

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

MAY/JUNE

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- Inglewood Camp Report
- Tips, tricks and much more!

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 41 ISSUE 3

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



2020 Social Distancing  
Award



**Cops these days be like:**



**STAY HOME!**  
**PROSPECTING BANNED AS OF**  
**2/04/2020**



# President's Report

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter and are finding things to keep yourself occupied during the current restrictions. Because I am normally at Fryerstown with the club at Easter it has been quite a few years since I have enjoyed a more traditional Easter with my family. My son and his long term girl friend, Kate, have moved in and it is good to have some young people company. On Easter Saturday my two daughters were on Zoom (computer and internet thing where you can see and interact with multiple groups of people at the same time). We all painted our hard boiled Easter eggs and were able to see and comment on each others handiwork. Easter Sunday includes hiding and finding the painted eggs, lots of chocolate and a big breakfast which includes "egg fights" with the boiled eggs. The egg fight involves one person wrapping their fingers around an egg with just the top exposed. The other person then delivers a swift blow to the top of said egg and one egg comes away broken. The roles are then reversed and when both sides of a boiled egg get damaged that person gets to eat their egg on specially made Easter bread with butter and a bit of salt. Lots of fun and Kate had the undamaged "champion" egg.



With the current restrictions the only detecting I have done is looking for a couple of rings a lady lost in a public space. I spent about an hour looking in a large grassed area and as the light faded I had a look in her car. Still no luck. As we said good bye I said I was rather disappointed because recently lost rings are fairly easy to find and I had a very good success rate. I asked her to think carefully about everything she had done that day and investigate any possibilities in the home or garden and to please call me if they turned up. The next day I got a call and she told me she had washed her hands extra well in her bathroom and they came off. Her husband found them in a basket of towels just below the hand towel she used to dry her hands. That made me feel better.

Everyone is different but my way of coping with the restrictions is to get involved in "projects" or other things that interest me. There is more on this in this Newsletter as well as:

A competition for members to guess the date when restrictions will be lifted and we can detect again.

A number of interesting stories and other useful information submitted by members Information about our next camp tips for coping with the stay at home restrictions

On behalf of the committee we wish you all the best and we are hoping it all comes to an end sooner rather than later.

## Competition

When will it all end ? The prime minister keeps talking about 6 months before things start to get back to normal - that would be about July or August.

Email me (paul.hart@live.com.au) or text me (0490 315156) your name and the date the state government will first lift restrictions that let us resume prospecting in Victoria. To be clear this is not the announcement date but the date we can get the detectors out, dust the cobwebs off and have a swing without being fined.

In the case of the same dates being sent in I will record the time and date of your entry and the earliest correct entry will win. Just before Easter Tina W purchased a bunch of Easter eggs as prizes for our Easter camp raffle. Some of these will go to the winner although there is a rumour going round that Tina may have eaten most of them.

## Generous Guy with Big Heart

At our last general meeting Alex E requested that we make a donation to the Royal Children's Hospital in lieu of paying him for his 40th anniversary cake. We have donated \$200. Alex has had and is facing a number of challenges so it shows what a big heart he has to be thinking of others. On behalf of all members we wish you the very best Alex.



## Prospector Fined

It was reported on Facebook by PMAV that a prospector near Maryborough was fined \$1652 for breaking the "non essential" rule. Something like 260 comments on Facebook in response to this. The PMAV apparently lobbied Government to make local prospectors exempt but were not successful. Apparently Parks Victoria have put up signs in some parks warning about prospecting during the restrictions.

The Tibbooburra Common is closed until further notice and Sophie advises that Gumvale and Mount Stewart are also closed. The Tibbooburra trip may still happen right up to September if restrictions are lifted.



## President's Report cont.

### Annual Fees on Hold

In regard to annual fees for the 2020-21 year the committee will be discussing how this is handled and you will be notified via email or Newsletter. At this stage don't forward any annual fee payments to the Treasurer.

