

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

MAY/JUN 2019

VOL. 40 ISSUE 3

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bers only:
new members,
Almoners re-
port, camp direc-
tions

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

President's report BY SUSAN MOORE

I would like to welcome our many new members.

Just a reminder that the annual fees for 2019-2020 are now due (no individual invoices will be sent out). Refer to payment details are on the last page of this newsletter (if paying via direct debit please identify your payment with your name). Remember to pay by 1st July to avoid a re-joining fee.

I am sorry to say that I will not be standing for President next year. All positions are made vacant each year at the AGM in September, so please consider how you could contribute. The commitment is only for 1 year, although we sincerely thank the members who willingly contin-

ue on the committee year after year. It's healthy for the club to have a mix of both new and long-standing committee members. Think about putting your hand up! Nomination forms will be available at each general meeting.

The Easter camp was our turn for the problematic weekend, we had issues with the truck and could not tow our van to the camp. After 4 attempts we eventually made it with the car so no detecting for us. We stayed in Castlemaine at a caravan park in a cabin. But we made it for dinner on Sunday evening, and had a great time with plenty to eat. As usual Lindsay, Bob and Eric did the set up and cooking, with lots of help from other members to make it all happen and run smoothly.

Thank you all for your salad and dessert donations too. There was so much food it did Monday night's dinner as well! Peter Maffey did a great job of the raffle raising an amazing \$441.70, Francine and Francois did the games which were great fun. (Full camp report p8)

We are looking forward to our Christmas in July camp at Moonambel. Personally, we have managed to get to all the Christmas camps at Moonambel but as that is a slow time of year there I am looking forward to visiting the area when it is not so quiet. I enjoy this camp as there are powered sites and it has the bathroom amenities.

Looking forward to seeing many of you then and at the upcoming General meetings too.

Susan

Find of the Month March/April 2019



Thomas' 18ct men's dress ring

Congratulations to Thomas M who took out both the March and April Find of the Month awards! (Details p2)

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.

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

MARCH

Members were reminded that our club will be celebrating it's 40th year of operation next February, and that we need to start planning the event now. It is hoped that a super raffle and a daytime pub luncheon can be organized for the event, similar to the very successful 30th we had in 2010.

A beach outing and barbecue is planned for Mt Martha on Sunday 22nd of September, more about that on Page 10.

Our club have finally purchased a new projector, which worked a treat for our Jack Absalom DVD "Rainbow's End", describing the great rush to the richest square mile in the world at Kalgoorlie in Western Australia where nuggets were picked up by the handful. Jack was a great outback adventurer and famous painter who made many DVDs on bush survival and outback documents some years ago. Sadly he passed away recently aged 91.

The find of month went to Thomas M with a very valuable diamond ring. Ted C presented an unusual penny with a sixpence infused into the centre.

APRIL

We were saddened to learn

that one of our life members, John Douglas passed away at the age of 90. John was very passionate about the value of our club. He served many years on the committee and was a hard worker at the camps collecting firewood and ensuring everything went smoothly. (Full eulogy on Page 10.)

Our BUGU partners have set up a [petition](#) to put pressure on the government to restructure the management of public land, including the investigation committee (VEAC) to be represented by people who actually use this land for work and recreation, instead of the very one sided green bureaucrats (who have only one agenda, and that is to ban access to us and many other users). We have to do all we can to protect our rights, and so we urge all members to sign (more details p 7). We will have copies at our meetings and camps.

Our proposed speaker was the president of the PMAV Rita Bentley, but due to the downturn in her health she was not able to attend.

Due to the popularity of the Jack

Absalom DVD last month we played another one called "The Journey to Lilliput" featuring a guide to caravan safety while on a trip from Broken Hill to Ceduna, giving us a run-down on points of interest on the way. It was a very entertaining presentation enjoyed by all.

Next month we have Mel Higgins from the RACV to give us a presentation entitled 'Lifestyle-Healthy Ageing & Staying Connected' which covers topics on healthy ageing, keeping active, getting around, internet use, and scams. It should be very interesting considering many of our ages! We had Mel talk to us 18 months ago about aged driving, so this an extension on that theme.

The find of month went yet again to Thomas M, this time with another ring: a large ornate solid 18ct men's. (see photo front page)

Eric

Interested in joining?

