

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

NOV/DEC  
2019

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 40 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

**Peter Maffey & Tina Whelan**  
being presented their "Life  
Membership" awards by out-  
going President, Susan Moore



*Congratulations!*

To our newest life members, thank  
you for your outstanding contribution  
over many years with the club.

# President's Report

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT



OUR NEW PRESIDENT- PAUL HART

Hi everyone. This is my first report as President and I will start by thanking the previous committee. Susan and her team did a great job and for me some of the highlights were the enjoyable functions at Moonambel, the introduction of MYOB along with the purchase of a new laptop and projector. We also did our part in the fight with VEAC by donating \$2000 to BUGU. Of course, we also recently recognized Peter Maffey and Tina Whelan as well deserved, Life Members.

For those who don't know me a little about myself. I have been in the Seekers Club for about 13 years and have been Treasurer for the last 18 months. I am originally a Queenslander but moved to Melbourne for work reasons. In my working life I have had a variety of sales and marketing roles. I worked for large chemical companies including Incitec/Pivot and Orica and my last role was as Business / Commercial Manager. For 18 years I was also in the Army Reserve and finished as a Company Commander (Major) in 9 RQR. I have been on numerous committees in many roles. My wife, Tracey and I have 3 adult children we are

very proud of.

The reason I decided to put my hand up for the role of President is because I have had a lot of enjoyment from the club over the years and I believe in giving back. As treasurer I was also able to see our talented and very dedicated committee in action. This gave me the confidence that the committee can ensure the club remains safe, enjoyable, and continues to focus on meeting the needs of members. I also have confidence that the committee along with members can tackle some of the issues the club has in front of it e.g. gold getting harder to get, greenies and VEAC and bringing on the next generation of enthusiasts.

As we enter the spring and summer months, we have some great activities planned. We had about 40 members at Waanyarra and it was an enjoyable outing. The October / November camp at Moliagul is a location where some great gold has been found in the last year or two. This camp will also feature our free dinner for members as well as a number of fun activities. December will see our Christmas Party at Wicks Reserve and if you haven't attended before I encourage you to give it a go, it is a heap of fun with lots of raffles, giveaways and games.

The highlight activity for the new year will of course be the clubs 40th anniversary on the 9 February 2020. It will be a club subsidized lunch at the Wheelers Hill Hotel and a sub-committee is working on the making it an occasion not to be missed.

That is more than enough from me but my final word is that I will be encouraging everyone on the committee to listen to members for ways we can ensure it keeps going for another 40 years

## General meetings & AGM

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT

### September

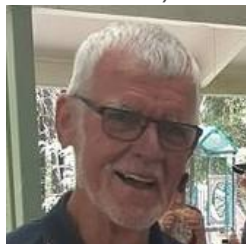
Our September meeting was also the AGM. We received nominations for all positions except for Secretary and a Membership Secretary, as a result, our existing secretary Tony Pappas agreed to carry on in his existing role, still leaving us short of a membership sec. Paul Hart moved up from treasurer to president, Pam Griffin is now the new treasurer, I am still in charge of vice and research, Gary Harvey is now the newsletter editor, Mark David the IT officer, Sue Moore the clothing officer. All other positions are as of last year.

The judging for the Find of Year was an easy task this year with a clear win for Lars L for his beautiful 73 gm nugget found at Moliagul.

The Find of Month went to Andrew M for his 37 gm nugget from Redcastle.



*Dessert flowers by Francine*



*Eric Grummett*

### October

On this night our new committee executives settled into their new roles with some new ideas and enthusiasm for our future club management. It is up to all members to assist the committee in its decisions affecting them.

On the Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> October, the PMAV will be holding their AGM at the Dunolly Town Hall, which is only a few days before our Cup weekend up the road at Moliagul. As this is an event we should be supporting, and to save going up twice in a week, I am planning on going up early for the AGM and staying until our event. If anyone else wishes to do likewise, let me know so that we can camp together.

Francine and Francois gave us a very interesting talk of their 7000km journey around the goldfields and wildflower areas of WA, meeting up with other members, including Murray and Robyn Hall who showed them around some spectacular scenery and gold fields. The many colorful wildflowers they photographed were truly amazing in colour and for the number of varieties.

The Find of Month went to Lars again for his 27gm nugget from Homebush.

Eric Grummett

AT the November meeting we will be replaying a video of geologist Andrew Bales talk on "How to find patches of gold" for a reminder of what we should be watching out for in our search of that elusive yellow metal.



# Mount Martha Beach Outing

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT

## 22nd September

About 20 members and visitors attended a fun day at Mount Martha. Eric bought a heap of wood but it was such a nice day we did not start the fire.

