

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

SEP / OCT 2019

VOL. 40 ISSUE 5

## Special points of interest:

\* VEAC Final  
Report  
Summary  
p7

\* Call for  
new Com-  
mittee p10

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Aug camp 8  
report—  
Redcastle

### Also:

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

## The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

### President's report BY SUSAN MOORE

As my final report as Club President, I would like to reiterate my last report and thank the Committee and everyone who has supported me throughout the last two years. A big thank you to our newsletter advertisers and their contributions.

I would also like to thank Lindsay and Eric: both have been on the committee for many years and continue to support the committee and its members. I am sure that without their support we would not be such a successful club or be so financial. I am sure there are not too many clubs that are in our comfortable position. Also, thanks to Tina Whelan who opens her home for our committee meetings on

the last Tuesday each month and bakes the best scones served with jam and cream.

I have really enjoyed being your President, it has helped me grow personally and our membership numbers have also grown. As you must be aware all committee positions are made vacant in September for a new committee to be elected at the AGM. Nomination forms have been available at the last three general meetings, but unfortunately we always struggle to get new nominations for our future committee. Without a Secretary and Treasurer we cannot function, so please let's see some commitment, new blood and ideas, it is a great way to get your ideas and thoughts out there and

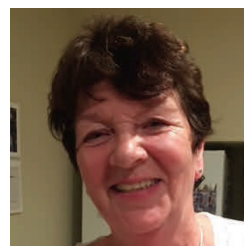
help to grow the club. It is a very rewarding and satisfying time. We also have our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up in February 2020, so it's going to be an exciting year.

A final reminder that the annual fees for 2019-2020 are now (over)due. Payments after 1<sup>st</sup> September will incur a re-joining fee so it's in your interest to pay sooner rather than later. (See p3 for details).

### See you at the AGM!

With Many Thanks to all.

Susan Moore



## Find of the Month August 2019



**Congratulations to Sue H from Tasmania for her finds on the Moonambel camp of 1.8g and 2g.**

*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.

## General meetings

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT

### JULY

At our July meeting, much discussion was had about the VEAC Final Report on the Central West Investigation and how we stand to lose 60% of now available prospecting ground on public land, and how it will affect us. We stand to lose our popular areas of Chute and Mountain Hut. (See the summarized list of changes to the parks in separate article on p7).

Our speaker was Mac from Weigh Station, who provides a mobile weighing service for caravans, trailers etc and their towing vehicles. He pointed out the importance of complying with our vehicle's legal towing limits, as it may

mean a hefty fine or put our insurance cover at risk. Accurate Tow Ball Mass (TBM) measurement is vital both for compliance and the effect it has on your Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM), and that the GVM of some vehicles may change depending on the Tow Ball Mass. His service is to come out to your van and tow vehicle, check all relevant weights and provide a comprehensive printed report and highlight any areas of concern. He can also issue Weigh Bridge tickets acceptable to both Vic Roads and VASS Engineers for Registration Purposes or GVM upgrades. Contact detail: mob 0419 516 237 or website <http://www.weighstation.com.au>

ning for our 40<sup>th</sup> Year celebration next year on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at the Wheelers Hill Hotel.

As a result of the VEAC Report, BUGU will be conducting **a rally on the steps of parliament on 27<sup>th</sup> August** to protest against VEAC and the loss of access to public land. All concerned members were encouraged to attend to voice our disapproval. The rally starts at the Treasury Gardens in Spring St (opposite Flinders Lane) at 12.00pm and then a march to Parliament.

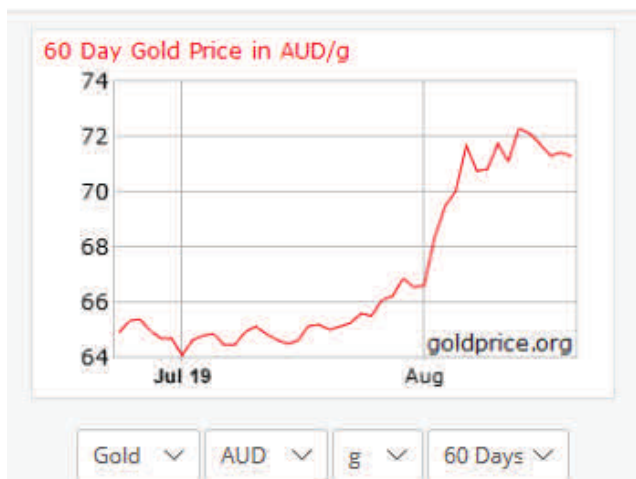
Members were reminded that the next meeting will be our AGM, and that we will be requiring a new Treasurer and Secretary, amongst others. These positions are vital for the smooth administration of our club. A full tuition will be given on the relevant positions which have easy to follow IT programs attached.

