

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JULY/
AUGUST

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Vice President's Report
- Dunolly Camp Report
- GPX6000 review

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 42 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Dunolly Camp special guest brings along his 2.4kg find!



Photo by Rob

Vice President's Report

What a crazy world we live in at the moment, especially in this state with all the lockdowns and restrictions placed on us, which makes planning for meetings and outings so difficult when the rules can change overnight. As I write this the new Covid rules will allow us to proceed to our next camp at Talbot (8-13 July) with a max. of 50 members. If we exceed that number we may have to split the camp. We have had to cancel our July general meeting due to the requirement of 4 sq.m. spacings limiting the numbers to less than 30. Members need to be wary of any changes that may suddenly imposed on us that will affect our activities. The committee will try and keep everyone informed of any changes via email.

Because our June Meeting was also cancelled, the last was in May when we had as guest speaker Bob Thorne, who gave us some interesting facts on the statistics of the Colony of Victoria in 1866 covering ship arrivals, populations, and the industries that Melbourne supported. Those days the Yarra was like a sewer with all the wastes from factories, houses, and the many slaughter yards going straight into the river. As a result there were some people who wanted to change the name of our city to Smellbourne. As there was no camps since Easter until that meeting we had no nominations for Find of Month. We still have Ron and Margaret Mansfield (new members) willing to come to our next meeting (hopefully August) and talk about their long career of opal mining in Lightning Ridge.

Last months' camp at Dunolly was very popular with 60 members desperate to get out and enjoy the bush. We were treated by a visit from Neville Perry, who has been working a lease in the area and was featured in the Discovery channel program 'Aussie Gold Hunters', where he was filmed last year digging up a huge 80oz nugget which he brought along to our camp to thrill all those present with its' sheer beauty and weight. Thanks Robert Shannon for arranging the visit, see also Anna's report.

We have just been informed by the Andrew's government that they approved the final VEAC Report on the Central West Investigation, accepting its recommendations entirely except for some minor alterations being; adding approx. 8000ha to Regional Parks in the Wellsford and Daylesford areas in lieu of National Parks, and the allowing strictly regulated deer culling in the

parks when required. The final result will mean that there will be a further 65,000ha of National Parks plus 13,000ha of Conservation and Nature Reserves that we will lose access to for prospecting and dispersed camping along with many other activities like dog walking, horse riding, wood cutting, mining and grazing. These results are very disappointing considering that 66% of respondent's submissions were against the proposals, and all the protest meetings organized by the PMAV and the Bush Users Group fell on deaf ears. It appears that the decision was preconceived before the investigation, based on the pressure of the inner city Green vote, and the heavily green biased VEAC council members who didn't want to listen to any opposition to their doctrine. Be warned, the Green march will continue until the whole state is covered by National Parks. The National Parks Ass. (a large green group of many thousands who the Government listen to) are constantly planning more parks to be made out of State Forests, including many areas in the Golden Triangle especially around Dunolly. It is imperative that we fight for our rights to maintain access to our forests, and that we all belong to the PMAV and BUGU groups that are leading the way to give them the strength in numbers they need to counter the Green movement. We are hoping Tibooburra camp may proceed in August subject to covid, contact me for more information

<https://pmav.org.au/join-pmav> or see PMAV and BUGU on Facebook.



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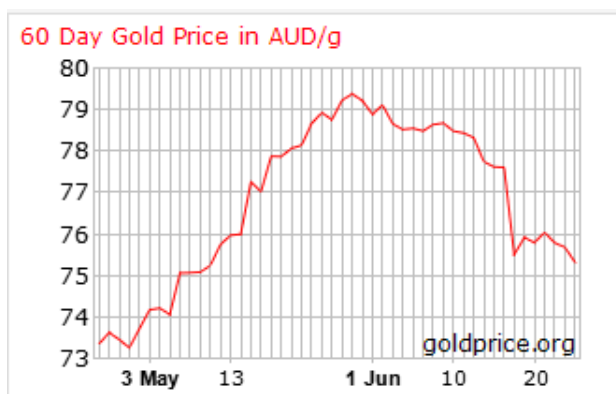
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Each month we invite our members to present their recent finds to be judged in our "Find of the Month" competition, and at our AGM, one of these is selected as Find of the Year. Don't forget to bring along your next find to our General Meeting for 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!