### Our First Camp & General Meeting

Because of the uncertainty around the current restrictions we cannot publish our normal series of camp dates and maps. However there is a very good chance that the first camp will be at Tarnagulla as the site does not have to be booked with Parks Victoria and it has a few extra facilities for a celebration. There is a \$5/day/camp fee but for this you get access to bins, water, toilets and coin operated showers. Dogs are allowed if tied up or on a lead. At both our first camp and general meeting we aim to do something to celebrate the lifting of restrictions. I expect the federal and state governments will give a reasonable amount of notice but you never know so keep an eye on your email box for any urgent updates.



Fryerstown is our preferred site for the November long weekend. This would be about 9 months after coronavirus interrupted our lives so I certainly hope restrictions are lifted by then. Fryerstown will allow us to conduct the activities that we had planned for Easter e.g. the auction of donated detectors, coils etc, the 40th anniversary subsidized dinner. As well as this we would have games, the Melbourne cup sweep and a club free dinner.

### Member Contributions

While you are at home and looking for something to do here is a way you can give a little back to the club. We would very much like to see member stories and other contributions such as :

- Prospecting tips or educational material e.g. settings, geology, equipment, tips & techniques
- History - club, gold fields, people
- Tips for using your coin machine
- General Interest
- Caravaning tips e.g. off grid power option, weights
- Safety tips and the safety apps you should have on your smart phone
- Jokes / funny stories (preferably detecting related)
- A favorite recipe, how to make damper, quick meals for camping etc
- Your tips for coping with the current restrictions

Please send your contribution to Gary ([garyseekersnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:garyseekersnewsletter@gmail.com)) and preferably in microsoft word format. Please note that we may choose to use some contributions in future editions or as online educational material for beginners and others. If you use information copied from books etc just include the reference so copy write is not breached. A big thank you to members who have already sent Gary a contribution and lastly contributors who go the extra mile will be recognized and may be rewarded with Easter Eggs at our next camp.

### Tips for coping with Coronavirus restrictions

For all those who are not used to spending so much time at home here are a few tips / suggestions.

- Stay in touch with friends and family. If you have the internet try Zoom where you can have multiple people all logged on and visible at the same time. You can:

- Chat or do a quiz or play games and I believe it is basically free during the restrictions.
- Some people use Facebook as a way of keeping up with things and having some fun.
- Take on a big project eg. painting, build or make something, gardening, sewing, research a big purchase or start to plan that trip you want to take when things get back to normal.
- Our local library has sent an email advising that we can access movies, read online papers, view virtual workshops, access ebooks and eaudio all for free.
- Check out the many youtube videos on metal detecting or do some research to find that next patch or relic hotspot.

Let us know what you are doing – send an email to [garyseekersnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:garyseekersnewsletter@gmail.com)



Paul Hart



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## General meeting

BY ERIC GRUMMETT, VICE PRESIDENT



Eric Grummett

Only one meeting since my last report due to the virus cutting off all meetings until further notice. Our March meeting was well attended, including 6 visitors who are interested in joining us, so all is healthy for our memberships, currently numbering at 190.

BUGU, in conjunction with Merlina Bath MP for Eastern Victoria, have produced car stickers 'FUEL REDUCTION SAVES LIVES' for distribution to all those interested in the proper management of our forests and to remind others that not enough is being done to protect those living in the danger areas, as can be seen from the recent fires. We have obtained a supply of these and they were distributed to members at the meeting and the Inglewood camp. Our club donated \$100 to their cause which was gratefully accepted. I still have some left for anyone who would like one.

Lindsay is selling tickets in the Monash raffle, the drawing of which has been put on hold until we get back to normal.

We were disappointed our guest speaker Andrew Bales had to cancel at the last minute due to him being rained in, in Central Australia on one of his Geological assignments. He will come along as soon as we are allowed.

Find of month went to Thomas for his 18ct gold pendant found while beach detecting in the water.

Eric

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FOOD.

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# Your Committee of Management 2019-2020

| POSITION                                      | DUTIES  | NAME             | CONTACT<br>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)**

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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"



# Modifications / Improvements to an SDC 2300 Metal Detector.

By & © Copyright to Eddie S. M. Tricker.

## **Part One – A Bungee Cord Fixing Point**

This is the first part of a series of five (5) short articles dealing with improvements and modifications I have carried out to my own SDC 2300 metal detector.

Since I purchased my SDC 2300 back in April 2017, I have carried out a series of modifications and improvements to it that cater for my physical limitations these days and suit my style of detecting.