A couple of games were organized and prizes awarded. The first activity involved using your detector to try and recognize 5 different concealed targets. About half the group had a go but Tony Pappas who has been making regular use of his Equinox 800 was able to identify all the targets which were 50c, \$2, 5c a ring pull and a half penny.

The second activity involved finding three 20 c pieces as quickly as possible in a 3.5 x 1.5 m area of tan bark. A lead sinker was included to mix things up a little. A few lesser experienced people took over 5 minutes to recover the targets (probably too used to the "low and slow" approach used for gold detecting). Eric and Paul took just over 2 minutes but Paul later awarded the prize to someone more deserving.

The final activity involved some park and beach detecting for coins and relic's. A prize was awarded based on a random date of a coin which most people had. Pam won with the closest date on her \$2 coin.

Looking forward to something similar next year.



*Members enjoying our beach outing*



## Your Committee of Management 2019-2020

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT
			vicseekersclub@gmail.com
<b>President:</b>	<b>Club management and representation, Chairperson</b>	<b>Paul Hart</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	Pam Griffin	
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records	Pam Griffin	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Newsletter compilation and distribution	Gary Harvey	
<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	David Gothard	-
<b>Clothing Officer:</b>	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings	Susan Moore	
<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	



**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 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.

### NOVEMBER 2019

- ◆ Cup Weekend Camp: Thurs 31st Oct—Tues 5th Nov, Moliagul
- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 6th Nov, 8pm, Mulgrave\*

### DECEMBER 2019

- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 4th Dec, 8pm, Mulgrave\* Show and tell night. Bring your finds. Question and answers session
- ◆ Christmas picnic: Sun 8th Dec, Wicks Reserve 11am (see below)
- ◆ Christmas Camp: Thurs 26th Dec—Wed 1st Jan, Moonambel

### JANUARY 2020

- ◆ No General Meeting
- ◆ Amherst Camp: Thurs 23rd Jan—Tues 28th Jan

### FEBRUARY 2020

- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 5th Feb, 8pm, Mulgrave\*

### VIC SEEKERS 40th CELEBRATION

(see page 11 for save the date info)

A special thank you to our contributors so far:

- QED Metal Detectors
  - Phase Technical
  - Australian Canvas
  - Minelab
  - Doug Stone Gold Maps
  - Miners Den
- ....More to come!



**Catered dinner Saturday night  
Cup Day weekend, Moliagul  
2nd Nov 2019**

**You bring the champers,  
plus a salad or dessert to share,  
and the club will provide members with  
a hot chicken dinner**

\$5 per person for non members

*plus*

**Special raffle & Cup sweepstakes**



**Christmas  
is coming!**

## Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 8th December!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 8th December from 11am onwards at Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Melways ref 65 D8).

Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin-Olinda road, turn right into the Reserve.

\* **Drawing of the Christmas Raffle: 3 HAMPERS TO BE WON!**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

\* **Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)**

\* **Door prizes**

\* **Bring your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...**

**Adults should collect their door prize ticket on arrival.**

Electric BBQs and water on premises. BYO table, chairs, food and drink. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Come along to this break up party and support the club. You're sure to have a great time !



# September camp report: Homebush

BY KEN W

## 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Looking back on my records it is apparent that this is the first report I have ever done for Homebush and pleasing it is, because it is a great area to camp and detect.

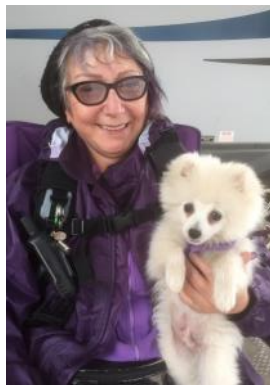
A good turnout of some 15 camps and 30 people registered in the book. Also, some visitors being Robert M, Geoff & Kay & Smitsy. The camaraderie was up to the usual standard at all times and it always is a pleasure to join in all of the activities of our club, both in the bush and around the camp.

The wood gatherers were in luck, as a fairly large branch had fallen quite close to the campfire site and mixed with some other drier pieces gave us a steady lasting blaze. Fireman Bob would have been proud.

"Newbie" Rod got his first gold, 2 x 1 grammers. Well done Rod. Someone said that it is all downhill from there, BUT, Lars would refute that statement as he presented a lovely 27 grammer on the Monday. Other sundry bits were reported with the usual apologies from the "2300" operators.

Peter M., on his behalf and ours, attended the funeral of 96 year old Edna Brownbill whom the club knows as the property owner of the farm that the club has enjoyed for some years when we visit Waanyarra. Condolences to the Brownbill family & thanks Peter for attending for us as they were old friends.

All of our members who bring dogs to camp have them on leads at all times. Well, this time we had a couple of members with the initials Ray & Keith who had with them a little white thing, on lead of course, being a miniature Pomeranian that would fit inside one of Ray's handbags. It's a good job that Dean & Briony keep their dogs in tow as well or we would be able to run our own Greyhound races, dogs and lures included.



