

The Victorian
Seekers Club

NOV/DEC
2020

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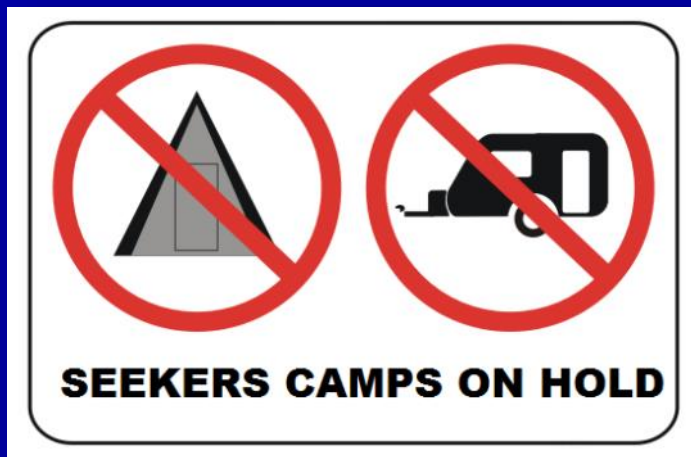
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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 41 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



**Our regional members,
enjoying their days prospecting...**



**Meanwhile, back in Melbourne...
Hold on everyone!
We're nearly there!**

President's Report

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT



Paul Hart

Hi VSC members. I sincerely hope you are doing OK during these challenging times. In this report I address the latest announcements with respect to Covid and what it means for us, the VSC annual general meeting and I reflect on the last 12 months. This month we have received a bunch of stories and Gary and I pass on our thanks to members who sent in a story.

Covid & Restrictions

On Sunday 18 Oct Daniel Andrews released an Covid 19 update and unfortunately there is nothing meaningful in his report for Melbourne based members. If there is any news on restrictions that benefit the club in the coming weeks, we will send out an Email to members.

Annual General Meeting

All members (with email) will have received an email from me regarding this year's AGM. The committee agreed that we would conduct our AGM and election of office bearers via email. By the time you are reading this most of the formalities will be over and a new committee will be in place.

As you may be aware the Secretary position is a mandatory role for all clubs and we are fortunate to now have the services of Michael Davies in that role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Secretary, Tony Pappas for the great job he has done over the years and in particular for staying on board while we were looking for a replacement.

I would also like to welcome to the commit-

tee Anja and Alistair. Anja along with Rob Shannon have an important role with Facebook and as Administrators they send out reminders, birthday wishes, funny or interesting stories and also deal with member posts which may not be in line with club guidelines. Alistair, along with others such as Bob L, Graham M, Peter M and Ken W regularly provide assistance at club outings. With a lot of new members wanting to join, field officers and others will have a busy time when camps resume.

Finally, a very big thank you to those in the committee who have agreed to stay on in their current roles. In particular the members who have been on committee for decades - we all know who they are. Along with our active lifetime members, they are the backbone of the club and I am not sure we would have a club of the quality we have, without their expertise and willingness to serve.

As part of the AGM the Treasurer and President present reports for the 2019 / 20 year. Pam Griffin picked up the treasurer role from me and is doing a wonderful job. With a little bit of assistance from myself and Jim D, Pam came to grips with the accounting software, MYOB, very quickly and recently produced a Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Statement for the AGM. Expenditure was a little higher this year due the club 40th celebrations and we are yet to see the income from the auction of sponsor donations. Despite this the club continues to be in a good financial position and we were able to reduce membership fees for current members by 50 % in response to Covid 19.

I need to mention that Pam has also been doing the Membership secretary role for the last 12 months. At the time of writing we did not get a nomination for that role but it is never too late for someone to help out. Please talk to Pam or myself about the role if you can help.

President's Report cont.

If you did not catch up with my Presidents Report in the AGM email the highlights for the year were working with the committee on the following :

The very successful 40th anniversary. The 40th subcommittee did a fantastic job in planning and running the function which was very much enjoyed by all. Donations of about \$8500 (retail) were collected and this was used to subsidize the function for members, and we gave away about \$2700 in prizes on the day. When we get back to unrestricted camping we still need to conduct the auction and 40th function for country members.