Old war injuries, (yes, the Vietnam War) in the form of left-hand shoulder, (I am left-handed), and back injuries make it hard for me to detect all day long standing up. So, once I have isolated my target to a small heap of soil, gravel, or whatever, I like to get down on my knees, unclip the detector from my bungee and use my shovel, passing it over the back of my coil.

The SDC also has a couple of inbuilt features that with the benefit of modification's can be improved upon. The one I have in mind here, is the small fold up arm rest, which will be the subject of a future article in this series. But the SDC also does not have any provision on it to hook in a bungee cord arrangement to take the weight off the user's arm.

## **A Bungee Loop Fixing Point**

But one of the most convenient modification ideas to the SDC came from Graham M. Graham made me aware of the fact, up at Tibbooburra, that the SDC had been fitted with screw threaded holes at the top outer edges of its handle; the top folding hinge point. To these holes he had fitted a small loop of strong cable tie held in place by two small fine threaded stainless-steel bolts.

This was like an "Eureka" moment for me. I saw straight away that this 'set-up' would enable me to disconnect and reconnect my detector to and from a bungee cord very quickly.

Graham had been experiencing problems with his arrangement, as the two bolts used to work loose in the field, so he was constantly checking and tightening them.

So, it required a simple additional modification. The application of a couple of lock nuts on either side to hold the bolts in place; to stop them from coming loose in the field, was the answer.

Borrowing one of Graham's 'bungee loops', I took it into my local Bunnings store, and got one of the skilled assistants to match Graham's small bolts, and complete it with sets of matching stainless-steel washers and nuts.



Above photo shows Bungee cable tie loop held in place with stainless-steel bolts, washers and nuts.

## **Materials required to make this Bungee loop set up.**

Zenith Round Head 316 Stainless Steel Bolts & Nuts, M3 x12mm, packet of 8.

Zenith Flat Washer 316 Stainless Steel 1/8-inch x M3, packet of 35.

Crescent Cable Ties, 370mm x 7.6mm, packet of 25.

**All of these materials can be purchased from your local Bunnings or similar hardware store.**

You will also require a 'Leather Hole Punch' to enable you to punch a hole through the cable tie at a diameter similar to that of the stainless-steel bolt.

### **The Layout**

The sequence for each stainless-steel bolt is this: one s/s washer, the cable tie, followed by another s/s washer, then finally the s/s lock nut. Once each bolt is set up like this; screw the bolt into the threads already provided on the detector, either side of the top of the handle assembly. Screw the lock nut down tight against the body of the handle assembly. You might use a small spanner, (Jeweler's set of spanners and screw drivers), and screw driver to do this. This will lock the bolt in place and prevent it from coming loose.



Close up of Bungee loop assembly anchor point, showing lock nuts and washers, and cable tie loop. There is slack either side of the cable tie so that it folds down very easily when the SDC is folded up to be put away.

The cable tie loop should be large enough to enable the operator to see the LED display clearly, and to enable the operator to operate the green ground balance switch without any hindrance.

I am aware that some folks have suggested that 15mm length bolts would be better, but I have found that the 12mm length bolt is more than adequate. Fully screwed into the handle, it still has a small amount of thread protruding. However, I have been using my set up in my local area now for over two years, and have not had any problems with it at all.

Clearly 'tailored' for the way I carry out my detecting, this Bungee cord attaching point has some very good advantages. It facilitates quick and easy disconnection of the detector from the Bungee cord; allows a relatively easy adjustment to the Bungee cord length, therefore height of the coil above the ground surface; and almost instant reconnection by 'slapping' the attachment clip against the hard-plastic cable tie, etc., etc.

Ensuing articles dealing with improvements to the SDC metal detector will follow in subsequent editions of the newsletter.

### **The Detector's warranty?**

In my opinion, none of the modifications / improvements I have made to my 2300, are such that they would invalidate the 3-year MINELAB warranty of the SDC detector.

