

The Victorian
Seekers Club

MAY/JUNE
2021

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 42 ISSUE 3

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Easter Fun at Fryerstown



President's Report



Paul Hart

BY PAUL HART, PRESIDENT

Presidents Report – May June 21

As you read this I hope to be starting my half lap around Australia with my wife. My son and his girl are looking after home and Vice President Eric is stepping into my shoes through to the end of July. Eric is of course is a past president and one of our most experienced members. But he also has a lot on his plate so please give him your proactive support at meetings and at camps.

On my trip I am planning to do a little gold detecting at Hall's creek and Marble Bar before finishing up at Leonora where I will be on leases owned by Gold Talk Leonora. The club will have about a dozen members going to WA this year and I hope to catch up with some for a cup of coffee. I will also be taking my trusty Equinox 800 which I used to pick up 2 rings in the bay last week (the owner was very happy).

A number of members have also been asking about Tibooburra and you will find more information about a trip in this Newsletter.

Judging by the number of members who talked to me, the Easter camp was very enjoyable. Virginia has done a full report but some of my highlights were my wife using a detector for the first time only to fall on her face in a miners hole (funny but not the highlight) and then recovering to find the \$20 token. I also enjoyed the fact that a bunch of members had some fun with the games and we had enjoyable dinners on Saturday and Monday nights. Selling all the Auction items was also great and those who

purchased items all got a bargain. Thanks again to the donors including Minelab, QED, Nugget Finder, Detech, Raw Gold, Al & Anja M and Darren H. The proceeds of these sales were used to subsidise our 40 the Anniversary celebrations. Also thanks to the many who made donations for the big raffle on Saturday night.

I would also like to thank Tony Buttigieg for stepping up to be a field officer. Field Officers play an important role helping around camp with parking vans, firewood, functions and helping newbies etc. While it would be great to have a few more field officers, it would be even better if members could do more at meetings and at camps. It is my observation that committee members seem to do most of the physical tasks (in addition to all the work you don't see). Ask yourself when was the last time, without being asked, you helped with supper, washing up, firewood, lighting a fire, setting up for a function, tidying up, doing a newsletter report, helping a newbie etc etc.

On a more somber note I need to report on a several of issues which are not all fun and happiness. At the Easter camp we had an incident where a member had a vehicle breakdown and tried to call for assistance but the mobile reception was poor at our camp site. The member was OK and eventually received RACV assistance on dark. The committee again wishes to strongly advise against detecting alone and would like to introduce a "neighbor watch" program whereby members report to the Camp Duty Officer or committee member if a camp neighbor has not returned at their normal time or by dark. More on this to come.

Detecting on private property is a club privilege and members are reminded that this can only be done during official camp dates and only after the Camp Duty Officer or other

President's Report cont.

committee person has made contact with the property owners.

As most will know the club got a lot of interest from prospective members during the covid period and we now have a number of new members that will fit nicely into the club.

Also new membership enquiries are on hold until we work through the current backlog.

Sorry to end my report on several serious topics but at the end of the day the club will be in a better position when we clearly communicate matters that help make the club safe and enjoyable.

All the best and hope to see you in the spring.

Regards,

President Paul



60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold price as at 22/04/21

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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	
		Tony Buttigieg	



**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 Easter Camp Report

Well, what a great camp! The weather was perfect, although a little warm at times for me, the venue was good and the company was excellent.

We arrived Thursday morning to find the oval three quarters full, and our usual spot taken. We later learned that some members had been there since the previous Saturday; also learned that Alister and Anja's 4-wheel drive had broken down and they probably wouldn't be coming. Thanks to Geoff and Kaye for coming to the rescue and towing their caravan to camp.

That wasn't the only vehicle to break down, James' camper van blew the gear box and needed to be towed home, via camp to collect his belongings.

As usual on Good Friday morning the local CFA drove into camp with sirens blaring to collect donations for The Royal Children's Hospital appeal. Members were generous with their donations; the Club also made a generous donation.

The usual group of members trekked into Castlemaine for a fish and chips lunch, Friday afternoon there were Buy & Sell stalls offering bargains and Friday evening President Paul Hart gave his welcome address to members. This is always a good opportunity for country members to catch up on what has been happening in the club.

Saturday morning saw a good representation of members at the Chewton market, many going onto Castlemaine and other places of interest. We certainly like to help boost the local economy.

It was a big day Saturday with many preparing for the day's activities, cleaning the shed, putting up lights and tables, preparing for the dinner, collecting fire wood etc Auctioneer extraordinary, Bob Lake, kicked off the auction around 3.30pm and within no time all goods donated for the Clubs 40th anniversary were sold.