Ray and the "white thing"

One member, who shall remain nameless, turned up to camp without his faithful detector. It's a good job he had it at the last camp or he would not have found that lovely big one we spoke about in the Redcastle camp report. Get a tick list before you pack "A". LOL.

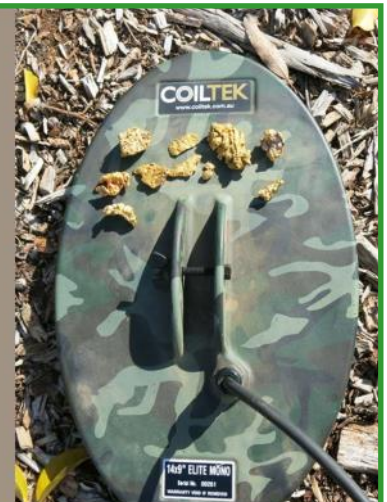
No wonder Peter M. was awarded a "Life Membership". Not only is he a decent fellow who has put in many years of work for the club, but I can't think of anybody who could do our raffles better. While mentioning some of our most experienced members, who shall remain nameless, (OK Eric??) whilst detecting in a new area well away from camp, and, using his trusty Bushnell GPS to find his way back to the car, managed to walk in the opposite direction to the parked cars, disappeared into the distance, walking along a main road, following the -Arrow >>>>- , was rescued by his companions about one half ,(1/2 km) or was it one (1) kilometre from the parked vehicles. "How Embarrassment". He'll get over it with a smile.

Looking forward to Waanyarra to be able to again enjoy our bush, in good company, with good cheer, in our wonderful Victorian bush.

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# October camp report: Waanyarra

BY LINDSAY T

## 3rd to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019

I arrived at camp at 2.30pm Thursday to find 20 camps already set up. These numbers grew to over 30 as the weekend progressed. Some of our members became honorary members of the Sunbury detecting club who were located in the recreation reserve about 700 metres before our camp. As you can imagine there were a large number of detectorists in the area this weekend! The weather was quite good overall - a few sprinkles of rain mainly at night and one day with gusty winds raising dust.

Gold was very hard to find with virtually none found on the actual diggings. It was mainly found in virgin ground and on surfaced area. Our New Zealand member Ian Graham did the best with his 7000 machine.

The Laanecoorie Gold Bash was on this weekend and several members attended. Eric got a second place in one event - he thought the numbers were down on previous years.

Daylight saving caught a few members still in bed on Sunday morning when the treasure hunt was held. The winners were: Lars \$20, Jim Marsden \$10 which he donated back (many thanks Jim) and Tony Buttigieg \$5.

Overall this was a very good camp, would have been perfect if gold had not been so elusive! See you at the Moliagul camp which hopefully will be more productive. Lindsay



*Girls did well with SDC's - Jen H with 11 and Briony 6*



*Rob S found a 3 gram nugget plus some smaller ones*





## 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".

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



**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/>



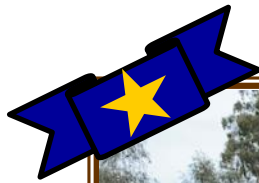
## Member submissions

### Photo of the month!

The VSC Photography Competition will be administered by Gary H

Congratulations to **Briony** for this lovely shot taken at **Waanyarra Camp**

Share your photos from upcoming camps to be featured in the photo of the month to [seekersphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:seekersphotocomp@gmail.com)



### Find of the month

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, one of these is selected as Find of the Year. Don't forget to bring along your next find to our General Meeting for judging. If you cannot make the meeting, please forward a photo and details to the club secretary.

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

#### AUGUST

Congratulations to Andrew M for his 37gram nugget from Redcastle

#### SEPTEMBER

Congratulations to Lars for his 27gram nugget from Homebush



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## Member information

As president I would like to welcome the new committee for 2019/20. However, before going into details I need to point out right up front that we have some committee members performing more than one role or looking for a replacement. If you have had any thoughts about helping out on committee, I encourage you to give me a call to discuss your situation. Please don't hold back and be assured that you will get all the support you need.

- **President - Paul Hart**

- **Vice President & Research Officer - Eric Grummett.** As many of you will know, at most camps Eric also takes on the role of Camp Duty Officer. It would be great for someone to step up and be the Research Officer.

- **Secretary - Tony Pappas.** Tony has very kindly agreed to continuing in the role to keep the club "legal". After 2 years as secretary Tony is looking for a replacement ASAP.

- **Treasurer - Pam Griffin.** Pam was our membership secretary and at this stage we are still looking for a replacement. With Pam having to learn the Treasurer role it is not really fair that she does both roles. I have started looking at how we make the membership role more streamlined.

