

The Victorian
Seekers Club

MAR/APR
2021

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Report

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 42 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

CHECK IT OUT!!

***Almost half a kilo,
found by a Vic Seeker's
Member!***



President's Report



Paul Hart

Hi All,

I trust you are all well and looking forward to things starting to return to normal in our daily lives and with our club. The vaccine program looks like it is starting to roll out and a good number of our members should be in the early groups to get the shot. Given the recent Holiday Inn lockdown and border restrictions, Tracey and I hope we can get the jab before we head off on our half lap of Australia after Easter this year.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new Treasurer, Kevin Hubbard. Kevin has a short story about himself elsewhere in the newsletter. I can assure you that after talking with Kevin about his work history including the use of SAP (world class finance software) he is more than qualified to take on MYOB and the treasurer role.

Thanks, must again go to Pam Griffin who for some time has been Treasurer and the Membership Secretary. Fortunately for Pam covid meant that her membership duties had to take a back seat as we could not take on any new members while we were not able to have general meeting and camps.

At the general meeting Jim D and Pam were recognised with a bottle of wine for their additional contributions during 2020 / 21.

New / Prospective Members

With all the TV shows about prospecting for gold, and with the price of gold and the covid lockdown people have been contacting the club in record numbers. As of last count we had over 70 people showing interest in the club. Clearly we could not simply invite them all to our normal meetings and camps so it called for a different approach.

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

Step one was to ascertain how serious these prospective members (PM) were and all of them were sent an email. The email asked them a bunch of questions e.g. are you still interested, do you have a van or camping gear, a detector, a miners right etc. Those PM showing interest (about 30 %) were invited to a 2 hour Information and Question session in Jells Park.

The information and question session for PM in Jells was met by light rain but we found a shelter for the 30 odd PM that came along. Eric, Lindsay and I gave them a bunch of useful information and at the end of the session about a half of them indicated that they had all the necessary equipment and were ready to attend bush camps in the next few months. A smaller number said they were missing some equipment or were not quite ready and would be in touch with us further down the track. Pam G did a lot of preparation prior to the meeting and had application forms, newsletter maps and copies of the members handbook for those members who had the highest potential for joining. Pam was kept very busy recording names and talking to most of the PM's. Thanks to Briony, Dean, Paul G, Thomas, Francine & François for help on the day. On balance it was felt that we could use this approach again later this year while covid is affecting the way we operate.

In March at Kingower and at Easter a lot of potential new members will be present and field officers and experienced members will be requested to help out with training and guidance on this weekend.

General Meeting

In February we had our first general meeting in almost a year and about 35 attended. Monash Halls have requested that we comply with several covid rules. For example all names and phone numbers had to be recorded on entry, the numbers in the hall and kitchen are limited, we had to carry masks and wear them when social distancing was not possible. The committee also discussed and implemented a number of our covid requirements including regular sanitizing, hall signage / reminders, kitchen staff wearing gloves and masks and rules around food handling.

President's Report cont.

For those who may have thought these measures were a little bit over the top, the very next day an infected quarantine worker was reported to have visited shops in Clayton, Springvale, Brandan Park etc. I was actually in the same Kmart he visited on the same day but I was there mid morning and he was there late afternoon.

On top of this the outbreak associated with the Holiday Inn has just resulted in another state wide lockdown and the cancellation of the Talbot camp. I was planning on going to Talbot on Saturday morning but heard the rumours of another lockdown and was on the phone to the camp duty officer, Eric, a couple of minutes after the premier made his announcement at 1 pm on Friday. It took an hour or so but I am proud that the committee and members were able to make the sensible and safe decision and cancel the camp.

Finally see elsewhere in this Newsletter for information about Easter and the Auction and 40th Anniversary dinner for country members.