Contact us through our website

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
Fees are listed on back page*

Your Committee of Management 2018-2019

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT
			vicseekersclub@gmail.com
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:	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc	Virginia Lake	
Library Officer:	Managing library at General Meetings	Vacant	
Clothing Officer:	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings	Steve Iorlano	
Field Officers:	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	



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Our appreciation goes to
C.G.S. Gold Prospecting Tours
 for donating a
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 Australia to the Victorian Seekers Club

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

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 19th June 2019

DOC or JPG preferred via email. Members refer to committee list or send to vicseekersclub@gmail.com

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. All welcome.*

May						
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	

MAY 2019

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

JUNE 2019

- ♦ Wed 5th June—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave*
- ♦ Thurs 6th—Tues 11th Apr—Queens Birthday weekend camp, Havelock
- ♦ 9th-23rd June—Tibooburra trip

Forward planning:

JULY 2019

- ♦ Wed 3rd July—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave*
- ♦ Thurs 4th—Tues 9th Jul—July camp, Moonambel

AUGUST 2019

- ♦ Wed 7th August—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave*
- ♦ Thurs 8th—Tues 13th Aug—August camp, Redcastle

June						
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						

Newsletter submission deadline

Join us for "Christmas in July" Sat 6th July at Moonambel

Where

Moonambel—refer camp map

Program

Saturday night: BYO Christmas party fare with Kris Kringle and party games

Cost

Camp sites \$10 non-powered, \$15 powered per night. The club will pay for the hire the room.



BYO Christmas party fare (Kitchen/pie warmer facilities available – as well as the Club BBQ)

Bring along tinsel, a Santa hat, or anything else that can help create a festive atmosphere!

To participate in a Kris Kringle style gift-giving, bring along a generic wrapped present up to the value of \$10

TIBOOBURRA TRIP 2019

An intrepid band of prospectors from the Club will again head up to Tibooburra, NSW—situated over 1000kms from Melbourne—from June 9th to 23rd inclusive, staying at the local caravan park...

Interested in joining?
Contact Lindsay for more details

March camp report: Wedderburn

BY ERIC GRUMMETT



Eric in the panning competition at the Wedderburn Detector Jamboree

We picked great weather for this camp, which attracted 30 members, many whom haven't been there before. Wedderburn is a busy place during this Labor Day weekend, centered around the giant Jamboree token hunt, garage sales, and a farmers market, so there was plenty to do for those not chasing the yellow metal.

Most members chose the latter with only Mark and I giving the tokens a go. Out of 200 tokens planted over the 2 days of the Jamboree, and about 180 participants, (about 50 did not find any, including Mark), I thought that my 7 tokens stood a good chance of doing well on the draw for about 30 prizes including a GPX5000. Well would you believe it, not even a stubby holder, so that's it for me in future events.

I even bombed out of the

panning competition, along with many other experts, including the latest Australian champion. The event was won by a 11year old girl, (more tears)

On Saturday night, Peter Maffey conducted another

successful raffle with many valuable prizes going to the lucky winners.

Our presence was appreciated by a neighbor who brought around bags of fresh peaches for us all to enjoy. And it wouldn't be a camp without Graham M's hot pies on Sunday night—Yummy.

In all the years that I have been going up there, (35) I have never seen the country looking so dry and depressing.

Many paddocks do not have a blade of grass and the dams are mostly empty, the farmers are truly having a rough trot.

Gold finds were limited to sub gramers and hard to locate, with my 2g piece the exception.

Before we give up

on Wedderburn, it was reported that a week after the Jamboree someone found a 138gm nugget using a 3030 coin detector in the area while looking for coins (yet more tears!)

We had a mixed bag of luck this weekend, but we all enjoyed the visit.

Eric

"won by a
11year old
girl"



Is this my new caravan??? - Eric



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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

Feature article

BY SALLY GARDEN, WILKGARD

Good TV viewing on the road.....

We criticize our communications ministry for poor choices but when you consider we have nearly 5000 transmitters across the country we are not doing too badly. That is one transmitter for every 5200 people. The areas not covered by city, regional or small community transmitters or translators as they stand are

- Northern part of the SA state
- Much of North and Central WA
- Southern part of Northern Territory

All other areas have a transmitter or transmitters available. There has been a big swing to Satellite dishes because the basic of receiving TV reception has not been understood and the sale of dishes has been promoted by those who will benefit from the sale. The administration associated with that is a chore.