- **Newsletter Editor - Gary Harvey.** Welcome to Gary and his wife Jenny who is giving him a hand. Thanks to Nola for the great work she did in the role.

- **Clothing Officer - Susan Moore.** Thanks to Steve Iorlano for his help

- **Library - David Gothard.**

- **Almoner - Virginia Lake**

Other positions are as per page 5 of the Newsletter with most committee members continuing in their current roles. Many thanks to them.  
President Paul

### Gold price as at 19/10/19



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## Member only information

Welcome to  
our newest  
members

♦ Philip Wooley

♦ Eve DeZordi

Welcome and  
Good Luck!

### SAVE THE DATE

Victorian Seekers Club  
40th Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday 9th February 2020  
12pm

Whealers Hill Hotel  
- Subsidized lunch  
- Presentations & displays  
- Monster raffle

REMINDER- Membership fees are due 1st July annually

Contact our Treasurer Pam Griffin if you are unsure about  
your membership or for payment details.

Phase Technical offers  
VSC Members 10% off  
all orders!

### Almoner's report

**Peter Maffey** has had surgery on L4 and L5 in his back and is recovering nicely. A card has been sent giving him our good wishes.

- Outgoing president, **Susan Moore**, sent a Thank You card to **Sam Iorlano's** mother for providing the club with cakes and chocolates each general meeting night. I believe they were delicious.

By Virginia Lake

Please contact me on  
0407 098 648 or  
[vtoebelmann@hotmail.com](mailto:vtoebelmann@hotmail.com)  
if you think a card should be  
sent to a member regarding  
a health matter, a significant  
event such as big birthday,  
birth, death etc. Please  
advise if the member would  
prefer the matter not publicised





# Camping and detecting tips

## Detecting etiquette and hints

### Detecting etiquette

Always remember to refill your holes straight away.

Be aware that modern detectors, especially those designed to find gold, transmit a radio signal that will interfere with other nearby detectors. This usually occurs at about 25 metres. It is normal practice to stay out of range of one another but if interference is heard, each operator alters his path to increase the separation.

If you see another operator obviously detecting or digging a signal, the onus is upon you to walk away, this operator is not expected to walk away from a target.

If you wish to speak to another detectorist in the field, turn off your machine and remove your headphones before approaching.

When a Club member locates a nugget or patch, it is expected that you will not crowd the area or approach so close that your machine causes interference. Do not invade this spot. Allow the search to be completed and do not occupy the area until invited to join or told the search is finished.


Respect the historic importance of the old puddlers and do not detect on the actual puddler. The adjacent heaps will be more rewarding in any case.

When participating in Club 'treasure hunts', many machines are in very close proximity so only VLF or coin/relic detectors are permitted as they are less prone to interfere with one another.



Treasure hunt Dec 2018

FLASHBACK TO THE  
NOV 1999 NEWSLETTER



## FOSSICKIN' ROUND

THE SEEKERS' MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Published by the Committee of  
THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS' CLUB INC.

FOUNDED 1980

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MEMBERSHIP SEC.: Margot Pimblett (Mrs), 20 Smyth St, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149

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NOVEMBER, 1999

VOL 20, ISSUE 10



Smiling Faces from Havelock Outing.

Francine Gilbert.

Ted Cox.

Eric Euston

Lindsay Tricker.

(Happy Hour at the Hilly's van)

General Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at the Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent, Mount Waverley (MELWAY Map 70 E-1). Meetings start at 8.00 pm sharp.

Punctual arrival would be very much appreciated.

Scheduled meeting dates are: Feb 4, Mar 4, Apr 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, Aug 5, Sept 2, Oct 7, Nov 4, Dec 2.

Committee Meetings: Feb 2, Feb 23, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 25, June 28, July 27, Aug 31, Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov 21.

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## Camping and detecting tips cont'd



The Club has a Minelab GPX4500 detector for hire on club camps

The charge for members is \$5 for ½ day, \$10 for a full day. (For non-members it's \$10 for ½ day, \$20 for full day.)

**\*\*\*Please BOOK PRIOR TO CAMP\*\*\***  
contact Eric G or Lindsay T

### 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.*

**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.*

**What did the gold prospector bake for dessert?**  
Karat cake!



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

Support the group that is protecting your rights to enjoy the bush - The BUGU - and buy a car sticker from Eric for only \$2. Also attend the protest rallies that show other that we care about access to the bush.

Get them from Eric Grummett.

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# WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2020

### FULLY INCLUSIVE TOUR DATES

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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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**FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRES**  
**Corey Matthews**  
**Phone: 0409 318 324**  
**Email: corey@cgsgoldtours.com.au**

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

## Club Clothing

Available by order

Samples available at General meetings to try on



**Caps \$15**

**Polo Shirts \$30**

**Polar Fleece Jacket \$40**

**Polar Fleece Vests : \$30**

## 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.