This month Sue H, our Tasmanian member won the Find of Month with her Moonambel gold. See p1.

Eric



### Gold price report as at 23/08/19



The Find of Month went to Rob Shannon for his haul of gold from Havelock.

### AUGUST

At the August Meeting, discussions were had on plan-

## Your *Outgoing* Committee of Management 2018-2019

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
<b>President:</b>	<b>Club management and representation, Chairperson</b>	<b>Susan Moore</b>	
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	David Gothard	
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	

*All committee positions become vacant at the AGM on September 4th.... consider how you can contribute to your Club for the next 12 months!*

\$\$\$

### **Are your Membership Fees overdue?**

*Unsure? Contact Paul Hart, Treasurer*

\$\$\$

**ANNUAL FFES WERE DUE 1ST JULY 2019. FAMILY \$65, SINGLE \$40... LATE FEES APPLY AFTER 1ST SEPT**

#### **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. "Your Name 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.

## 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.*

September						
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					

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- ♦ Wed 4th Sept—AGM and General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave\*
- ♦ Thurs 5th—Tues 10th Sept—September camp, Homebush
- ♦ Sun 22nd Sept—Beach Outing, Mt Martha

### OCTOBER 2019

- ♦ Wed 2nd Oct—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave\*
- ♦ Thurs 3rd—Tues 8th Oct—October camp, Jones Creek Waanyarra

October						
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		

### NOVEMBER 2019

- ♦ Thurs 31st Oct—Tues 5th Nov—Cup weekend camp, Moliagul
- ♦ Wed 6th Nov—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave\*

### DECEMBER 2019

- ♦ Wed 4th Dec—General Meeting, 8pm, Mulgrave\*
- ♦ Thurs 26th Dec—Wed 1st Jan—Christmas camp, Moonambel

Newsletter submission deadline

## Join us at...



### Mt Martha Beach Outing

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

#### Detecting competitions and prizes!

Meet at Balcombe Estuary Rotunda at 10.30am

BYO picnic lunch or there's an electric BBQ

Melways Page 144, K11

Free Parking, and toilets.

For more information see p12



## Melbourne Cup

Catered dinner Saturday night  
Cup Day weekend, Moliagul

**You bring the champers,  
plus a salad or dessert to share,**

**and the club will provide members with  
a hot chicken dinner (TBC)**

\$5 per person for non members

*Plus*

Special raffle & Cup sweepstakes



# Tibooburra camp report June

BY GRAHAM MEE



Yet another successful Tibooburra trip attended by the following members – Dean & Briony, Brian & Sophie, Paul & Lisa, Lorna & Phil, Stefan & Maïke, Lindsay, Graham M, Graham A, Colin, Peter, James & Laurie

The trip on the Silver City Hwy from Broken Hill to Tibooburra is now a breeze, fully sealed on all but 40 km of its 330 km length. I think next year will see it all sealed. No road accidents to report, probably due to the lack of wildlife caused by the drought last year. Just 2 punctures all up.

The weather was once again perfect for detecting, a little cold first thing in the morning but by 10.00 am the sun was out and, of course, so were the flies... millions of them! So a good tight fitting head net was the order of the day.

All the usual detecting areas were visited with Lindsay doing his usual magic on Flyspeck Hill and Briony & Dean finding a new spot for us to visit.

Detecting usually finished about 5.00pm as the day-

light faded and the evenings were spent around the camp fire fueled and supplied by Brian & Sophie, where drinks, nibbles, walnuts & the usual gossip were the order of the night.

Also on the social side was the "Trivia night" held at the local hotel which attracted a few members as did the Friday night "Happy Hour" which was VERY WELL attended. Saturday night saw the "Get together" dinner at the local where everyone enjoyed a fantastic meal, and to top it off, Sunday night was "Pizza" night, also at the Family Hotel, eat in or take away, for the best Pizza outside of Italy.