In Australia our signals come in 2 formats:

Horizontal and Vertical polarity, and even the manufacturers who put round things on roofs do not understand. This is then exacerbated by the following fact:

Small output transmitters are often polarized in a vertical pattern and a fixed antenna cannot be adjusted for this type of signal transmission – result: no picture and TV antennas get a bad name. But really it is a lack of knowledge both from the caravanner and the manufacturer alike.

Good decisions are based on facts not hearsay.

Sally Garden
Founder/Research
Wilkgard Technology Group P/L



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/>

TV ANTENNA MOUNTING - CLIPS ON IN SECONDS

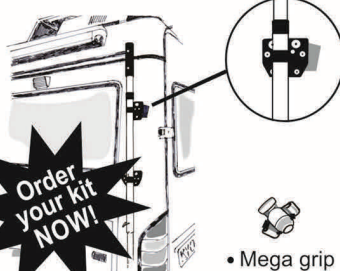
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Feature article

Bush User petition calls for Public Land Inquiry

Taken from: https://www.melinabath.com.au/bush_user_petition_calls_for_public_land_inquiry

Bush Users have rallied to launch a petition calling for a State Government Parliamentary Inquiry into public land management in Victoria.

The petition created by the Bush User Group United (BUGU) is sponsored by Shadow Assistant Minister for Public Land Use and The Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath.

Ms Bath said bush users are expressing legitimate concerns on the direction of public land management under Daniel Andrews' leadership.

"Time and time again bush users and regional communities have stated they do not want to be denied access to public land that have had access to for generations.

"There are increasing concerns the Andrews Labor Governments public land policy is a lock out and leave approach," said Ms Bath.

"Regional communities are deeply connected with the bush and public land and they

understand its importance to our regional economy.

"Bush users are fighting to be heard and crying out for a balanced approach that supports sustainable industries, tourism and recreational pursuits while maintaining environmental safeguards.

"Open and transparent consultation must be undertaken.

"It is imperative public land and national parks are not locked up and tracks closed or neglected."

The Bush Users petition calls for a review of the state government advisory body Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC).

Ms Bath said bush users such as hikers, prospectors and miners, 4WD enthusiasts, horse riders, recreational hunters and campers feel their needs are being

ignored.

"The Andrews Labor Government must start listening to all bush users and deliver a modern public land management system that meets the needs of all."


The petition can be signed and viewed here - <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/council/petitions/electronic-petitions/view-e-petitions/details/12/116>.

VSC members are encouraged to sign




Bush User Groups United
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April camp report: Fryerstown

BY KEN WHITTAKER

The Seekers have done it again. What an Easter Camp! It is indeed a privilege to be able to participate in such camping, fossicking, socialising events. The weather was just as ordered, "perfect". Yet looking at the surrounding brown paddocks, probably the locals would not agree.

Too many camps to count, let's say about 46 sites containing some 65 members plus 10 visitors, and noticeably amongst them at least 3 families, being Gary & Jenny towing some toddlers, (who participated in some special competition events designed on the day for them). Craig & Belinda proudly showed off their new granddaughter carried about the camp by son Shane & Seacia. Also Lars and Gunilla shared their young family with us.

It was grand to see Lindsay along too, accompanied by his brother Eddie, which is exceptionally good considering their recent sad loss.

Rob's Dad – Mike, joined us again this year, albeit for a short while.

Older and current and new members and new friends all joined in with the camaraderie around the fire.

It was interesting to note that, after the local fire chief had suggested that a camp fire would be viewed with some concern, his attitude took a favourable turnabout when he observed that we had our extremely well qualified "Fire-chief Bob" in attendance, hence on most nights, the ever cheerful glow of some burning wood, (in a proper container of course – and always attended) provided some comforting warmth to both the skin and the soul.

President Susan unfortunately had

some car trouble causing a change of camping style and timing, but pleasantly was able to conduct the formalities on the Sunday night.

It would be remiss of us all not to thank the volunteers who make this large Easter camp a success. The organisers and helpers work well ahead of the event to ensure that all goes well, such as the cartage and sorting of raffle prizes and lighting, collection of firewood, running of the various events, such as the "Stake-your-Claim", "Token Hunt", "Egg Race", "Golf Chipping" "Raffles" and the "Boot Throwing".

