

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

JULY/AUG

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improvement tips

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 41 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



**SEEKERS CAMPS ON HOLD**

# President's Report



Paul Hart

Members, I trust you are all well and coping with the ongoing Covid19 situation. Unfortunately, Covid19 is still disrupting club activities, see below for more details. On a positive note the keen detectorist can now get out and a couple of unofficial camps took place in June at Ararat and Durnolly and there are reports in the Newsletter.

Next year's annual fees are due in July and the committee has decided that current members only need to pay half fees for 2020 - 21. Treasurer Pam has provided more details in this newsletter.

With the Annual General Meeting only a few months away, I'd like to remind our members that we always welcome their support in helping the committee. The current roles available are Secretary, Membership Secretary and Research Officer. There are also a couple of roles that country based members could take on e.g. field officer.

It's good fun, well structured and easy to learn. Maybe you want to give yourself a new challenge?

## **Covid 19 Update**

Unfortunately Covid19 continues to disrupt our activities and the announcements in June demonstrate how quickly things can change. A reminder to members who are active on Social Media that official updates from the VSC will come via email from the President or Secretary, or via the Newsletter.

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

The committee has approved the Covid19 safety protocol and an extract can be found elsewhere in the Newsletter.

## **General Meeting**

Monash Halls have sent out another update and our hall is being used by Essential Services until 30 Aug 2020. This will be investigated further and options explored. However meetings are still currently limited to 20 members, kitchen facilities are closed etc and this does not work for the club. With the AGM coming up the committee is looking at options for this.

## **Committee Meeting**

Committee meetings have recommenced.

## **Camp**

At the time of writing on the 21/06/20 there is now limit of 10 for gatherings due to Covid 19. For this reason, it has been decided that we will not have an official VSC camp until this restriction is lifted and this means members will not be covered by our insurance policies. Members are free to organise their own small gathering.

## **Tibooburra**

On Sunday the 14 June I spoke to Sophie M (member) and Mavis, the co-owner of the caravan park & motel. Gumvale and The Common were both closed. I spoke to them again on the 21 June and both are now open again.

Apparently, the caravan park is quite full each evening with travelling tourists. School holidays finish about mid July for most states.

Hopefully restrictions ease further in July and just to let you know we still aim to have a mini celebration when things return to normal.



## President's Report cont.

Chocolates will be awarded to the winner of the guess the date competition.

I still have the 40th anniversary raffle winner prizes

We are hoping everything will be OK for November at Fryerstown with 40th Auction and dinner etc.

Regards,  
Paul



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## Ararat Camp Report

BY GRAHAM M

The first of the Winter camps and also the first since the VOCID-19 lockdown. Although it was not an official VSC camp, as we already had a permit for the Ararat site, it was decided to head there and was attended by the following 11 keen, raring to go, members - Eric G, Graham M, Laurie, Kevin, Stefan & Maike, Michael & Debbie, late arrivals, Francine & Francois and very late arrival Alex.

It was breakfast around the camp fire on most mornings, but thankfully, it soon warmed up as the Sun came out.

Detecting started around 9.30 am and finished about 4.30 pm with the weather being very good all day, with just one overcast day.

All the usual detecting areas were visited along with a couple of new ones which gave us a total of over 300 pieces of gold for a total weight of just over an ounce. A very impressive performance for a well worked area.



*Eric's stash of gold*

Before the evening meal, saw the usual "Happy hour" with each member with their own drinks & nibbles around a roaring fire and as it was a low number camp, it was easy to observe the 1.5 metre distance rule. It was during one of these happy hours that Eric finally revealed his secret culinary skills on how to bake Potatoes to perfection on a open camp fire.....this is how you do it.....DOUBLE wrap your skin on Potato in Aluminium foil and place it in the bright red hot coals of the fire for 42 minutes, not a second more, not a second less. Remove from fire and enjoy. Eric say's so.

A couple of members had a few problems with their van heaters not working, so with two more Winter camps coming up, it might

be a good idea to check yours out before you go.

Everyone agreed that it was a great camp and good to be out and about again. Just make sure you are at the next one, whenever that is. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Graham M



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# 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"



## **COVID 19 SAFETY PROTOCOL**

Below is an extract from the Covid 19 Safety Protocol for the VSC which was approved by the committee at our last meeting in Jun 20. The full version is available on the VSC website or email me for a soft copy.