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Member only information



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Your Committee of Management 2020-2021

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT
			vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Paul Hart	
Vice President & Research Officer:	President's deputy, arrange speakers. Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration	Michael Davies	
Treasurer:	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking	Kevin Hubbard	
Membership Secretary:	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records	Pam Griffin	
Newsletter Editor:	Newsletter compilation and distribution	Gary Harvey	
IT & Social Media Officers:	Website administration & Facebook	Mark David (field officer)	
		Anja M	
		Rob Shannon	
Catering Supervisor:	Supper at General Meetings, special occasion camp catering	Alex Eram	
Social Secretary:	Organising social functions, raffles, theatre bookings etc	Tina Whelan	
Almoner:	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc	Virginia Lake	
		Louise McGough	
Library Officer:	Managing library at General Meetings	David Gothard	
Clothing Officer:	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings	Susan Moore	
Field Officers:	Assist new members at outings, manage campfires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up duties	Bob Lake	
		Lindsay Tricker	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Alistair M	



**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"

Tarnagulla December Camp Report

Our December, New Years Camp this year was at Tarnagulla.

In previous years the December camp has been held at Moonambel but it was decided to switch to Tarnagulla based on the success of our previous camp.

Around forty people attended the camp.

There was also some concern about what to do if temperatures were to high (remembering

last year's Moonambel camp being basically abandoned due to high temperatures).

Much concern also about our NYE function & the weather as well.

As it turned out the weather was not a problem, in fact it could not have been much better. Actually went from "too cold" to be outside in the evenings early in the camp to steadily warming up & getting a bit hot late in the camp.



For me, it was my first camp after lockdown & it was great to be in the bush with my friends from the club. There was much success on the Gold front with a "patch being found" which was revisited several times.

The previous "patch" from the last camp was also revisited with some success.

You didn't have to go far, I walked for miles detecting one day to be told by David Nelson that he had found three bits in



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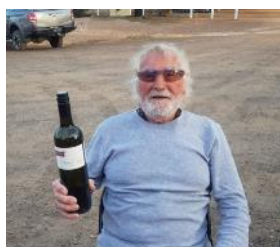
front of my car!!

Later in the camp we changed tactics & did some hard bush driving to search among quartz rocks.

Again, there was much success here with a lunchtime "rock crush" which was very exciting.

The skill here is to break down the quartz enough to get a nice specimen without over crushing.

We had the Master "Eric" teaching us all how to do this. Although I had one quartz rock which gave off a very nice sound via the SDC



however when we crushed

the rock there was no Gold to be found!

I had a bit of trouble accepting that & I couldn't help but keep searching &

ended up just about grinding the rock into powder. In the end Kathy made me throw it away as I wouldn't give it up! Gold & specimens found this way look great as the gold is shiny & the quartz, very white as the rocks are broken open.

A few of us attempted fishing in the dam next to the camp & most times caught fish (redfin).

I won't mention the size of the fish but I will say I tried using the trick of holding the fish close to the camera & standing back to make it look bigger & it didn't help much.

It is a tradition for the Club to eat out once or twice while on Camps to support the local community.

At this Camp Briony organised a meal at the local Café.

This was largely in part to support the owner who had suffered several tragedies through the year with the passing of her



husband & her house burning down.
The meal was well attended by just about everybody on Camp & was a big success raising quite a bit of money.

A big thank you to Briony for her compassion & organisation of this event.

The New Years eve function was a huge success.

The committee held a meeting at the camp & with many volunteers a lot of effort was put into the event which paid off.

A big thank you to everyone that helped.

The event went for 6 hours from 6PM until midnight.



There was a BBQ, jokes & stories read, a trivia quiz finishing with a big bonfire.

The Red & White theme was a big success as well.

There was only

one incident of concern when a strange character gate crashed the party. I saw it coming (wasn't sure if it was male or female) but this person was dressed in red & white so we thought that we may know him.

The party fell to a hush as the strange character approached & then the character spoke. It was Eric!!

Or Erica if he/she wants to be (we are not here to judge).

Just as quickly as Erica came, she left & Eric was back again!

For me it was a little difficult as I was given what some might consider " inappropriate material" to read out.

Others would call it a funny story.

I decided I would read some of the stories I

had but not others.

What I didn't count on was Francine sitting behind me & persuading me to read the lot. I never thought in my life I would stand in front of forty or so people & discuss sexual habits of older people!

I think Francine is the only person on the planet who could convince me to do so & she did!

All in all the camp was a big success & I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the next one.

Michael D

Victorian Seekers Club Secretary

0427 779 697

vsclub.secretary@gmail.com



NYE Get together



Dinner at local cafe



Welcome to our new VSC Treasurer



Allow me to introduce your new treasurer.

I'm Kevin Hubbard, a member of the Seekers since July of 2017. When I can I swing a SDC 2300.