Bringing a little more focus to Safety by adding it as an agenda item, including training at camps (snake bite, CPR) or Newsletter articles (fire). Ensuring a Camp Duty Officer is appointed for each camp.

Reviewing and updating the new member application process to make it easier for the Membership Secretary and clearer for prospective members. The membership secretary (Pam) advises that she has been in contact with about 40 new members since Covid 19 started. Dealing with this many prospective members will be a major challenge for the committee but planning has started.

Without doubt the low for the year was Covid 19 and the large effect it has had on club activities since about March 20. A Covid 19 Safety protocol was drafted and circulated to all members and was put into use for a couple of restricted camps conducted mid-year. Membership fees were reduced by 50 % for current members in response to the Covid related restrictions. Fortunately, many of us have been able to keep occupied and stay in touch via the phone, email, Newsletters and/or Facebook.

Sadly this year saw the passing of Rita Bentley and very long term and much liked member Jimmy Laundry. See more on Jimmy in the Newsletter.

Find of the year normally involves each monthly winner bringing their find to the AGM

and being judged. This year we went back through the Newsletter and an expert panel chose the winner. The result is elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to those on the committee for their hard work and support during 2019 / 20. In particular I want to thank Eric, Lindsay, Bob & Virginia for their significant contribution and continued service, Tony for staying on as Secretary for an extra 12 months, Pam for doing both the Treasurer & Membership Secretary rolls and Susan, Francine & Francois for the extra help for the 40th.

I am staying on as President for another term and look forward to working with the committee to continue to make the Victorian Seekers Club one that all members thoroughly enjoy being part of.

I hope we are able to have our Christmas party at Wicks and I very much look forward to our first fully unrestricted camp and we will look to do something special as a celebration.



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Welcome to our Club Secretary

BY Michael D



Hello Seekers,

As Tony P is heading Overseas I will be taking over as Club Secretary.

My Wife, Kathy & I have been members of the club for about three years.

We haven't been as involved as we would have like to have been due to personal commitments, however we did buy a Caravan late last year and were starting to attend a few camps & get more involved then COVID hit!

So like everyone else we are just waiting for things to get back to the new normal.

We originally joined the club to learn more about prospecting as we really enjoy it. We found the people in the club to be very welcoming & a really great bunch.

So when the opportunity came up to help out & do my bit for the club I said "yes".

A bit about me.

As above, I am married to Kathy, have three adult children, I work for the Railways, enjoy Prospecting, fishing, cycling & bushwalking.

I have some knowledge of Club Committee's etc

I am a member of the Belarusian Orthodox Church Parish Council & I am a member of the Diamond Valley Baptist church.

I have coached both my son & daughters Soccer teams over a number of years & therefore was on the Soccer club Committee.

Looking forward to getting to know you all better & helping the club move from strength to strength!



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Your Committee of Management 2020-2021

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT
			vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson		
Vice President & Research Officer:	President's deputy, arrange speakers. Information about outings, field activity.		
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration		
Treasurer:	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking		
Membership Secretary:	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records		
Newsletter Editor:	Newsletter compilation and distribution		
IT & Social Media Officers:	Website administration & Facebook		
Catering Supervisor:	Supper at General Meetings, special occasion camp catering		
Social Secretary:	Organising social functions, raffles, theatre bookings etc		
Almoner:	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc		
Library Officer:	Managing library at General Meetings		
Clothing Officer:	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings		
Field Officers:	Assist new members at outings, manage campfires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up duties		



**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"

Fryerstown Fond Memories

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

Fryerstown at Easter has always been one of my favourite camps for a bunch of reasons. It is a camp that is very well attended because of the number of things to do in the area for members detecting and their friends or family.

I was lucky enough to have my wife and 3 children attend a few camps and they really enjoyed the Chewton market and Jimmy Cole's bush dance. One year at the dance my girls won a big basket of easter eggs. We have also visited the dingo farm and historic gold sites in the district.

After members detecting on Jimmy Cole's place for about 30 years I have enjoyed still finding tokens and coins from the gold rush era. My favourite coin was a 1797 Cart Wheel Penny. The Bradford Mint online reports the following -

"The King George III 1797 penny, nicknamed a 'Cartwheel' because of its large size and thick rim, is a remarkable coin on its own. However, it has a very special connection with Australia being the very first coin to be minted especially for shipping to early New South Wales to relieve a coin shortage, as such it is Australia's first penny.