The Boot Throwing event was indeed a sight to see. A defending champion had a throw, landing the first boot on the heads of the spectators, but then, stepping up to the plate was a new member who shall just be called "The Africana". He then, with one mighty overhead swing, launched a boot into the distance. The crowd stood in awe as he then proceeded to rocket the second boot even further. A length of some 33 metres. Amazing, something to behold and remember! Later there was some muttering amongst committee members that we should consider sponsorship for the Africana into the next Olympics in Shot Put or Javelin. Not to be outdone Little Jim got a hole in one in the golf putting event.

Again this year, several light footed and hip swinging dancers joined our good friend Jim Cole (now 93) at the Chewton local Saturday Nite Dance. All good. Jim and Marilyn returned the favour and joined our group at the reserve on the Sunday evening for the club meal.

Also on Sunday evening a huge circle of tables accommodated a hungry

bunch who attacked the provided fare with some relish, including sweets. Thanks again to the hard working chefs who never fail us. As an aside perhaps, as it is MKR TV time, we could get them involved, and we could have an entrée next year. LOL.

President Susan said a few words, and as part of the process presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Graham M. for his regular offering of party pies at many of the normal camps. Ta Gra.

On the gold front, (or back end if you're like me) only a few fossickers got small colour, with the largest piece reported was a 3 grammer by David, which he found along with a lot of buttons, an old coin or two, with his trusty coin machine.

Statistics:

Stake your claim: 1st Sophie M, 2nd Brian S, 3rd Jim D

Token Hunt: Mens: 1st Lars L, 2nd Peter M, 3rd Peter S. Ladies: 1st Jill F, 2nd Virginia L, 3rd Gisela G

I remember from younger days a little ditty that sums our camp up very well:

*Here we are again
Happy as can be
All good friends
And jolly good company*

Until next year we trust, Ken

*"And jolly
good
company"*



Photo of the month!

Administered by GARY HARVEY

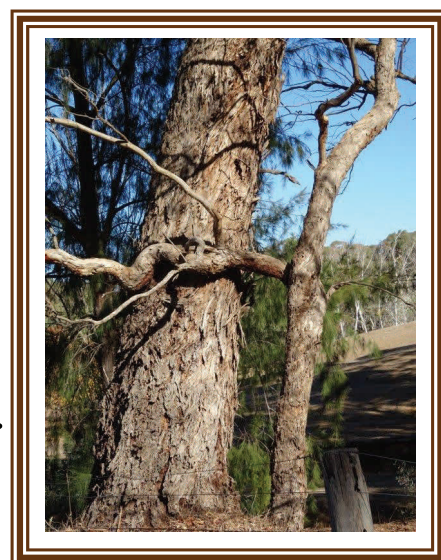
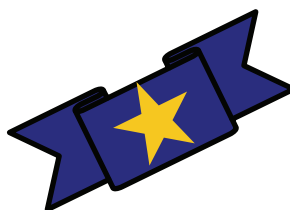
Announcing—Rules of VSC PHOTO COMPETITION 2019

3 categories: Fauna, Flora and Heritage (no people)

- ⇒ Maximum 3 photos per person i.e.: 1 in each category
- ⇒ Photos to be from current month's camp
- ⇒ Submit no later than one week after camp (following Tues)
- ⇒ Provide own name, camp and chosen category
- ⇒ Send to seekersphotocomp@gmail.com
- ⇒ Submissions administered by Gary Harvey
- ⇒ Monthly winner from each category as chosen by Committee
- ⇒ Picture of the Year announced at the December General Meeting

Submit your Flora, Fauna or Heritage photo from May and June camps for next issue's judging!

*You've got to be in it
to win it
(well, for the glory
anyway!)*



Entries received for March/April camps (note: not all entries will be published):

- Above: "Ready to dance or ready to fight" by Francine G
- Left: "The 2 of us" by Francine G

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Member information



Vale John Douglas by Virginia Lake, Almoner

Life member John Douglas passed away Monday 25 March 2019 at the age of 90 years.

John and his wife Beryl (deceased 2017) joined the Victorian Seekers Club in July 1985. For many years during his 34 years membership John held the position of Field Officer and many of us remember him collecting wood for the camp fire (even chaining and dragging logs), preparing and laying the fire.

In 1999/2000 he held the position of Vice President. He was an enthusiastic member always willing to promote the Club.

By trade John was a Butcher, as was his father, but later on in life worked as a carpenter. John enjoyed working with wood and many of us have the small fold up coffee tables he made and donated to the Club. He made and donated the Club's Honour Board, Hammer & Gavel which are still in use today at general meetings. For several years John did the Trophies for Find of the Month.

