

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

MAR/APR  
2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

Presidents Report

40th year celebration!

Moonambel and Amherst  
camp reports

...and much more!

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 41 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

"It was a great and fun  
party. It will be remem-  
bered for years to come"  
Alex

"The highlight for us was  
to catch up with former  
members and members  
who seldom come to  
outings. The celebration  
was well organised and  
enjoyable. Many thanks  
to the President, Com-  
mittee and volunteers."

Regards  
Lars and Gunilla

40 years  
strong!

"Thanks Paul for organising one  
of the best social functions I can  
remember in my 39 years in our  
club, I cannot wait until the  
50th."  
Eric

"The 40th Seekers Anniversary was  
well organised by all who was in-  
volved. Especially your MC of the  
gathering. You covered the history  
and with the selected speakers was  
an entertaining afternoon. The sub-  
siding of the raffle was a bonus as a  
way of giving something back to the  
members."

Thanking you,  
Jim D

"Margaret and I enjoyed  
ourselves immensely. The  
food was good, the com-  
pany was good well or-  
ganised and fun. You and  
the committee did a great  
job. We even came out  
even on the Pokies after-  
wards, that's a plus."  
Tony B.



## President's Report

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

December started with the Moonambel camp however family commitments and the high temperature outlook resulted in a decision for me to stay home. I was in contact with Lindsay on the Sunday and all but 2 camps had already packed up and gone.

This season has seen some very large bush fires and this prompted some discussion at our committee meetings. We made two decisions - the first was for the club to donate \$500 to the bush fire appeals which we did via the Bendigo Bank. The second decision was to review our bush fire procedures and elsewhere in this Newsletter our resident "Firery" Bob has provided a brief update (more to come).

As we know Jan and Feb can have some very hot days but the Amherst camp had over 50 members attend due to a few very nice days and a long weekend. It was an interesting weekend and I think most members found gold - see Kens report for more detail.

It has been a very busy couple of months for myself and the committee as we prepared for the 40th Anniversary celebration. However, the effort was worth it as we had a marvellous celebration at the Stamford. We had 88 members and visitors attend and everyone went home with a full belly, some great memories and many members took home a raffle prize.

I have received a lot of feedback on how successful the 40th celebration lunch was. For me it boiled down to a lot of preparation and planning as well as working as a team with every one contributing.

Thanks go to those who helped with:  
-presentations (Lindsay, Eric, Bob H & Bob L, Francois and Ian)  
-decorations and flowers (Francine, Sue, Briony etc)  
-displays (Francois and Eric)

-the cake makers (Alex and Sue)  
-the photographers and filmers (Briony, Anja & Ian)  
-the welcoming ladies and other helpers (Tina, Virginia, Bob, Ivan)  
-Newsletter editing and stories (Gary)  
-the sponsors who made donations.

On the day itself I would really like to thank a few members who really pitched in and made the day a success  
- Sue M (Stamford liaison and keeping things on track)  
- Pam and Paul (registration & assistance with the prizes)  
- Eric, Francine & Francois (displays & decorations)  
- Alex & Ivan (soups, cakes etc).

Inglewood is our next camp starting 5 March and this coincides with the Wedderburn detector jamboree which a few of us have participated in over the years. I enjoy doing something different and if the weather is OK I will have another shot at winning a GPX 5000 or another of the many prizes on offer.

Our Easter camp is not too far away and planning for it has started. Have a look elsewhere in the Newsletter for details on the camp, activities, the 40th Auction and 40th dinner on Easter Monday.



Paul Hart

## General meeting

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT

### FEBRUARY

As we do not have a January meeting, February was the last since the last report. Our meeting was very well attended by about 50 members including several visitors who are wishing to join, which shows that all is well with our membership that is now at 185.

Much discussion was held of our 40<sup>th</sup> celebrations on which the committee have been working very hard. It was a great day enjoyed by all those who attend, and a chance to catch up with some old past members and win some valuable prizes.

As entertainment we played a hilarious episode of the TV series 'The Detectorist', with its' typical Pommy humor and raw language giving us a giggle. We can expect to see more episodes in the near future.

I was lucky enough to win the find of month with a nice gold specimen from Amherst. Thomas M presented a lovely gold ring he found while underwater detecting down the beach.

Next month we will be having geologist Andrew Bales giving us another talk on the best things to look out for in the search for alluvial gold.



Eric Grummett



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## CLUB CALENDAR

VSC General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at 7.30 for a 8pm start, \*Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave. All welcome.