My past employment has been in the corporate sector for 38 years. Starting in customer service and moving to finance for the last 28 years.

Other interests are being a current volunteer member with the SES for the last 12 years, 6 years as crew leader. Long time interest has been in the classic car movement, as the owner of a 1938 Morris 8/40 roadster, which I purchased in 1986 and joined the Morris Register of Victoria the same year. Having held a couple of committee position with the register.

A long-time ambition has been to travel this great land of ours – Australia. My adventures so far have seen me traverse the Victorian High Country on 5 tag along tours. What next, Flinders Rangers and outback NSW. Looking ahead, the big lap on Highway 1.

I'm looking forward to working with the current and possibly future committees of the Victorian Seekers Club

Cheers

Kevin Hubbard

General Meeting

Hooray, we finally got to have a meeting in our hall after 10 months of Covid hibernation, all be it that we had to conform to regulations of spacing and sanitation, it was somewhat of a reunion for many of us after the long lockdown.

Members welcomed 2 new faces on our committee, Michael Davies as Secretary and Kevin Hubbard as treasurer. Both are very worthy of their positions as they both have solid backgrounds in administration. We now have a very balanced committee which looks good for the future management of our club.

Due to the many gold shows on TV, we have been inundated with many (70) requests to join our club, and so discussion was centered how we will deal with it, as numbers at camps and meetings may cause problems with accommodation spaces.

Thomas M won yet again the find of month with a silver chain found on a beach.

As we didn't plan a speaker, a DVD on prospecting for gold in slatey areas was shown.

Next month, (March) we will have Andrew Bales (famous geologist, prospector and TV presenter) coming to tell us about his upcoming TV series of Weekend Prospector and what we can expect, and also a few clues where we may find gold. It will be an

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interesting night.

For our April meeting, or at the Easter camp we hope to have our member Mark David to give us an update on first aid. Mark is a trained First aid officer. We are also working on the Miners Den to come along for a presentation on the new GPX6000 gold detector in April or May.

The night ended in a crumbly affair with many cakes (supplied by Steve) and cups of tea to enjoy.

Eric

FIND OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY

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!

Frank M - 480 gram find



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Talbot Camp Report

BY JENNY H.

Talbot was well anticipated with a great access road and plenty of camping sites, many Seekers were expected to attend. We had a few early contenders arriving on Tuesday with Lars and Briony starting off the gold tally. Detecting by some was done early with temperatures rising in the afternoon. Anja and Al along with some others braved the heat. Don't know how they do it.

Wednesday night was warm with more Seekers arriving during the day. It was great to see Brian and Louise once again. Lots of laughs around the 'firepit' and lots of mosquitoes too.

Thursday was particularly hot and humid, but it did not stop those on the hunt for gold. Smaller pieces were found but none could beat the 4.9g Lars had found on Tuesday.

A cool change was welcomed in the evening, but rain soon had us all scattering to take cover or just to go 'home' and cook dinner.

As Friday came around, the cooler weather had us all out fossicking, mostly in the immediate area. The site we were camped on was littered with gold according to those in the know, so we did not have to go far. The diggings were directly alongside the camp area. Briony, Imi and I all found small gold within a stone throw from our caravans. Rob found some nice pieces as did Peter S, Peter G.

Sadly, our joy of camping in the bush with friends looked to be coming to an end when Dan and his health team decided to call a



snap 5-day lockdown starting 11.59pm on Friday.

It was a great turn out with approxi-

mately 17 vans in attendance and Frank and Gini popped by to say hello. Pam, Paul, Francine, François, and Eric had not long arrived. Some were still on their way.

We all gathered to discuss the pros and cons but eventually VSC and the Police made it clear that we could not remain in the area and had to go home.


With great disappointment we all set about packing our vans up for travel except for Francine who had not unhitched. She honked her horn all the way down the dirt track!



Let's hope the next camp in Kingower goes ahead and we can continue the hobby we all love.




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Easter 2021-Auction & 40th Dinner.

Easter is normally our best attended camp for the year with a free dinner for members, access to private property local markets and interesting places to visit. As members will be aware covid disrupted our plans for an Easter auction and 40 th dinner for country members. We will be doing our best to catch up this year.