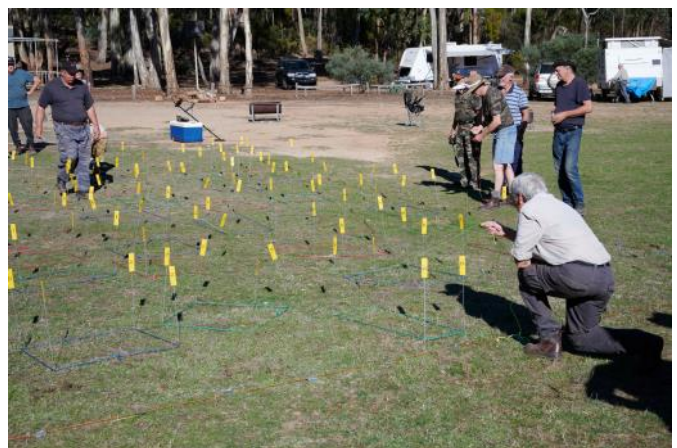
Due to Covid-19 the Club dinner was a little different this year in that we did not share

food; the Club provided Chicken, cooked and cut into quarters by IGA Castlemaine, and individually wrapped potatoes. This was well accepted by all. Of course, we had easter eggs for dessert which were delivered by not one, but two Easter Bunnies. Easter Bunny was busy this year also leaving eggs Sunday morning at each caravan.

After dinner and after the monster raffle was drawn honorary member Jimmy Cole and Marilyn played some tunes for our entertainment. Thank you, Jimmy and Marilyn.

Sunday was another action filled day, starting with the Female and Male token hunts. Paul H. thought he would stir up the women by dropping old discoloured coins around; I happened to find 50 cents which I dropped in Paul's path when he was not looking.

This was followed by Stake Your Claim, always a popular event. Loved seeing the youngsters in the egg and spoon race. Well done!



Later in the afternoon several members participated in games i.e. throwing the Gum



Boot, Bocce and hitting a Golf Ball. All games had the same objective – to determine who could get the closest to a nominated point. Incredibly, all winners were Committee members!

The 40th Anniversary

Dinner for country members who could not attend the dinner last year, and others (at their own expense), was held at the 5 Flags Hotel in Campbell Creek Monday night and enjoyed by all.



Yes, there was time to go detecting and a reasonable amount of gold was found. One member in particular, Dean, found a beautiful 13.5g Nugget.

We are lucky to have this venue, big enough to house our 60 camp sites, set in beautiful surroundings with an abundance of wild life/ birds. In all we had 85 people registered in the sign in book, 60 camp sites and 92 people for Saturday night's dinner.

It would appear that one canine member agrees with me and wanted to investigate the area further, escaping its leash it led its owners on a merry chase up hill and down dale; finally, being caught by Bob L., don't know who was more exhausted, Bob or the dog.

I take this opportunity to thank everyone for pitching in to ensure our Easter camp was a success.



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BY SHIRLEY S.

Kingower Camp Report

Due to ongoing lockdowns and people wishing to escape to the bush for some rest and relaxation of a different kind, we finally got to have a camp which saw a larger than normal number of people head for the bush to try their luck at prospecting. I think the bush provides much needed medicine of a different kind.



Camp was tight for space but one member found 3 spots to hog

This camp saw 15 prospective members in attendance, this kept Camp Duty Officer - Eric Grummet and Field Officers Alistair and Bob very busy parking vans and helping newbies with training in the use of detectors and field trips to try their hand looking for that elusive nugget.

The usual Saturday festivities took place; the raffle was a huge success with fun had by all. President Paul gave an update to members on club news, issues and the up and coming Easter Camp, being held at Fryertown old Cricket Oval between 1 April 2021 to 6 April 2021.

The first fire for the Autumn Winter Period is normally lit at the Fryerstown Easter Camp, due to inclement weather conditions on Sunday night and Monday a small fire was lit which added atmosphere to the camp.

Many of the hardworking regular prospectors including Alistair, Robert starred once again and their efforts were rewarded with some good sized nuggets. Other members found smaller pieces, as the saying goes "every

little find of a bright shiny nugget" inspires us to keep looking for the "big one"?

Special thanks also to Membership Secretary Pam for co-ordinating the efforts to look after new prospective members, also other



Camp fire gathering

committee members who provided their assistance at the camp; including Briony, Tony and Paul G.