### FEBRUARY 2020

- ◆ No Camp

### MARCH 2020

- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 4th March, 8pm, Mulgrave\* (Andrew Bales Geology Presentation)
- ◆ Inglewood Camp, Thurs 5th March - Tues 10th March **(NO DOGS ALLOWED)**

### APRIL 2020

- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 1st April, 8pm, Mulgrave\*
- ◆ Easter, Fryerstown Camp: Thurs 9th April - Tues 14th April

### MAY 2020

- ◆ General Meeting: Wed 6th May, 8pm, Mulgrave\*
- ◆ Dunolly Camp, Cockatoo Track: Thurs 14th May - Tues 19th May



### Easter 2020

Join us at the Easter 2020 Fryerstown Camp!

One of our biggest camps of the year including Saturday night dance, free Sunday dinner and games, film night, an auction of 40th donations to the club and a buy, swap and sell opportunity!  
See page 12 for more details



## December camp report: Moonambel

A total of twelve members (7 camps) attended the Moonambel camp with half this number spending Xmas day together. However due to the extreme heat - some days reaching 42°C. - most only stayed 3 days. I was the last to leave on the 30th December, therefore we did not celebrate new years eve at camp this year.

The facilities were very good with noticeable improvements having been made including keypad entry to the toilet block. Also telephone reception has improved.

Some small gold was found but the heat meant most detectorists were back to camp by lunch time. Looking forward to camping in cooler conditions.

Lindsay

Page 11 - WAVERLEY GAZETTE, Wednesday, January 23, 1980

### HURRY!

Book in for lessons at Pinewood Music Studios now before it's too late! 233 6697

Use and cure children BEDWETTING by STOP, WEET, no more wet sheets. For children from 5 years of age, harmless, safe and wonderfully effective. Obtainable at Ian Robinson, Animal Chemical (22 Sappers Glen Waverley - 940 97-0)

## There's a club now for those gold diggers

Too many metal detectors are sold without adequate instructions being given to the prospector, according to Mr David Snelling.

Mr Snelling of Cinder CRT, Mulgrave, believes the large number of advertisements for second-hand detectors is evidence that many people buy the instruments not knowing how to operate them.

"People say they are no good, they can't find anything, it's the operator," he says.

People are spending about \$80 or \$100 on detectors which sometimes aren't even suitable for what they want," Mr Snelling says.

Lack of readily available information about detectors has been one of the facts which was encouraged Mr Snelling to form a club.

Called the Victorian Seekers Club, Mr Snelling's non-profit organisation is devoted to encourage a healthy interest in prospecting and offer detector enthusiasts expert information about the instruments.

The club has attracted many enquiries and Mr Snelling expects a good attendance at the inaugural meeting on Tuesday, January 23.

The venue for the meeting is still under discussion but interested people may confirm a time and place by contacting Mr Snelling on 348 6073.

The Victorian Seekers Club is open to all interested in prospecting. Families will be most welcome.

All who are interested in getting out in the country for a day and having a good time whether they be prospecting with a detector or a p.a.m. will be welcome," Mr Snelling said.

Continued page 54

## AUSTRALIANA WEEK

at Forest Hill Shopping Centre

**COLONIAL DANCING...**  
Is the latest craze! See demonstrations by "The Rouseabouts" at 12 noon and 1 p.m. in the Centre Mall every day this week! YOU get to join in too!

**AUSTRALIAN WILD LIFE DISPLAY**  
And lectures in the Garden Courts all week. Fascinating facts about our unique creatures...plus advice on what to do if bitten or stung by one of them!

**ABORIGINAL CRAFTS**  
Screen prints, batik, posters and artefacts on display all this week on the Upper Level.

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**HEY KIDS!**

Founder of the Victorian Seekers Club, Mr David Snelling is pictured searching for another buried treasure.

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Snippet from the Waverley Gazette 1980

## 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 Whelan	
<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](mailto: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"

# 40th Anniversary

On Sunday the 9th February we had our 40th Anniversary function at The Stamford, Rowville. Members and guests were warmly welcomed by Tina and Virginia with Pam getting some last minute payments. Close to 90 people attended and included David Bentley (PMAV), ex members Peter & Heike Muller and Gerd & Erica Herman. A lot of time and effort had been spent by Francois, Francine and Eric in curating some amazing and interesting displays. Many hours of fun and pleasure must have been enjoyed in the finding and collecting of so many artefacts. The many decorations throughout the venue were tastefully thought out and well presented in blue and gold colours.



Guests arrived punctually so President Paul as MC was able to kick off right on time and things ran pretty well on time for the rest of the afternoon. Lindsay & Eric gave the first presentations covering some of the club history which was very interesting. Alex and Ivan served up the two choices of soup and bread rolls for entree and it was quite tasty.



Our newest life members Tina & Peter M gave a couple of toasts and everyone who wanted one responded to the toasts with a glass of Australian Sparkling. We then started the buffet meal and let's just say that no one went hungry. Over lunch we watched vintage photos and video provided by Ian S, Francois and Rob S. This reminiscing was a reminder that fashions and technology are constantly changing.

