0 million [2.3 million GBP]. It was heavier than the "Welcome Nugget" of 69.0 kilograms (2,217 oz) that had been found in Ballarat in 1858. The goldfields warden F. K. Orme reported that 2,269 ounces (189 lbs 1 oz) 10 dwt 14 grains (70.5591 kg) of smelted gold had been obtained from it, irrespective of scraps that were given away by the finders, estimated as totalling another 47 ounces (3 lbs 11 oz) 7 dwt.

The nugget was soon melted down and the gold was sent as ingots to Melbourne for forwarding to the Bank of England. It left the country on board the steamship *Reigate* which departed on 21 February.



*Welcome stranger obelisk, Moliagul—by Tony B*

An obelisk commemorating the discovery of the "Welcome Stranger" was erected near the spot in 1897.

A replica of the "Welcome Stranger" is in the City Museum, Treasury Place, Melbourne, Victoria; another replica is owned by descendants of John Deason.



**The Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria** is a voluntary body established to protect and enhance the rights and opportunities of those who wish to prospect, fossick or mine in the State of Victoria, Australia <https://pmav.org.au/>



Support the group that is protecting your rights to enjoy the bush <https://www.bugu.org.au/>

## Feb camp report: Amherst

BY PAUL HART



*Sunrise  
at  
Amherst*

I arrived Thursday afternoon and it was about 30 degrees C and humid. About 4 or 5 vans had already arrived. Over the next 2 days the weather improved and the attendance peaked at about 25 members/visitors (10 vans and 4 cars/tents).

Pam took on the role of duty officer and ensured every one signed in etc.

On Friday night about 10 members went to Talbot for a meal at the Pub. The usual complaints about long waits and poor service were replaced with "the meals were too big" and "I couldn't eat it all".

We had 2 prospective members Sam and Maggie attend the camp and on Saturday morning I gave them a lesson on the GPX4500. No sooner had we finished the lesson and a heavy shower

came out of nowhere! Later in the day they reported finding a drink can, a nail and a shot gun pellet. Welcome to the world of prospecting!



*Visitors using the club detector—by Francine*

Then we all turned green with envy when the local "show & tell" started. Former members Frank & Gina bought in their 12 oz nugget found in nearby diggings with a GPX 5000 and a 12 inch Evolution coil. On Friday night another Frank with a mining lease bought in 15 oz retrieved with a large excavator. I am thinking of changing my name to Frank :)

As of Sunday lunchtime a couple of swinging sisters (Francine, Jenny and

Pam) were dominating proceedings with their SDC 2300 finds. However special mention to Francois who was back behind his detector and may have secured the largest nugget for the camp. Needless to say that our finds did not quite match the size of the other nuggets that we saw on the weekend.

Some members took the opportunity to visit the local historical sites for a little quiet reflection ;)



*Reflecting  
at the  
Chinese  
Baths—by  
Francine*

And on the chilly Saturday night I gave a brief summary of our General meeting for the country folk and we had a fun raffle.

Thanks to Gary, Jenny and Anya for the assistance and donated prizes.

Paul



*A campfire would have been nice!*

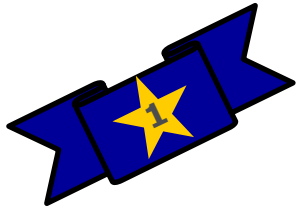
"Then we all turned green with envy "



## Member submissions

### Photo of the month!

While the proposed Photography Competition has not gotten off the ground, the editor has decided to feature one submitted photo per month as "Photo of the Month"...



*Congratulations to **Francine** for this lovely shot taken at **Quartz Reef Reserve** (Amherst camp, Feb 2019)*

*Submit your Nature or Heritage photo from March and April camps for next issue's judging!*



### Paul G's Lament

When you bought those shot gun shells,  
I bet you thought you were doing a noble deed.  
Some rabbits to take home  
for the family feed.

Now having found 24 pellets  
both yesterday and today  
I wish the hell you would have stayed away!

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

*Next Submission deadline  
1st May 2019*

**DOC or JPG preferred. Members refer to committee list or send to [vicseekersclub@gmail.com](mailto:vicseekersclub@gmail.com)**

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## Member information

### **ANNUAL FEE PAYMENT REMINDER**

By the time you get this Newsletter it will be getting close to the time when the 2019/20 annual fees are required. No changes have been made to the fees for this year.