With the ongoing Covid 19 situation organizations need to adhere to certain health department guidelines e.g. social distancing, hygiene etc. In addition to this, organizations will have additional guidelines which are specific to their activity.

All members are requested to read this document and advise the Victorian Seekers Club (VSC or club) committee in writing (mail or email) if they have any issues with complying with the guidelines below. Over time the Health Department and Government may change guidelines and we will adjust this protocol accordingly.

### **General**

It is each members responsibility to assess the risk of participating in any VSC activity and decide whether to participate or not. Despite these guidelines and the wealth of information in the public domain, things outside of club control may happen, and the VSC cannot guarantee a risk free environment. As per the VSC handbook and constitution "the club will not accept responsibility or any claim from a member or visitor for personal injury, damage or loss to property, while participating in any form of Club activity".

It is not the intention of the committee to be overbearing or overzealous but members who ignore these guidelines and put at risk the health of other members may be approached by the President, Vice President or Camp Duty Officer and asked to comply to reasonable directions. The club constitution allows for sanctions upon members who refuse or fail to comply with club rules.

- As per the department of health ad-

vice, members are advised to have the Flu vaccine.

- Face masks and gloves are not compulsory and will not be provided by the club (with the some possible exceptions e.g. catering). Members are free to wear their own face masks and / or gloves.
- Members are encouraged to download the COVIDSafe app.
- Breaches or potential Breaches – any member that observes a breach of guidelines should bring this to the attention of the President, Vice President or Camp Duty Officer for follow up action.
- Signage, floor marking etc . Details TBA but will apply to Meetings, Sign In Tent, Notice Boards etc
- Hand Sanitizer is to be provided at Meetings, Sign In Tent etc
- Catering at Meetings and Club Outings. Details TBA but strict hygiene rules will apply to food handling and serving including washing of hands, use of sanitizer, social distancing, use of masks and gloves and other things deemed necessary.

### **Monthly Camp (or other outing)**

The following guidelines apply to club monthly outing and other trips away e.g. Tibbooburra.

- Members who have any flu like symptoms before or during the activity are not attend camps or go home on the onset of symptoms.
- Members are asked to maintain a high standard of hygiene including use of sanitizer when handling items that could be handled by others e.g. sign in book and pen, drink bottles, cups, hire detector, maps etc

- Members shall maintain social distancing of 1.5 m. This includes any of our camp gatherings or socializing at drinks, around the fire or at raffles or games. Those who like to shake hands, kiss or talk to others from a close distance are to cease these practices.
- The sharing of food and drinks at social gathering should cease.
- Showing of gold or relic finds where items are passed from person to person should cease. Items could be placed on a table for members to review individually.
- Members are not to gather in caravans. Care is required for gathering under caravan annexes and owners need to ensure only small numbers e.g. 5 or less and maintain social distances.
- Members are to use their own car for travel to and from the camp and for local detecting trips.
- Members should not share their caravan/tent with other members unless they normally live together.
- As of the 1 June 2020 members cannot gather in groups of 20 or more at afternoon / evening drinks, at the fire or other central gathering point, at raffles or games / competition such as token hunt. *(Updated 20/06/20 to MAX 10 in groups until 12/07/20)*

To some members these measures may seem extreme and to other members they may not be stringent enough. On average members are probably in the higher risk group so the committee encourages all members to take this matter seriously so we can all continue to enjoy our hobby.

Paul Hart

President Victorian Seekers Club



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**CONTACT DETAILS**

**If you have recently changed your contact details please provide the following information with your payment (by email or in person)**

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## Unlucky

Someone who recently bought a new caravan had a very large pine tree in their front yard right next to where the new van was to be parked. The tree was as high as the double story house and was starting to lean as a result of most branches growing away from the building. Council permission was sort and after a lot of bureaucracy I finally received a letter giving me permission to bring the tree down. The van was due the following week so I got stuck right in.

I started by removing the lower limbs and was going well until I got to the largest branch which had a girth of about 40 cm. It was about 3 m off the ground so I found something to stand on and proceeded to saw it down. The branch was well above my head but the chainsaw was cutting through it quite well. Then things went "pear shaped".