Toward the end of lunch Bob H gave a series of amusing stories which had everyone laughing. At the end this presentation we were interrupted by a drunken outsider who caused a little concern until Bob L was revealed as the actor. As President Paul said, "We certainly got our 2 Bob's worth".



Following the main course, Alex and Susan sliced up the two cakes that each had prepared and the cakes looked amazing – both were wonderful works of art. We then went quickly onto a big free raffle with about 45 prizes worth over \$2700. About half the prizes went to members who were not able to make the lunch. Paul G had writer's cramp at the finish from all the notes and names he penned.



Then President Paul thanked everyone involved and then there was special trophy presented to Eric for 35 years of outstanding service. Eric just may have had a tear in his eye when accepting his award. Congratulations Eric.





A man with grey hair, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt and large black headphones, is operating a professional video camera mounted on a tripod. He is looking through the viewfinder. In the background, there are yellow and blue balloons and other people, suggesting a social event or party.

Paul Hart and Robyn Hall





# January camp report: Amherst

BY KEN

23rd January - 28th January

I like the Amherst Camp because it is a large flat site, and a great variety of areas to pursue our hobby.

Perhaps it was the promise of good weather that saw quite a few turn out this Australia Day long weekend. Many of the regular faces were there and quite a few new ones. Evidently last year there were only a few camps for the opposite (or hotter) weather conditions.



Good job Peter M bought the raffle table with him this time. "Onya" Peter. In passing one cannot ignore the fact that the said gentleman, by the time of our next camp, will have celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday having been born on the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb. WOW.

We had some 32 camp sites, 45 smiling faces around the non-existing camp fire. (for obvious reasons – and as is our normal pattern). Also we had visitors and prospective members Michael & Debbie and Simon K.

It is a practice to record members who have new vans so Michael & Cathy get a mention here.

Lots more happening, such as a local actual "PMAV Miner" Terry, who has an active lease nearby invited President Paul to bring small groups to the mine to both inspect & view the operation as well as detect some mullock heaps.

A few small pieces were found. Very interesting to see the excavator and bulldozer in action, followed by the lease



holder then detecting the levelled spoils with an occasional nugget being unearthed. (Wish it was me).

Another visitor was Peter Pink of "DETECK" who presented a new 10" X 15" coil for the forthcoming 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party, which by the way currently has some 88 members attending, and counting, although time may have run out by the time this is read.

It was also noted that one member with the initials Craig W. was seen with an enormous 25" coil in his car. Evidently he has a plan to go back over old ground where larger nuggets have been found with the prospect of finding deeper targets. Unfortunately a small backhoe does not come with the coil package.

As for finding things a certain Lindsay T, in the middle of the night, found a lost bottle of Chutney, but in the process abandoned his wallet. Fortunately he has good eyes and recovered it. Also Geoff & K had some problems with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century "dongle" which was also fortunately found by a senior member with the initials "P. H", on a nearby stump. One has to be in the inner circle to get the real "goss" here. Cont... over



Bird's nest picture by Ken W



## January camp report cont.

BY KEN

Overall the usual smaller pieces of yellow metal was found, along with a few 2 gram & 3 gram bits, and our ever competent Rob got about 10+ grams on a spot.

There was some chatter about the forthcoming club trip to Tibooburra in June.

All in all, again we have a positive write up, and hopefully these reports will continue in that trend.

See you at Inglewood in March as there is no camp in Feb due to our party.

-Ken



By Briony



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## Member submissions

Photo of the month!

Thanks to Bob Lake for this shot!

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



Nature at work– Skin off a stumpy tailed lizard



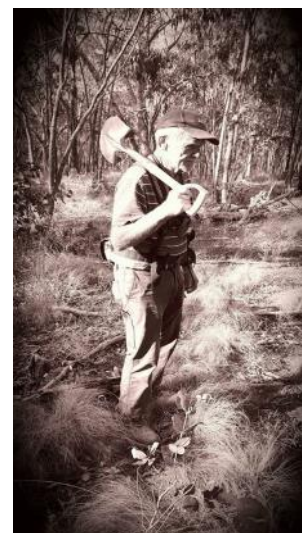
## Find of the month

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!

### February

Congratulations to Eric-g for a great Specie .  
Crushed before we could take photo but here  
is a nice pic of Eric



## Doug Stone Gold Maps

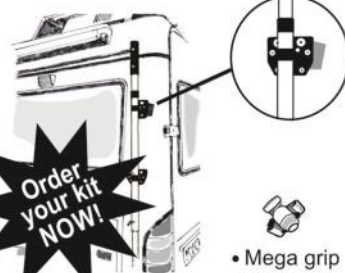
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prospecting  
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maps

Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".