In the past a personalised invoice was mailed to each member for payment. This was not only time consuming for the Treasurer but also costly for the club, so now reminders will be included in the next couple of Newsletters.

On the back page of this Newsletter is a reminder form with the fees and payment options listed. Most members pay by internet banking and this is the preferred method (but don't forget to include your name). If you have changed your phone details, email address etc please also send these to the Treasurer.

regards

Paul Hart, Treasurer  
[paul.hart@live.com.au](mailto:paul.hart@live.com.au)

### Club Clothing

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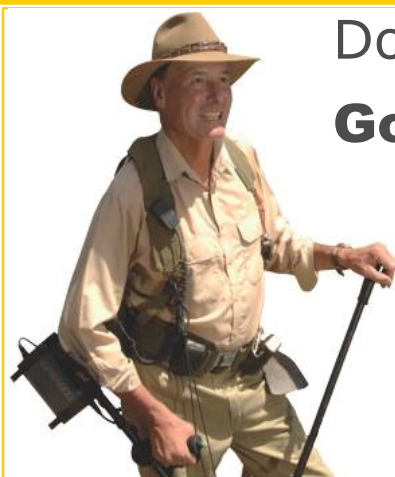
*Lightweight polo shirts are perfect all year round @ \$30.00 each*

*Polar fleece jackets—a must for the cooler days and evenings ahead - just \$40.00 each*

*Caps are only \$15*

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General Meetings to try  
on**

**See Steve for all  
enquiries**



### Doug Stone Gold Maps

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Our appreciation goes to  
**C.G.S. Gold Prospecting Tours**  
 for donating a  
 10 day guided Gold Prospecting tour in Western  
 Australia to the Victorian Seekers Club



## Camping and detecting tips

*From your Members' Handbook:*

### Positioning a caravan

Most caravans have an awning and a side entrance door. Position the van with the door facing the east so that the morning sun will shine under the awning. As the day progresses and warms up, the awning will give shade for the rest of the day. The trees behind you will put late shade on the van helping to cool it.



Another reason why it is not always a good idea to park directly under over-hanging trees is when rain is forecast. Even light rain collecting in the leaves become large drops which make a loud noise landing on the roof at night, and continue to drum down even when the rain is finished.

The following is an excerpt from:

[www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/blog/22/gold-prospecting-in-the-victorian-goldfields](http://www.goldfieldsguide.com.au/blog/22/gold-prospecting-in-the-victorian-goldfields)

### Do you need a licence to go gold prospecting in Victoria?

Yes, you will need a Miner's Right - a permit to prospect within Victoria. A current Miner's Right must be held at all times while gold prospecting. Children under 18 years old do not need a Miner's Right while prospecting if they are accompanied by an adult who holds a current Miner's Right. [Click here](#) to purchase a Miner's Right.

### What are the guidelines for gold prospecting in Victoria?

While gold prospecting you **must not**:

- Use any equipment other than hand tools for ground excavation
- Use explosives
- Damage any trees, shrubs or flowers
- Cause any damage to any archaeological sites or Aboriginal places/objects
- Enter private property without permission
- Remove, disturb or damage any heritage features or objects

You must **always**:

Fill any holes you dig while prospecting.