I had just cut through the branch and it kicked down and back. This threw me to the ground and on to my back. My head hit the house but I held onto the chainsaw with my right hand. This is where I think someone was looking out for me, because the chainsaw I was still holding was pointing toward the sky and on top of the tip of the chain saw was the very heavy branch I had just cut off. I had a few bruises but it might have been a lot worse if that branch had landed on me.

For the next few days my wife and everyone else were giving me chainsaw lessons. By the way, the final felling of the tree went really well and came down exactly where it was supposed to. Thanks to Sam for coming over with your truck and helping me and the family clean up.

Unfortunately my bad luck continued because the first time I parked my lovely new van on the slab I managed to back it into the house and put a dint in my new baby.

Red Faced & Anonymous



## Modifications / Improvements to an SDC 2300 Metal Detector.

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

### Part Two – The Fold Up Arm Rest

This is the second 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 in the form of left-hand shoulder and back injuries make it hard for me to detect all day long standing. 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 cord 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 Fold Up Arm Rest

My second modification is to the small fold up Arm Rest. Perfectly designed to fold up out-of-the-way, when putting the detector away, this arm rest / arm secure point is a constant problem for most SDC users. When the user's arm is removed when detecting, the Arm Rest constantly folds up.

This problem used to drive me just about mad. Apart from continually folding up, the Arm Rest offered only moderate support to my arm.

It took my elder brother, Lindsay, to work up a really good fix to this issue.

The answer was an "SW 0320 Stormwater 90mm Coupling Slip – AS/NZS 1254". Yes, that's right a 90mm PVC-U stormwater fitting.

Albeit though, with a fair amount of modification and work done to it.

I do not intend here, to go into the work and modifications necessary to come to the end product. It requires cutting, shaping by heating it, and drilling small holes into the plastic around its edge, to enable the leather covering to be stitched and glued into place permanently. Between the PVC 'pipe' and outer leather covering there is a fine layer of padding.



SDC Arm Rest fashioned from a 90mm PVC Stormwater Coupling. Lightly padded it is covered in leather, hand stitched and glued to hold it in place.

My model Arm Rest was one of the original prototypes, and since then my feedback has been incorporated into later versions of this arm rest.



SDC Arm Rest showing sharp corner points on the prototype.

The only great change I recommended was that the corners should be more rounded instead of being square right angle corners with sharp points.

The Arm Rest is fitted to and held in place by additional Velcro mounting strip points.



Additional Arm Rest mounting points fitted on the SDC body. One to the detector body in the middle, and one on each folding arm flap.

The Detector Velcro Arm Rest points match up with identically located points on the PVC Stormwater Arm Rest.



Matching Velcro mounting points shown on the bottom of the PVC "Stormwater" Arm Rest. One central black Velcro strip and double white Velcro strips placed on the sides.

Fitting this Arm Rest to the SDC body is quite easy. A centrally marked point on the Arm Rest is matched up to a similar point marked on the Velcro strip on the Detector body. The folding arm side flaps

are then folded up against the PVC Arm Rest. To remove it, you pull one of the side flaps away from the PVC Arm Rest, then simply roll it out as you bend the detectors built in arm rest flap away from the side Velcro mount.

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

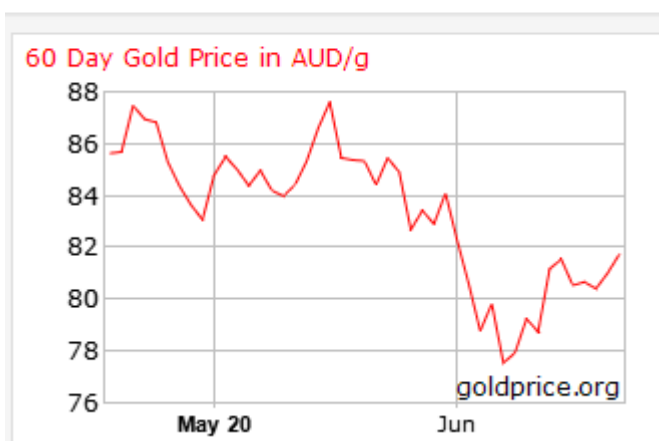
### The Detector's warranty?

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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## Dunolly camp report:

BY Pam G

There was an unofficial camp at Dunolly with 20 members attending, thanks so much to the organizers, everyone enjoyed their long weekend escape.