So here are the results of what the trip was all about. Along with the Buttons, Matchbox containers, relics & assorted rock samples, the gold count came to.....wait for it.....this will blow your socks off..... (One thousand, one hundred & fifty three ) 1153 pieces for

(Ninety four point six ) 94.6 grams (30zs)! A tremendous effort by club members which surely has to be a club record. Well done to all, you have added to the club's great reputation.

Summing up, an excellent holiday was had by all, with many members wanting to stay on. And for me, it was a pleasure to be part of it.

Detecting costs - The Common \$10 per month, Mt Stuart \$15 per day, and Gumvale \$10 per day to detect or \$15 per day to camp and detect.

Making for a reasonably cheap holiday.

If you missed out this year, don't worry as we will be doing the same

again next year. Just book in early and..... BE THERE.

Graham

"for the best Pizza outside of Italy"



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## July camp report: Moonambel

BY SUSAN MOORE

We arrived at camp on Thursday afternoon, with few members already there. The weather was cool but sunny.

On Friday we did a cake for Bob Brumby for his birthday.



Happy birthday Bobby!

On Saturday evening we held the Kris Kringle which was great fun. There were 30 of us for dinner. Thanks to Eric and Joyce B who cooked the sausages and burgers, Bob L cooked the onions, Ivan and I did jacket potatoes and we had donations of salads and desserts from all. There was a

great response for the Kris Kringle gifts (20) and we put jokes on each gift and had a good laugh. We had music and some of us tried to dance (well I tried and others did well). Sunday the rain came in late morning so it was a day of rest.

Sue (our new member from Tassie) found two nice bits of gold (1 just over 2g and the other 1.8g), with a few others also finding small gold. The weather was really good in spite of bad forecasts - cold overnight but sunny days - a little wet under foot because of the frost, but lovely clear starry nights. Eric did a good job with fires each night. There was a total of 15 camp sites, so a good turnout for a winter camp. It was a very different camp in Moonambel in the win-


ter compared to our Christmas camps in summer: everywhere was lush green with many large pools of water on the road side and in the paddocks. All the dams were full and the locals said it was best start to winter they have had in a long time. Our camp gave the Moonambel community \$1,030.00. Needless to say, they were more than happy.

Susan

Bob L. at Christmas in July dinner




"everywhere was lush green"



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# VEAC Final Report Summary

BY ERIC GRUMMETT

## **Total area of public land under investigation: 161,213Ha**

Area available for recreational prospecting—now 103,871Ha; after, 41,158Ha. A loss of 62,713Ha or 60%

**National Parks** (including existing State Parks)(no prospecting) now 22,967Ha; after 73,113Ha. A gain of 50,146Ha or 218.3%.

The Wellsford north area of 3,152 Ha was changed from a Nature Reserve, as proposed in the Draft Report to the Bendigo National Park to allow horse riding, but still no prospecting. *As we have access to most of the existing Bendigo NP, why are we now excluded from this area?*

**Nature Reserves** (no prospecting - formerly called Nature Conservation Reserves where prospecting was generally allowed) now 6,703Ha; after 8051Ha. A gain of 1,348Ha or 19.7%

The VEAC investigation into statewide public land in 2017 recommended that all Nature Conservation Reserves be called Nature Reserves. At the moment we have access to many of these outside the investigation area (Wedderburn, Inglewood, Heathcote, Whroo, Tarnagulla and Talbot). VEAC say they do not want us in their Nature Reserves, so how long

*will it be before the bureaucrats extend that exclusion to the above coveted areas?*

**Conservation Reserves** (new category)(no prospecting) now none; after 5,246Ha

**State Forests** (prospecting allowed) now 89,278Ha; after 11,901Ha. A loss of 77,477Ha or 86.6%.

The only State forests will be in the Pyrenees/MtCole region. The Pyrenees State Forest will be reduced from 14765Ha to 3099Ha to allow all activities, *(good luck with that, as it is very steep country with very little access).*

**Regional Parks** (prospecting allowed) now 5,264Ha; after 24,992Ha. A gain of 19,728Ha or 374.7%. *Most of these are located near towns to allow fire wood collecting with little consideration for prospecting.*