The 'Cartwheel' penny was a huge coin. Minted from new steam-powered presses it was able to be minted to a much higher standard of design than those coins that had come before it. Measuring 36mm in diameter and weighing in at 28gm it was actually the first copper penny in British history!

It was also the first coin to figure in Australian history. In November 1800 HMS Porpoise brought to New South Wales a consignment of 1797-dated penny's for the Governor to use as payment for supplies and therefore put into circulation.

The year before, The Duke of Portland had written to Governor Hunter:
"Sir, You will receive by the Porpoise near four tons of a new copper coinage of a pen-

ny each. The total value of the above coinage is £550, which you will take care to carry to the credit of Government, and to account for it in making such payments therewith for the public service as you shall from time to time judge most advisable."

The consignment brought 132,000 penny coins into the early economy of New South Wales, earning for it a special place in the history of our nation."

The same weekend I found that penny I was sitting next to Jimmy Cole for our free camp dinner. The raffle began and Jimmy won a wallet. I could see he was not entirely pleased with his win but he did crack a smile when a few minutes later in the Swindle he won \$50 which went straight into the new wallet.

Paul H

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Find of the year

It is the usual practice that we have the Find of Year judging during our AGM, which due to the virus this year, and to save the event, we are having it on line. Members must be congratulated for very high standard of their finds this year, with all being worthy of the FOY award.

The main contenders are;

1- August 2019, Andrew M, 37 gm nugget



2- September 2019, Lars L, 27 gm nugget



3- October 2019, Imi A, 53gm nugget



4- March 2020 Thomas M, 18ct Gold pendant

Photo not available

It is the committee's decision that the winner this year goes to Imi for his great nugget.

Imi also gets the prize for winning the competition to predict when we all get back as a club on a camp. His guess was "NEXT YEAR"

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THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INC.
2020/2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES PAYMENT DUE 1ST JULY 2020
REDUCED DUE TO COVID 19
 (Reduced Fee applies to Current Members Only)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual Membership Fee – Single	\$20.00
Annual Membership Fee - Family	\$32.50
Newsletter Fee (only for hardcopy sent by post)	\$20.00
Joining Fee (once off payment)	Single \$10.00 Family \$20.00

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Cash – Pay to the Treasurer or any Committee member at any General Meeting or Camp Outing

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Name.....
 Postal Address.....
 Phone number..... Mobile No.....
 Email Address.....Other.....

Pam Griffin, Treasurer – Email: pgriffin8@bigpond.com

Member's tall tales and true

I had to leave Melbourne for family reasons and quarantine in my original home state of Tasmania in early September and am still here. Luckily I packed the detector as I was invited to participate in the PMAT detector outing.

Yet to break my curse but met some lovely fellow detectorists. The find of the day was a beauty. (9.8 grams). A bit of motivation till we all can get back out there.

Regards Mark D



The VSC members living in Melbourne under lockdown and can't travel more than 5kms are penalized against the members living in Regional Victoria who can go prospecting to find gold, which a lot of members are doing and finding heaps. I feel to keep up the camaraderie in the club the Regional members donate a small amount of nuggets to their Melbourne members –

from Bob L (Joke only)



Member's tall tales and true cont.

Hi all Susan M here. I was the president for two years prior the Paul taking over in September 2019, I would like to thank Paul for doing an outstanding job, with our 40th Anniversary Lunch which I know everyone enjoyed and the last real outing we had.

Also going through this very trying time, I am sooooo glad it was not up to me (don't think I would have coped so well). Really looking forward to our Christmas party, all been well I think this will be our next outing (fingers crossed).

JOKE

A husband and wife were driving through Louisiana

As they approached Natchitoches, they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town

They argued back and forth, then they stopped for lunch

At the counter, the husband asked the blonde waitress "before we order, could you please settle an argument for us?

Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly"?

She leaned over the counter and said, "Burrr -gerrr Kiiing".