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# Member information

## Rules and Regulations -By Bob Lake

**During Fire Danger Period** can I have a barbeque, light a camp fire or light a fire for warmth or comfort?

### No unless:

- The wind is no more than 10km/h (this can be observed if leaves and small twigs are in constant motion)
- The fire is lit in a constructed fireplace ore in a trench at least 30 centimetres deep
- The area within the distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the fire and the uppermost point of the fire is clear of flammable material
- The fire does not occupy an area in excess of 1 square meter and the size and dimensions of solid fuel used are the minimum necessary for the purpose
- A person is in attendance at all times while the fire is alight and has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- The fire is completely extinguished before the person leaves

## On Total Fire Ban Days

**All camp fires, fires for warmth or personal comfort are banned during Total Fire Ban Days. Solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens are also banned during Total Fire Ban Days.**

### No unless:

- The barbeque uses only gas or electricity and is a permanently fixed structure built of stone, metal, concrete or another inflammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation or is designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable barbecues), and when alight is placed in a stable position.
- The area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter from the barbeque is clear of flammable material
- You have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres of water for immediate use
- An adult is there at all times when the fire is alight who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire
- The fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves

## On Code Red Fire Days

On Code Red Fire (also referred as Catastrophic Fire) danger rating days State forests and National parks will be closed and must be evacuated. These are the worst conditions for a bush fire; the safest place to be is away from high risk bush fire areas.

**To check your district's daily Fire Danger Rating, visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) or call 1800 226 226**

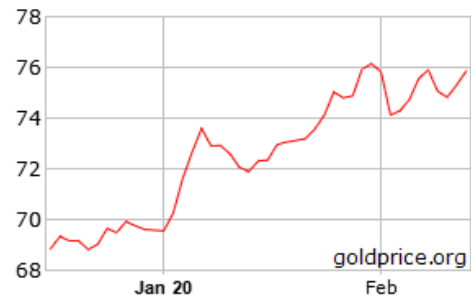



## Gold price as at 18/02/2020

**75.92 ▲ +0.07 +0.09%**

Gold ▼ AUD ▼ g ▼


60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g





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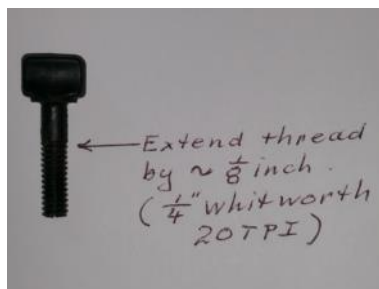




## Camping and detecting tips

### 2300 Thumbscrew modification by Murray Hall

The thumbscrew that adjusts the friction on the coil (see photo) is made with a thread that is too short. When the thumbscrew is tightened to stop the coil moving the threaded section binds and the thumbscrew will break. The operator now has two problems – the coil flops around and the threaded section of the thumbscrew is very difficult to remove. To avoid this, modify the thumbscrew by cutting the threaded section about 4mm longer. see photo of thumbscrew. To do this find an engineering workshop that has a 1/4in. Whitworth die and extend the thread. Contact Murray Hall for further information 9870 0338.



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**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.*



**ACCESS FOR ALL**

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

**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.*

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.

## Camp information

**NOTE:** 3 camp maps are published here...

Refer to Club Calendar on page 4 of this newsletter for actual camp dates

### Code Red Fire Days Notice

In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.



During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and Forests.

Camp may also be cancelled during other periods of severe weather.



### Vic Seekers

U  
H  
F  
12



### Public Dump Points

Members are reminded that human waste is not to be dumped in the bush but is to be disposed of at home or a Public Dump Point. Here are some that are in our areas of the camps:

- Ararat Dump Point: 4 Alexander Ave. Ararat , Grid Ref. 37:16:49.7S, 142:56:0.8E
- Bendigo Showground Public Dump Point: 42A Holmes Rd., North Bendigo, Grid Ref. 36:44:18.3S, 144:16:17.5E
- Clunes Public Dump Point : 70 Bailey St., Clunes, Grid Ref. 37:17:38.1S, 143:46:51.2E
- Harcourt Public Dump Point 6 Bridge St., Harcourt, Grid Ref. 36:59:40.3S, 144:15:45.3E
- Kyneton Mineral Springs Stopover: 219 Burton Ave., Kyneton, Grid Ref. 37:14:7.1 S, 144:25:9.1 E
- Seymour Public Dump Point: Cnr. Wallis & High St., Seymour, Grid Ref. 37:1:14.6S, 145:8:6.0E

Refer: [toiletmap.gov.au](http://toiletmap.gov.au); [highwaytraveller.com.au](http://highwaytraveller.com.au)







# 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!  
All accommodation, meals and transportation supplied!

**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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## 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.

## 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.