He also enjoyed making scale models of ships. Some members may remember John's presentation on the subject and showing his model of the Etona Paddle Steamer.

In his younger days, John was a champion ice skater and particularly enjoyed speed skating. He was well known at Saint Moritz (Ice Skating Rink).

John loved his time detecting trying to find that elusive gold but had to give in to age; his last outing with the Club was Easter camp 2 years ago. He was only able to detect for a short time with his new 4500 but this was long enough to find a nugget.

=====

|||||

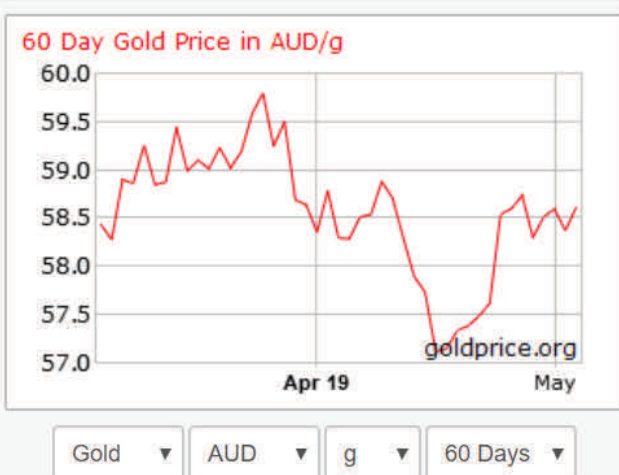
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|| *A reminder to all members that Fees are due shortly. To save time and money individual invoices are no longer being sent out. Your payment reminder and details are on the current and next couple of Newsletters. Payment via Internet banking is encouraged.* ||

|| *Paul Hart, Treasurer* ||

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Gold price report as at 05/05/19



Advance notice:
Special Outing Sunday
22nd September 2019
**Mt Martha
Beach Outing**

Meet at Balcombe Estuary Rotunda
at 10.30am

Melways Page 144, K11

BYO picnic lunch or there is an
electric BBQ

Member submissions

Detectors for sale!

1. Detector for sale - Sue Close

Minelab X-Terra 705

⇒ \$380

⇒ John's coin detector and it is in good condition.

Enquires, vicseekersclub@gmail.com

2. For Sale

Minelab GP 3500 with all accessories

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For more info

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JUST FOR A LAUGH

Why men should not write advice columns...Submitted by Susan M

Dear John,

I hope you can help me. The other day I set off for work, leaving my husband in the house watching TV. My car stalled, then broke down about a mile down the road, I had to walk back to get my husband's help, when I got home I couldn't believe my eyes. He was in our bedroom with the neighbour's daughter! When I confronted him he broke down and admitted they had been having an affair for the last six months. He won't go to counselling, I am afraid. I am a wreck and need advice urgently, can you please help?

Sincerely, Sheila.

Dear Sheila,

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a variety of faults with the engine. Start by checking there is no debris in the fuel line, if its clear check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold also check all ground wires, if none of these work it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty causing low delivery pressure to the injectors. Hope this helps. John

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Camping and detecting tips

FROM YOUR MEMBERS' HANDBOOK:

All dogs brought to field trips must be kept on a leash at all times.

Dogs may not be brought into most National and State parks - not even in your car.

Members are required to be familiar with the VSC Members handbook. Hardcopies of latest edition now available. Gold-coin donation appreciated.

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.

Club Clothing—for your camping and detecting comfort



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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try on

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enquiries



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Evolution range: great coverage, sensitivity, depth, and lightweight... a fantastic all round coil perfect for both the weekend prospector or the serious professional



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World's Best Metal Detection Technologies



The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.

(Reg. No. A0001477T)

Postal:
PO Box 15

Email:
vicseekersclub@gmail.com

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

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/Victorian-Seekers-Prospecting-Club-1985818041670592/>

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
Newsletter Fee (only for hardcopy by post) <i>Members encouraged to use the <u>free email service</u></i>	\$20.00
Joining Fee (once off payment) <i>Single \$10.00/Family \$20.00</i>	\$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. Receipts supplied for cash.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have recently changed your contact details or are a new member please provide the following information with your payment (by email or in person):

Name(s).....

Postal Address.....

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

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

Paul Hart, Treasurer