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# Inglewood camp report:

BY Andrew M

## 5<sup>th</sup> March to 10<sup>th</sup> March

Our March Camp was held in an ideal location, Inglewood Nature Conservation Reserve on Mallee Street just north of Inglewood, attracting a substantial attendance of 45 people. We were fortunate enough to enjoy some ideal weather. Perhaps rather warm for prospecting at times and with cool to very cool evenings. In fact, happy hours started out in shorts and T-shirts, shifting abruptly to cold weather clothing within an hour or so.

Malcolm M arrived with his impressive new caravan (a bit of a Taj Mahal) after seeking directions from the author as he did not have a copy of his club newsletter. He rang me when travelling along Inglewood- Powlett Road while I was out prospecting. I advised him to continue 2 – 3 kilometres past Maxwell Mine. Eventually he saw a large tower and I said "Just keep going, maybe it's 3-4 k's and you'll see the camp on the right." It would have been really helpful if I realised that camp was just below the tower and Malcolm certainly let me know it!

Sitting in the camp circle after a day's prospecting Eric G related to us how he was attacked by ants out in the bush, it was that bad that he had to drop his pants to eliminate them. What a sight! Many funny camp fire stories (minus the fire) were told and most would agree that Ken W told the funniest of all, you will have to ask him if you want to hear it. The Saturday night happy hour raffle highpoint was a much sought-after dunny roll courtesy of Rob S.



Award for the biggest nugget goes to potential new member Darren with a 1.36-gram flat nugget. He had a rather fruitful weekend hunting gold. Jim D scored a nice number of small nuggets as a result of his skilful use of his new Gold Monster 1000. I have one too and after 3 months I got zilch with it, maybe I could take lessons with Jim. Rob is now a human detector after dropping one of Jim's little nuggets, nobody could see it on the



ground but Rob managed to "detect" it, well done Rob. Michael & Debbie found small pieces, Laurie & Shirley managed 3.5g in small bits and Eric found 18 pieces for 5.2g.

The Eucalyptus Distillery was a proposed outing but unfortunately, the owners decided in their economic wisdom, that a long weekend was not worth being open for business! They missed a dozen or more customers, rather disappointing for those who were keen to go.

On Saturday morning a couple of us went out early with a certain long-standing member (read here Peter M) to his "Secret" spot only to get lost. After a bit of chatter on the club UHF channel as to where we should be, Eric came on air and gave us directions. We arrived to find the secret was revealed, there were about 6 or 7 vehicles already there and out prospecting...ouch!

Congratulations to president Paul on his success at the Wedderburn Jamboree winning a Minelab pinpointer in the detecting competition.

All in all, it was a great camp, with quite a few of us finding gold, albeit generally small nuggets but, as the saying goes, "Gold is Gold"! Look forward to see you all at Fryerstown for our Easter Camp.



## 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 2020

- ◆ Dunolly Camp Thurs 14 May-Tues 19 May (Cancelled at this stage)
- ◆ No General Meeting

### JUNE 2020

- ◆ No General Meeting
- ◆ Camp: TBA

### JULY 2020

- ◆ No General Meeting (At this Stage)
- ◆ Camp TBA



Skin off Stumpy tail Lizard



Rob hard at work



Kaye & Rob

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## Member submissions

Photo of the month!

Thanks to Graeme H for this shot! (Easter Camp)  
Share your photos from upcoming camps to be featured in  
the photo of the month to [seekersphotocomp@gmail.com](mailto:seekersphotocomp@gmail.com)