Hoping all our members are fit and well.
Thanks Sue

Fire Season – The Seekers

We have all seen some funny things at camp. We all know how much we enjoy, at the end of the day, after digging up kilo's of yellow stuff, just sitting, relaxing and chatting and enjoying a great bush camp fire.

Well , one particularly hot summer camp, I can't remember where it was, (someone will remember) due to a "Total Fire Ban Day", we could not light the traditional bonfire.

Here we were sitting around in a circle, sipping away and wondering as the daylight faded why the light had faded so much that we could barely see each other, and, you guessed it, everyone complaining – NO FIRE.

In our midst, was a Frenchman, a long standing member who's brain jumped into European comedy mode, (not that Europeans have a proper sense of humour) and he quietly slipped away to his van, re-appearing a few minutes later with an artificial fire, battery operated.

The particular artefact initially received some derogatory remarks, however everyone agreed that the glowing light from the centre of the circle added significantly to the ambience of the surrounds and we all felt much better. It did make a difference.

I can't remember whether the batteries lasted long enough for the next night.

Well done Sir, Ken W

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Modifications / Improvements to an SDC 2300 Metal Detector.

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

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 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, but it also does not have any provision on it to hook in a bungee cord arrangement.

The Headphone Extension Cord

One of the first things I did when I purchased my SDC, was to include the "short SDC plug to ¼ inch normal plug" adaptor lead; the SDC 2300 Headphone Adaptor lead, in the original purchase package. My head phones, a pair of Koss UR-30s, use the 'normal' ¼ inch, (6.35mm) stereo plugs and leads.



The above photo shows the 'SDC plug to normal ¼ inch plug' adaptor lead as it is permanently fitted to my SDC 2300.

The method I use for finding the target in my shovel, once I have detected it, is by kneeling on the ground; disconnecting my detector from my Bungee cord; flattening

my coil on the ground, and then push my detector behind me. After a period of time, with the standard-length headphone cord, the continual over stretching of the cord in this manner, ultimately leads to the 'hair-thin' wires in the cord pulling out and breaking, where they connect into the headphones. Rendering the headphones useless.

To overcome this, I required an extension cord to fit with my existing arrangement. Doing the rounds of all my local electrical stores to find coiled head phone cord drew negative results. In the end I visited the local metal detector shops, and asked them for broken head phone cords.

They were only too happy to assist and provided me with coiled headphone cords from their workshop rubbish bins. The only question asked was, "What do you want them for?"

With the right electronic soldering iron equipment these 'hair-thin' wired leads can be recycled into additional extension cords.

Equipped with the broken headphone cords, I returned to my local electrical shops where I purchased Amphenol brand right angled ¼ inch (6.36mm) male plugs, and cheaper "no-name" plastic right angled plugs and a "no-name" plastic double ended ¼ inch (6.35mm) female connector plug.



Set of Minelab Koss UR-30 headphones with lead, compared to the 'made-up' coiled extension lead complete with its two Amphenol right angled metal male plugs.

Much has been made of the difficulty, in soldering these 'hair-thin' wired headphone leads. They are correct. You cannot simply get out your old copper headed soldering iron, even though, it may have a needle pointed tip, and use it on repair jobs, like making up extension cords for detectorists headphones.



One long headphone cord. Photo shows how female connector 'ties' the headphone cord to the extension lead.

In the end, I found an electronically controlled micro-tipped soldering iron, complete with a variable control switch which allowed me to turn up or turn down its heat instantly.

The end result being that over a couple of days, I was able to make up four extension leads. One to use, with three spares in my equipment bag, should the one in use become faulty at all. So far, I am still using my original extension cord, after nearly two years of pretty rugged use.

The Balance point of a "fully loaded" SDC 2300

I decided at the last moment to include a section on the balance point of my fully loaded SDC.

As can be seen in the photo below, the balance point of my SDC 2300 loaded with its standard set of four (4) size "C" batteries, complete with the PVC stormwater pipe Arm Rest, is approximately 90mm down the shaft from the front of the body of the detector.



Showing the balance point on the curved upper edge of a kitchen chair. The SDC is fully set up for detecting with its shaft extended. Point is approximately 90mm, (3.54 inches) from main body of the detector.