Due to the General Meeting being cancelled, there was no Find of the month. Here are some recent member finds...



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Member only information



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. (SUBJECT TO CURRENT COVID19 RESTRICTIONS)

Almoner's report

By Virginia Lake



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.



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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"

Dunolly Camp Report

I love the packing part; getting out the sheets that are only for my getaways in my camper, choosing food for one and baking treats to share. I wander in and out of Neil, checking that I've got the right cables, that the water is full, and the cupboards are stocked. Last of all I pack my detector, Snitch, dreaming of the gold it will find me. I've made Snitch a snazzy pink cover and he looks glorious.

All set, I sigh with happiness as I drive sedately through the hills, up the motorway and along winding, twisty, country lanes until at last as I bounce down the bumpy Cockatoo Track, I spy the first of the early campers who have arrived at the Dunolly site.

Neil is the complete package so requires no setting up. I have the kettle on in a trice and am soon chatting to other early birders who have managed to get away a day or two before the official camp starts. Colin, the gold magnet, is already there and shows me the slivers of gold that he has collected so far. I am enthused and don my gear, eschewing tea, ignoring the fire and I wander off into the woods. Needless to say, I once again come up empty handed but having done my bit of ordnance clearing feel I can justifiably move on straight past teatime to gin o'clock.

It was great to be able to have a proper fire again and the forest was clearly home to an inordinate number of helpful Brownies who endlessly replenished the woodpile abetted by a few humans with chainsaws and trucks. I feel rather guilty that I dragged over only one small log and think that there was perhaps, once again, too much done by some and too little by others. Being in the latter camp I wonder if next time we could have a rota for daily firewood collection..... As it was the fire drew everyone to it each evening and tales were shared of what might have been. I forsook my motorbike this camp and cadged lifts here and there. The generosi-

ty of this group is overwhelming with the more experienced happy to share tips and suggestions with the newbies. I spent one day with Lars, Pieter and Peter and soaked up all they had to say along with the rain which tried, unsuccessfully, to dampen my enthusiasm.



The following day I tried out my newfound knowledge, resisting the urge to move swiftly and was rewarded by the faintest of sounds from Snitch. I dug and scraped and dug. I fetched a spade and dug some more until at last, sixty centimetres down I was rewarded with an axe head. I was enchanted. Obviously, it would have been even more exciting had it been gold but still, an axe!

I took it back to camp with pride.

The State forest is endless. Interspersed here and there with towns and hamlets, the area available for detecting is vast. Everywhere seemed to be covered with diggings and shafts, some so deep that I was too scared to peer into them, dropping instead a stone which seemed to fall for miles before at last a dull echoey thump sounded a depth I could only marvel at. I had to have a sit down with a cup of tea and a pie having only dug sixty centimetres, how did they dig these bottomless shafts so long ago? I am constantly in awe of the old timers' determination and resilience.

Some modern gold mining still has an element of the Wild West about it although the foes now seem to be the weather and petty bureaucracy. All the club members are aficionados of the program Aussie Gold

Dunolly Camp Report cont.

Hunters and a big highlight of the week-end was a visit from Neville Perry who brought with him his massive 2.4-kilogram gold nugget and tales of his struggles against 'the man'.



Everyone took the ubiquitous selfie and muttered a silent, 'if only' as it was passed from hand to hand. He was helpful and interesting, and we hung on his every word hoping that some of his luck might transfer itself magically to us. Perhaps we should have rubbed his head like a lucky leprechaun. At the very least I'm going to buy me a set of his snazzy dungarees....



In continued groupie state, the next day I detected with a posse which included Kevin, our esteemed treasurer, who took us close to the Poseidon mine which I was amazed to see lay in a flat unassuming field surrounded

by sheep; gold it seems lies everywhere, especially if armed with a Big Yellow detector!

I spoke to lots of new people and was most envious of Imi whose life is one of constant travel and detecting all over Australia. He told me of his finds, but I was too reticent to ask to see his nuggets; there's just not a way to say it without it sounding wrong. However, my jealousy was slightly tempered by the plans I made with a few others to travel next month to the camp at Tiboburra.

With our esteemed chairman away nugget hunting in the West the camp was ably managed in his absence by Eric who ensured that once again we had a camp filled with fun, laughter and dubious raffle prizes.