It was so nice to see friendly faces around the fire and being able to do what we all enjoy prospecting, with ideal weather to do

The weather during the day was great but with freezing cold nights, some nights reaching below zero degrees, brr

So those of us that didn't have any heating, were rugged up going to bed.

With hot water bottles being purchased on Saturday, which did make a difference, thanks Briony, it was really appreciated, also making a purchase of a diesel heater when we arrived back home.

We had a visit from a local farmer on his magnificent Stallion call into camp.

Ray and Keith and Kay and Geoff also



called into camp to say hello.

Well done Brian Mc with a 1.3 gram nugget being the largest found.



Both Briony, Jenny and Shirley had good luck with their 2300's finding a number of small pieces.

Alistair, Gary, Paul also had some finds, apologies if I have missed anyone.



Not everything found is gold, Alistair's wooden snoopy found in the bush.



Do you know what this is? Would you know what to look for?

Lucky Phil recently found this meteorite in the Maryborough area, worth more than gold.

Pam G

## **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. (CURRENTLY NO MEETINGS DUE TO COVID19)

### **JULY 2020**

- ◆ No Official VSC camps following Max 10 announced by Victorian Premier 20/06/20.  
Members are free to make their own arrangements

- ◆ No General Meeting

### **AUGUST 2020**

- ◆ No General Meeting
- ◆ Camp: TBA

### **SEPTEMBER 2020**

- ◆ No General Meeting  
Camp TBA

## **Find of the Month**



Phil and Alister's Meteorites

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## Member submissions

Photo of the month!

Thanks to Briony for this shot! (Dunolly Camp)

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



**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/>

## Safety Tips

### Lost in the Bush

It is advisable to always lock your vehicle and take a GPS reading before setting out detecting.

When you realise you are completely lost, panic and fear will set in and a desire to hurry or run will take over you. The first thing you must do is STOP. Look round for a place to rest and think. If it is hot, get into some shade and take time to calmly consider the situation. If it is raining, look for shelter. Look around you. Do you recognise any features at all?

Is there high ground easily accessible close by? If so, make your way up as from a higher vantage point you will see further and hear sounds better. Can you hear the sound of vehicles on a distant road? Can you see the glint of sunlight reflecting off a car windscreen? Is there a road nearby?

Unless you can actually see signs of habitation, do not cut through the bush but stay on the road or track. Searchers will initially look for you by car. The cars will only travel on the tracks. If you have ample daylight left, walk along the road in the direction of the traffic sounds you heard. If night is fast approaching it is far better to look for shelter close to the track.

If fire restrictions allow, and it is safe to do so, spend your time collecting firewood, sufficient to keep a small bright fire going all night; which is quite a lot of wood. Start your fire using a lighter or matches as soon as possible. A fire is very comforting and will keep you warm and its light will lead searchers to you.

Do not be tempted to stagger through the bush at night. Your chance of getting back to your camp is very remote while your chance of being injured is very high. If the spot you plan to spend the night at is out of sight of the road or track, draw arrows on the road surface pointing to where you are or which way you have gone. If your car breaks down and it is too far to walk to camp, stay with your car.

Also mobile phone emergency apps can be used

e.g. <https://emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au/>



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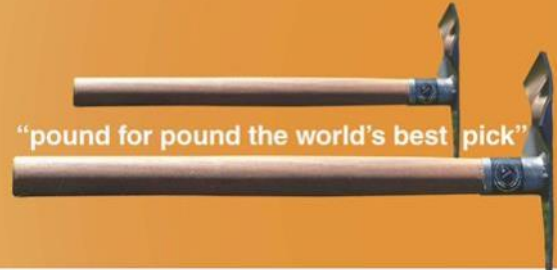
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# Member only information

## 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.



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.

## 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.

## Vic Seekers



UHF 12



**Remember to be considerate of others if you feel that you must use a generator**

Don't use it close to other campers, take measures to mitigate the sound such as put it in a ditch or use a sound baffle, don't run it all day, and observe the 9:00 pm cut off time

We encourage you to consider charging batteries with a solar panel instead of a generator.

## Club Clothing

Available by order

Samples available at General meetings to try on



**Caps \$15**

**Polo Shirts \$30**

**Polar Fleece Jacket \$40**

**Polar Fleece Vests : \$30**