I'd estimate that it is another good 80mm, (3.15 inches), back to the Bungee anchor point. This arrangement tends to make my SDC a little front heavy, which to my way of thinking makes it ideal to use. The front has to be down on or near the ground surface.

Using a Minelab "Pro-Swing" harness I have little or no trouble putting in a full day's detecting. The harness obviously supports my "front-heavy" arrangement.

Clearly 'tailored' for the way I carry out my detecting, its best advantage(s) are the easy disconnection of the detector from the Bungee cord; easy adjustment to the Bungee cord length; the ability to move the detector behind me when I am kneeling on the ground; coupled with the ability to stand up whilst leaving the detector lying on the ground, due to the long headphone extension cord.

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.

This is the last part in the series of improvements / alterations to an SDC 2300 detector.

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)

NOVEMBER 2020

- ◆ No Official VSC Camp
- ◆ No General Meeting

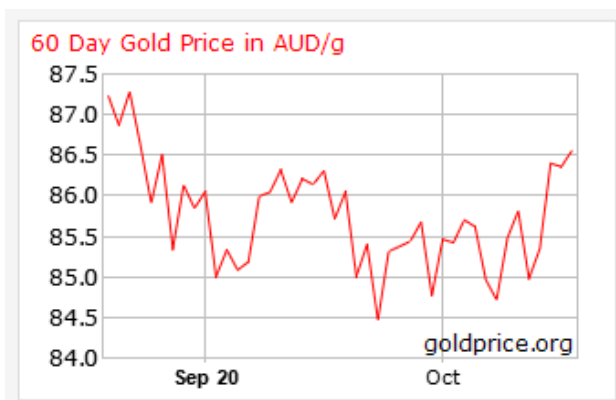
DECEMBER 2020

- ◆ No General Meeting
- ◆ Camp: TBA

JANUARY 2021

- ◆ No General Meeting (TBA)
- Camp TBA

Gold price as at 20/10/2020



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The Melbourne Fire Brigade (M.F.B.) no longer have that title and the Country Fire Authority (C.F.A.) Career Fire Fighters no longer belong to the C.F.A., they have been amalgamated into one Brigade, Fire Rescue Victoria (F.R.V.).

The CFA still retain their volunteer fire fighters but have lost their career fire fighters to FRV.

Fire Rescue Victoria are all paid fire fighters. But the CFA still rely on their unpaid fire fighters to look after country Victoria.

By Bob Lake

FOR SALE

I have for sale a brand new (unused) caravan cover to suit vans 4.8-5.4mtr (16-18 ft)
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(less than half price)

Eric 0488972922



Vale - Jimmy Laundry



It is with sadness that we have learnt of the death of one of the longest serving members of our club, Jim Laundry at the age of 87.

Jim and his wife Maureen joined our club way back in 1983, and then the committee in 1988, remaining there until 2017 relishing the roles of Assistant Research Officer (10 years) and that of Catering Supervisor which he held for 26 years. We can all remember the suppers enjoyed at our meetings, and for all the Christmas breakups he helped to organize. Jim was always first to put his hand up when we had a social function.

Jim's passion was detecting for coins and artifacts, as a result he would have one of the largest collections in the club which were proudly displayed at our 'show and tell' nights making us envious for the sheer quality and volume.

Although Jim didn't catch the gold bug, he did have a heart of gold and was always ever-ready to help others. In 1993, while detecting in Vaughan, he learnt of an appeal for a small 20 children school in Yapeen who were collecting shopper dockets from Coles offering a computer for every \$185,000 presented. Well, he immediately jumped into action and inspired all our club members to assist in the task. After 3 months he was able to present them with more than enough dockets for them to win their first computer, as a result our club was invited as special guests to their open day.

Jim and Maureen travelled to Bali every year but didn't just lay on the beach, he found out about a poor orphanage who were in desperate needs, he bought many items they needed locally and when he came home organized us again to collect items to take over the next year, sometimes getting in trouble with customs with so many stuffed bags.

Jim and Maureen's dedication and hard work were recognized in our club for which they were awarded Life Memberships in 1993.

To Maureen and her extended family our club express sincere condolences on Jim's passing. He will be sorely missed around the club as he was so well liked by us all.



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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 or by email 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