**Bushland Reserves** (prospecting allowed) now 1,047Ha; after 2807Ha. A gain of 1,760Ha or 168%

**Historic Reserves** (prospecting allowed) no change -1457Ha

## **Comments:**

*Prime prospecting areas to lose are in the Proposed Ben Major and Waterloo Nature Reserves and the Mountain Hut area of the Pyrenees Na-*

*tional park.*

*No evidence to show we are a high impact activity.*

*We are considered to be an extractive activity (removing bullets, rubbish and a tea-spoon of gold a year if we are lucky!)*

***Laws banning recreation prospecting will only stop access to the law abiding bush user, it will not stop the ones that currently have no regard for the environment.***

*Are we worse than 4WDs and trail bikes who are allowed into the parks?*

## **Changes from the Draft Report to the Final Report:**

### **National parks**

Draft 72,833Ha—Final 73,113Ha: a gain of 280Ha

### **State Forests**

Draft 10,180Ha—Final 11,901Ha: a gain of 1,721Ha

### **Regional Parks**

Draft 23,559Ha—Final 24,993Ha: a gain of 1,434Ha

### **Nature Reserves**

Draft 11,204Ha—Final 8,051Ha: a drop of 3153Ha

Other reserves did not change.

*I do not know of the prospecting areas in the Wombat/Daylesford segment that we may lose. Other PMAV members may help with that.*



# August camp report: Redcastle

BY ERIC GRUMMETT



Eric sluicing

Most members thought that anyone going to this camp must have rocks in their head to even think of heading out in the severe conditions predicted of inches of rain, 100kph winds and wet slippery roads. It was even suggested that we cancel the event.

Well nine hardy souls did actually go, and once we got over the divide, the weather started to improve, and apart from strong winds and a couple of showers on Thursday night the rest of the weekend remained mostly dry and sunny giving us perfect conditions for prospecting, not like Melbourne's shocker. So let that be a lesson

to all those that chickened out believing we would be in for the same.

I took along my high banker sluice thinking that there would be pools of water all through the diggings, but not so, which meant that I had to resort to lugging many buckets back to the dam next to the camp to wash resulting in much fine gold. (0.01gm) Now that is hard work for an old timer (anybody want to buy a cheap high banker?) Plenty of wood close to camp gave us some roaring fires to keep us snug at night.

Redcastle is a challenge for gold, as the alluvial areas are not as extensive as most other areas, but persevere we did, and some surprising nuggets were found, notably a beautiful 37.6g by Andrew M and a couple at 3.5g by Ken and Mal. It is ironic that Andrew did well, as his great-great grand-

father prospected the same area over 100 years ago, so now he has a great memento of his family history.

Due to the small attendance, we did not have a raffle, but we all enjoyed our time there and look forward to returning in the future.

Eric

"must have rocks in their head"

Nice one Andrew!



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# VSC Photography Competition (continued on Page 11)

ADMINISTERED BY GARY HARVEY

## Rules of VSC PHOTO COMPETITION 2019

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

- ◆ Maximum entries: one in each category, per camp, per person
- ◆ Photos to be from current months' camps
- ◆ Send to [seekersphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:seekersphotocomp@gmail.com) no later than the Tuesday, one week after camp
- ◆ Provide your name, camp and chosen category

Submissions administered by Gary Harvey

Not all entries will be published

Monthly winner from each category will be judged by Committee

Photo of the Year announced at the December General Meeting

FLORA



1

FAUNA



2

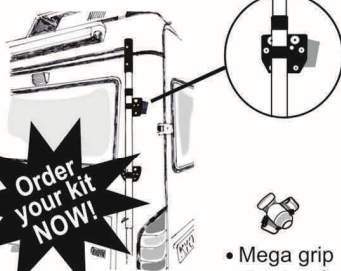
HERITAGE



3

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## Call for new Committee

BY SUSAN MOORE , PRESIDENT

Dear VSC members,

On the 4th Sep we have our AGM and as usual all committee positions are declared vacant. At this stage we still have important positions to fill and we know that at our General Meetings we only reach a small percentage of our membership base.

It is stating the obvious but clubs like the VSC cannot operate without a committee. While the club is facing some challenges on balance it remains a strong club and worthy of your support. Early next year we have our 40th anniversary and a new committee is sure to have fresh ideas to ensure the ongoing success of the club. So if you want to do your part, and you think you would be suitable please, email or call me (or other committee members) ASAP.