Auction

As part of the 40th Anniversary we took a number of more valuable items which will be auctioned at our Easter camp at Fryerstown. The items for auction include the following.

- QED PL2 metal detector. Retail price approximately \$1800
- Minelab Equinox 800 metal detector. Retail price approximately \$1200
- Nugget Finder 12 " round mono coil. Retail price approximately \$525
- Detech SEF 15" x 10 " coil. Retail price approximately \$250
- Raw gold (Andrew Bales) 1 day Gold Tutorial & Field course. Retail price approximately \$350

There will not be a bush dance this year so the auction will be held just before our free dinner on Saturday, 10th April, 2021 but there are many ways to place a bid if you want to be in the running. Options include -

- email the Secretary at vsclub.secretary@gmail.com with an offer
- submit a sealed offer by 30 Mar 21 in writing to the Secretary at PO Box 15, Mt Waverly BC Vic 3149
- place bids via a proxy at the auction or phone bids via a proxy during the auction

Other things to note about this auction -

- emailed or written bids will be taken to the auction and submitted when bidding starts
- written IOU's (I owe you) will be accepted at the auction and to be paid for via internet

banking within a week

- committee members are not precluded from bidding

- a Reserve price will be set and items not reaching the reserve will be sold via ebay / gumtree 40th Function

40th Function

For those who were members in early 2020 and could not attend the Melbourne 40th anniversary function there will be a smaller less formal affair on Easter Monday. Subject to any covid or other restrictions it is planned to have the function at the 5 Flags Hotel at Campbells Creek . Members who did not attend the Melbourne 40th function are entitled to a \$20 / head subsidy on their meal.

Please RSVP to the club secretary at vsclub.secretary@gmail.com ASAP.

The priority will be for country based members but there may also be a limited number of places for invited committee and other members who attended Melbourne but meals are at full price.



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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)*

MARCH 2021

- General Meeting 3rd

(APRIL 2021)

- General Meeting 7th

MAY 2021

- General Meeting 5th

JUNE 2021

- General meeting 2nd

Amherst Camp Report

By Virginia L

We arrived at camp on Tuesday, it was a perfect day, sunny and warm with a cool breeze. There were already four camps set up with first of our day visitors, Frank and Gina, showing off their recent find.....very impressive indeed. Who would believe that night was so cold we all rugged up with coats and blankets!

In all we had 12 camps/18 people and 8 day visitors. The weather from Wednesday onwards was HOT. Fortunately, Talbot has a swimming pool which opens on days the temperature is 25 degrees or more. Several people took advantage of this reporting how clean the pool and surroundings were and very modestly priced at \$4.



One night we all went to the Talbot Hotel for dinner and I believe everyone enjoyed their meal, I know Bob and I did.

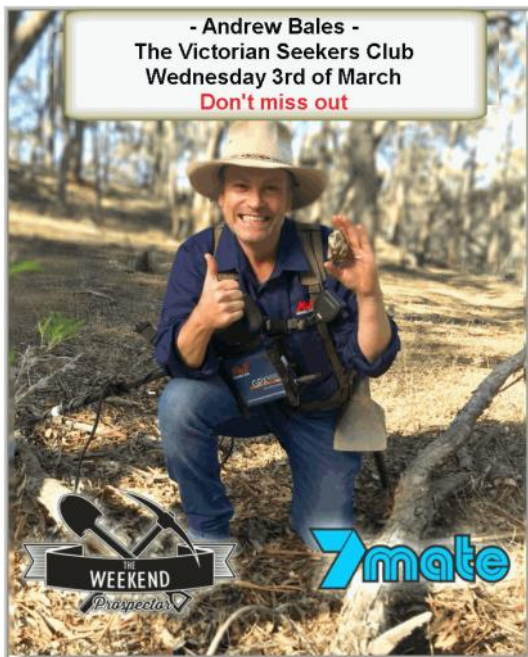
These nights are always enjoyable.

On one visit to camp, Gina bought along some things she had made from rocks, beads etc and gave them to whomever wanted them. I was fortunate enough to get a "gem" tree. Thank you, Gina.

Not much gold was found; could this be it isn't there or it was too hot to go detecting after lunch?



Frank showing his find



Gina's Gem Tree

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

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.



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; highwaytraveller.com.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.

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Caps \$15

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