



The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. (Reg. No. A0001477T)

Postal: PO Box 15 Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

14 June 2020

COVID 19 SAFETY PROTOCOL

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.

Communication & Management

From time to time information regarding Covid 19 will be communicated to members. This will come via the following means.

- Covid 19 Safety Protocol updates or any important update via Email from the President or Secretary

- Covid 19 Safety Protocol to be sent to all New or Potential New members via Email from the Membership Secretary
- Newsletter update & reminders – via the Newsletter Editor
- Club Meetings and Outings – verbal updates & reminders from the President and/or Camp Duty Officer
- Visitors – Members are responsible for advising their Visitors about the Covid 19 Safety Protocol.
- Covid 19 issues to be addressed under the SH&E Agenda item for Committee & General Meetings
- Signage with reminder messages may be displayed at General Meetings or at Camps
- An update to the next edition of the Club Handbook to include reference to the Covid 19 safety protocol.
- The latest version of the Safety Protocol is to be posted on the club website.
- The club president will have with him a copy of the latest version of the protocol.

Other

- As per the department of health advice, 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, gold or relics 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.

General Meeting

On the 25 May 20 Monash Halls sent an update and it appears our Hall is being used by Essential Services until the end of August 2020. To move ahead with GM in Melbourne we would need numbers to be increased to 40 to 50 while maintaining social distancing. It is expected that Monash Halls will their own Covid 19 requirements for the room which are likely to cover the following areas -

- All members who have flu or flu like symptoms are not to attend. Membership secretary to monitor members as they enter and advise the President or Vice President of any concerns.
- Members are free to use their own face masks or gloves
- The kitchen may be closed in which case supper will not be available.
- Before signing in and before supper members will be requested to use hand sanitizer provided
- Social distancing and strict hygiene practices for catering etc will apply.
- Members will be asked to be seated and only move if necessary.
- Signage will be erected with key reminders.
- Line marking on the floor will specify distance requirements when lining up at the entry, for the sign in book, for raffle and for supper.
- Tables will be used to increase the distance for Committee and others at the sign in book, raffle table and supper station.

Committee Meeting

- From the 1 June 20 public or private gatherings of up to 20 are allowed.
- Committee members who have flu or flu like symptoms are not to attend.
- Members are free to use their own face masks or gloves
- Social distancing and hygiene practices similar to the General meeting will apply.

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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Version 1.1 28 May 20 replacing Draft version 1 – 25 May 20

Version 1.2 14 June 20 replacing version 1.1 – 25 May 20