Happy Prospecting to one and all, look forward to catching up with everyone at the Easter Camp, here's hoping the Easter Bunny hops in and remember one day the "Gold Gods" might just reward you for your efforts.

Cheers

Shirley



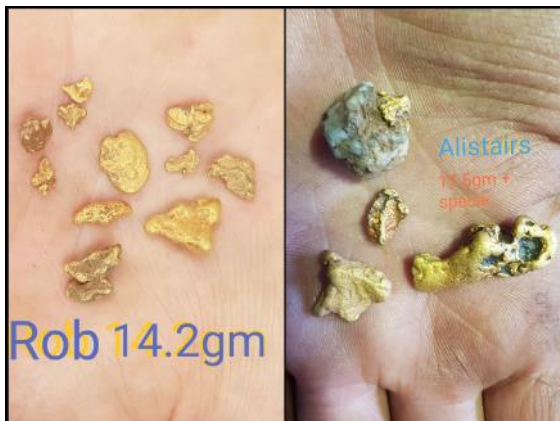
Imi accepting find of the year award

Find of the Month APRIL

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!



Dean R - 13.5 gram find



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General Meeting

At our March meeting we just managed to conform to the Covid requirements with 47 in attendance, including 10 prospective members.

We were privileged to have Andrew Bales come along to give us a run down on his busy life as a full time geologist, TV presenter and family man, along with his Raw Gold prospecting classes. It was interesting to learn about his upcoming new series of Weekend Prospector, soon to be screened on channel 7Mate, (usually on at 11.00am Saturdays) so stay tuned for that. Andrew donated a day course for Raw Gold which was auctioned at Easter and won by Anna with her winning bid.

The Find of Month was spectacularly won by Frank M with his whopping 480 gm gold find.

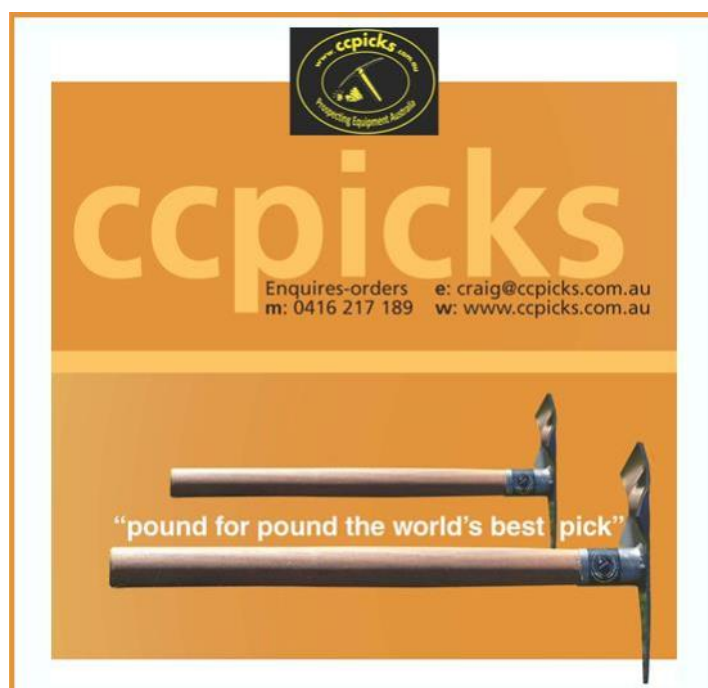
Due to Easter overlapping our meeting in April, numbers were much down on last month. We played a DVD of the John Gladis's talk he gave us at a camp a few years ago about the GPX4500 settings and his prospecting experiences in Western Australia.

April find of month was awarded to Dean R for his 13.5 gm nugget from Fryerstown. It his first win in this event and hopefully not his last.

For our May meeting we will have Bob Thorne from the PMAV with some interesting historical facts about ship arrivals during the gold rush period and the subsequent industrial revolution that followed.

For June we are fortunate to have as new members Ron and Margaret Mansfield who have been opal miners in lightning Ridge for 25 years and now retired, who will relate some of their colorful life working underground searching for those beautiful gemstones.

Eric



My First Camp

It can be a daunting joining a group of people all known to one another, but I was more excited than daunted as I rolled into the campsite at Kingower.

The drive up had been fun and the directions excellent but suddenly I was confronted by what looked like hundreds of caravans. Which one was my group? Amazingly it turned out that they all were. All of them hitched up and turned out for this, the first full camp after covid.

Eric quickly found me a pitch and told me to turn up at the get-together at six. The chosen place for the camp was gorgeous, in a beautiful spot in the Victorian bush on the edge of a little dam full of mysteriously black water I doubted I'd be swimming in.