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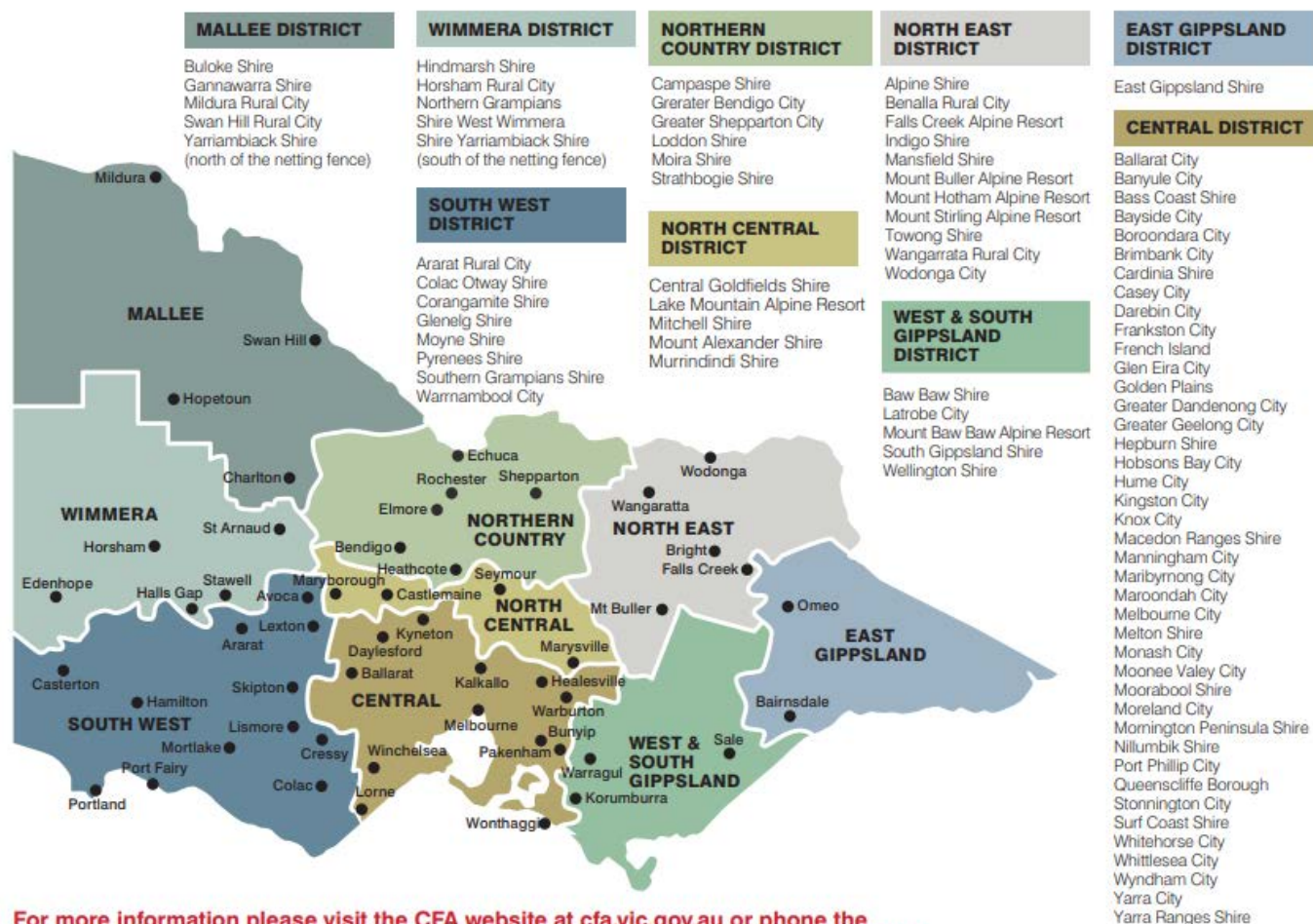
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## Fire restrictions are still in force! Know your district

In the event that a **Code Red Day** is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.  
For more information: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions-during-the-fire-danger-period>



For more information please visit the CFA website at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) or phone the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 or via National Relay Service on 1800 555 677

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Mon - Fri 9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Sat 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Find Us Online**

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### World's best Minelab detector upgrades and modifications.

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

Postal:  
PO Box 15  
Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

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"

## THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC. 2019 / 2020 MEMBERSHIP FEES PAYMENT REMINDER Due and payable by the 1st July 2019

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fee - Single	\$40.00
Annual Membership Fee - Family	\$65.00
Other Fees	
<b>Newsletter Fee (only for hardcopy by post) Members are encouraged to use the <u>free email service</u></b>	\$20.00
<b>Joining Fee (once off payment) Single \$10.00/Family \$20.00</b>	\$10 / \$20

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

#### 1. Direct Credit / Internet Banking (preferred payment method). Payment details are as follows:

Name of Bendigo Bank Account: The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.

BSB No : 633-000

Acct No : 1407-71171

In the "description" box ensure you include a your name and payment reason e.g. "P. Hart fee"

#### 2. Cheque - Made out to The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. Please give to the Treasurer or mail to:

The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.

P.O. Box 15, MOUNT WAVERLEY BC VIC 3149

#### 3. Cash - Pay to the Treasurer at any General Meeting or Camp outing. A receipt is always supplied for cash.

### CHANGES TO YOUR DETAILS

If you have changed your details or are a new member please provide the following details with your payment:

Name(s).....

Postal Address.....

Phone number.....Mobile number.....

Email Address.....Other.....

Paul Hart, Treasurer - Email: [paul.hart@live.com.au](mailto:paul.hart@live.com.au)