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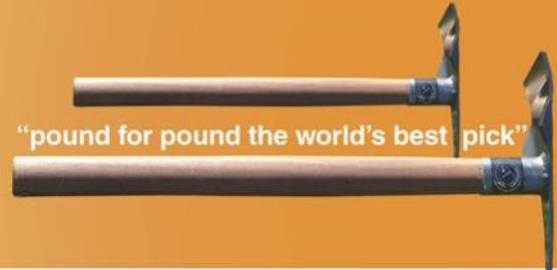
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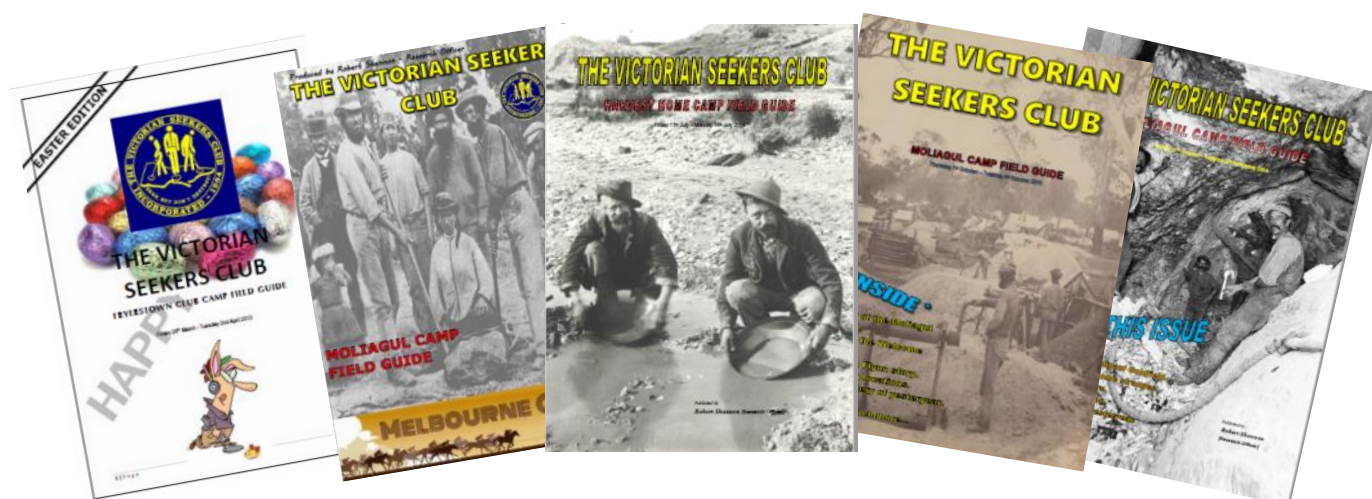
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## Member information



### FIELD GUIDES

Excellent resources for information on various camps

Prepared by Rob S

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email; garyseekersnewsletter@gmail.com



Gold price as at 23/04/2020

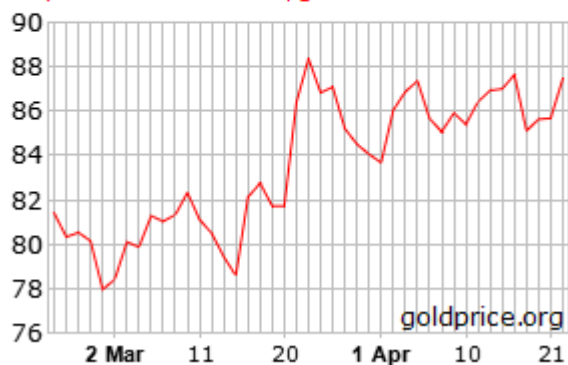
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## Code Red Fire Days Notice

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.

**FIRE DANGER RATING**

## Vic Seekers



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**Remember to be consider-  
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that you must use a gener-  
ator**



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.

The Club has a  
Minelab GPX4500 de-  
tector for hire on club  
camps



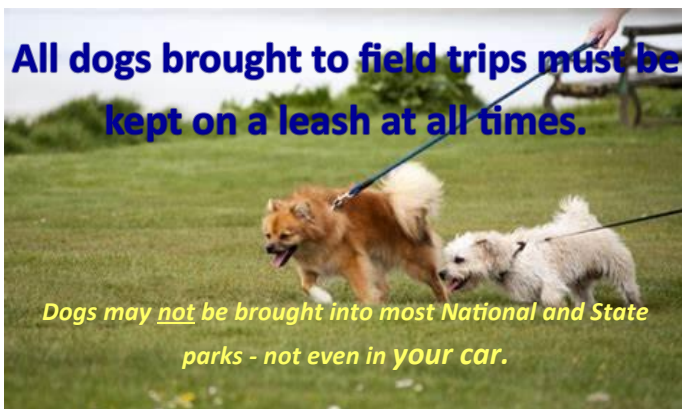
The charge for members is \$5 for ½ day,  
\$10 for a full day. (For non-members it's  
\$10 for ½ day, \$20 for full day.)

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

**Bush User Groups United**  
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**All dogs brought to field trips must be  
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## 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)

## 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.