I travel solo in a van with a little postie bike that Michael, very kindly, helped me get on and off the towbar. Their camp was opposite mine and the regular stop off for everyone on their way to and from the meeting place where at six, carrying a chair, I went to join the circle.

It is a lovely idea, this coming together every evening for a chat with friends old and new. There is an unofficial show and tell with those fortunate to have found gold attempting an off-hand nonchalance and those less fortunate hiding a very pale shade of envious green.

I met so many people whose names came and went in a blur of welcoming smiles and I look forward to getting to know them better over the next camp. Snacks were shared and friendships reignited as the darkness fell and people peeled off to make dinner.

The following morning Eric helped me maximise the potential of my detector adjusting the settings as his experience told him they should work best and then I and my bike were off riding over the tracks through the trees until I found what I thought looked like a likely spot. It wasn't. And neither were the next spots I swung my machine at and so I was a little disap-

pointed if not surprised when I joined the circle that evening.

Not many people had much success, but everyone agreed that they had had a marvellous day and that I realised was the point. A great day sharing a hobby with friends is what the Victorian Seekers is all about and the prize at the rainbows end just an added bonus.

I spent that evening chatting to a fellow newbie, Steve and we agreed to go out together the following day and have a go with each other's detectors. I envy the ease of his neatly folding one and he rather fancies an upgrade to mine or a leapfrog to a 7000. We roamed over the bush accompanied by his brilliant map reading wife Marge and really had a good time despite a lack of the shiny stuff.

I would like to thank Pam for facilitating my attendance and everyone else for making me feel so welcome in what is the most lovely, friendly and welcoming group of people I have ever met!

Anna



Anna's great Fryerstown find



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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)

Celebrating the life of

Robert Keith Meadows

3.6.1944 – 9.2.2021



Avoca Cemetery
Wednesday, 17th February, 2021

Celebrant: Wayne Kelly

Almoner's report

By Virginia Lake

Geoff Shawcroft – Married his partner Anne Luscombe on 13th March; card sent. The happy couple hoped to go to the Easter camp but Geoff has been in hospital being treated for cellulitis. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Margaret Tricker – was recently in Mulgrave Private Hospital having tests to determine what caused bleeding in bowel/stomach. So far, they have found a small ulcer which has now stopped bleeding. She may also have Aplastic Anaemia. Card sent to Margaret and Lindsay.

Peter Maffey – Has had final Radiotherapy treatment. This treatment has made him very tired which he was told usually happens as treatments progress.

Received thank you messages from Pat Darrah, Peter Maffey, Edna Meadows and Lindsay Tricker.

Eric, Francois, Francine, Bob and I attended memorial for Robert Meadows which was held at Talbot campsite. Moorabbin Club, members from PMAV, friends from Avoca also attended. We were made most welcome and enjoyed the spread provided.



Please contact me on 0407 098 648 or vtoebelmann@hotmail.com if you think a card should be sent to a member regarding a health matter, a significant event such as big birthday, birth, death etc. Please advise if the member would prefer the matter not publicised.

THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INCORPORATED
Registration No. A0001477T ABN No. 81 006 528 329

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL for 2021-22

The Fees are: **Single** Membership \$40

Family Membership. \$65.00

Newsletter Fee (only for hardcopy sent by post) additional \$20.

By renewing your membership, you agree to abide by the "Club Rules" of membership to the VSC. For members who have not renewed their membership by the 1st September 2021 it will be considered that the membership has expired and they will no longer receive the newsletter nor be able to attend camps until membership renewal fees are paid.

To renew your membership please make payment by one of the following three methods:

Complete this form and return with your payment to:

The Treasurer, The VSC Inc., P.O. Box 15, MOUNT WAVERLEY B. C. VIC 3149.

Please print clearly, circle the appropriate membership.

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If paying by Direct Deposit to the club Bank Account, please ensure your name and initials are clearly in the reference section of your bank transfer. Please keep a copy of your pay-in-advice for subsequent confirmation should it be needed.

Please advise the Treasurer of your emergency contact details.

Name of Account: The Victorian Seekers Club Inc.

BSB Number: 633 000. Account Number: 140771171

3. In Person: At a meeting or camp

Please advise the Treasurer of your emergency contact details.

The Treasurer's contact details are: Kevin Hubbard

Phone: 0416 268 010 Email: hkevin728@gmail.com

Mail P O Box 15, MOUNT WAVERLEY BC. VIC 3149.

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

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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



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