Having served on the committee for the last two years please be assured that it is enjoyable, and rewarding. We work as a team and we continue to receive great support and guidance from long term members with lots of experience.

The following shows the positions yet to

be filled:

### Position—Status

**President**—received x 1 nomination

**Vice President**—Incumbent nomination

**Secretary**—Vacant (**critical position as the club cannot legally operate without**)

**Treasurer**—Vacant

**Newsletter Editor**—received x 1 nomination

**Membership Secretary**—Vacant

**Research Officer**—Vacant (currently being done by VP)

**Catering Officer**—Incumbent nomination

**Social Secretary**—Vacant

**Almoner**—Vacant

**Information Tech**—Vacant

**Clothing Officer**—received x 1 nomination

**Library**—Incumbent nomination

**Field Officers**—received x 4 incumbent nominations—**we would very much like to see a few experienced country-based members put their hands up (camp functions, firewood, guiding "newbies" etc).**

Regards, Susan

*PS. If you are currently tied down with work or other commitments but think you can serve on the committee in the future this would be great to know.*

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# VSC Photography Competition (continued from Page 9)

ADMINISTERED BY GARY HARVEY

FLORA



4

HERITAGE



5

HERITAGE



6

Photography competition entries Tibooburra (June) and Moonambel (July) camps 2019:

1. Briony R—Flora—Tibooburra (p9)
2. Eric G—Fauna—Moonambel (p9)
3. Jen H—Heritage—Moonambel (p9)
4. Eric G—Flora—Moonambel (p12)
5. Briony R—Heritage—Tibooburra (p12)
6. Eric G—Heritage—Moonambel (p12)



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# Special outing: Beach Day at Mt Martha

BY PAUL HART



**A club beach day will be held for members and their families on Sunday 22 September from 10.30 am to 3pm at Mount Martha.**

The rotunda at the end of Mirang Ave has plenty of undercover seating, electric BBQ's and a couple of fireplaces. There are also lots of outside picnic tables and toilets. BYO food and drinks but there are takeaway shops etc close by if you prefer fish and chips etc.

To make things a little more interesting on the day a few competitions have been organised.

- ♦ Retrieve x 3 20c coins as quickly as you can. No pinpointers. SDC can also be used.
- ♦ Identify 5 common targets only using your detector (no digging)
- ♦ Go to the beach or other local areas and bring back your finds by 2.30 pm. Minelab GP series "gold" detectors can be used on the beach in salt mode apparently (but expect to dig some deep holes as you chase that diamond ring!)

The first two competition sites will be close to the rotunda. Don't forget to fill in your holes.

A form will be provided if you wish to take part in the competition - simply fill it out as you complete each activity. Committee members will be on hand to assist. Prizes will be awarded for each category but make sure you are back at the rotunda by 2.30 pm with your completed form. For a more relaxed day you can take a walk around the park or just kick back for a cuppa and a chat.



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2020

### FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR DATES

Only new to prospecting? Don't have a caravan or 4wd? This 5 day tour is for you!  
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**Coolgardie** October 4th - 9th

### TAG ALONG TOUR DATES

Have all the gear and don't know where to go? Looking for some company? This 10 day tour is for you! Come follow us on our adventure prospecting private gold, bearing leases!

<b>1. Lake Carey</b> April 8th - 17th	<b>4. Leonora</b> May 26th - June 4th
<b>2. Laverton</b> April 24th - May 3rd	<b>5. Laverton</b> June 25th - July 4th
<b>3. Leinster</b> May 10th - 19th	<b>6. Menzies</b> July 11th - July 20th

**All Tours \$1495.00 per prospector**

**\*Deposit required to secure your spot, limited positions available\***









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[www.cgsgoldtours.com.au/](http://www.cgsgoldtours.com.au/)

**FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRES**

**Corey Matthews**

Phone: 0409 318 324

Email: [corey@cgsgoldtours.com.au](mailto:corey@cgsgoldtours.com.au)

Find us on:



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



**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/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"

## Club Clothing

Available by order



*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*



**Samples available at General Meetings to try on**

## 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 [vicseekersclub@gmail.com](mailto:vicseekersclub@gmail.com)

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.

Single Membership \$40.00 p.a.

Plus one-off joining fee:

\$10.00 single, \$20.00 family

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