The area around Dunolly is peppered with small towns and most of the campers shopped or ate in many of them. I certainly did my bit for the local economy by my pie consumption alone. Fifty-eight people attended the camp by the time I reluctantly left on Monday, envious of the people staying for longer than I could sneak away from work for. More friends were made and despite the general dearth of gold everyone agreed that it had been another marvellous camp.

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Trek to the west

There are a few Seekers making their way to WA this year and this is our story. We have made two attempts to visit WA in the past 12 months but both have failed due to Covid. All spreadsheets were thrown to the wind when we decided to get to WA as soon as possible. On our way we chose to freecamp and first stop was not far from the SA border, Werrimull, opposite the pub and next to silos. We had the best sleep, it was so quiet. There is also a very clean single toilet and cold shower.

Next night we made it to the Kimba reserve. It was busy here but there are plenty of spots and the facilities are excellent. Wiki give it 5 stars. We travelled about 650kms a day but didn't feel it was too much, plenty of stops to take a walk. Our next night was on the spreadsheet! We planned to stay at Coorabie farm as we had read up on the internet that it was an interesting working sheep farm with great facilities for visitors. The road in was a little corrugated but manageable. We enjoyed meeting up with other guests in the camp kitchen and meeting the owners.

Our next day took us to Eucla and crossing the WA border with our G2G in hand. Just a side note: get your petrol before you cross! Anja kindly helped us with our next stop and suggested Newman Rock. It was about 5pm so we were happy to drive into a huge area, with enough distance from the highway. No facilities but a lovely spot to see a great sunset and sunrise.

Norseman was next and then we quickly moved on to Esperance where we stayed at the Bushland Caravan park, a few kms out of town, as there were no vacancies elsewhere (RAC parked closed for reno) The overspill was in use at the Reserve. While there we met a fellow Coromal owner (same model as ours). Poor Brian and his wife had been stuck in Bushland for 3 weeks with no car after being towed from Eucla to Esperance. Innocently purchasing diesel fuel at Eucla when 20kms out, their car broke down. They were victim to incorrect fuel in

the bowzers at Eucla along with about 20 other people. Unfortunately for them APIA are not being co-operative, and Caltex are hiding behind lawyers. We felt for them because it could easily have been us if not for timing. We came bearing gifts for them on our last morning wishing them luck.

Esperance is a picture postcard wherever you look and reminded us of Queensland. We managed to do a few long walks from Dempster Lookout. We were excited to secure the last spot for 2 nights in Lucky Bay. What an outstanding park. The spots are large and the facilities second to none. We were impressed. Kangaroos are known to bask on the beach sand. WA claim it to be the best beach in Australia and apart from the seasonal kelp washed up on part of the beach on our visit, we would have to agree. We particularly liked hellfire bay.



We made our way to Albany for a 3-night stay. Plenty to see here with Whaling Station, Brig Amity ship, frenchmans's Bay the treetop walk in Walpole, Elephant rocks, natural bridge and much more.

Some 4 hours away we stayed at Olive Hill Farm. We camped among with olive trees and it was very private. Lots to see and do in Margaret River.

We continued our journey to Busselton and stayed 2 nights at a homestay just 3kms from town. Such a lovely seaside town and they have taken full advantage of their location.

Trek to the west cont.

Our next stop was Wave Rock, Hyden for 3 nights. We chose to stay at the only caravan park in the area and spoiled ourselves with an en-suite. We backed the van into a large space, much better than the circle and tight spots other vans had to contend with. It's a short walk to Wave Rock and we did some amazing walks including climbing to the top. Magic lake wasn't full to capacity and the salt pool at the resort looked less than inviting. Next day we drove to some other sites in the area, The Humps and Mulkas cave. We embarked on the walk over the humps and glad we did. At the top you got a 360-degree view of the whole area. There was also a nature walk which was very educational in respect of the Aboriginal culture ie: how food was gathered, different vegetation and the use thereof. These facts were sign posted throughout the walk.

Continuing, we took off for Kalgoorlie and unknown to us, the route we chose was mostly dirt roads, with roadworks.

One point saw us following a grader over fresh dirt for about 6kms only to encounter several wide loads which had us shuddering. Thank heavens we invested in a CB radio which enabled us to listen to instructions. With the kind efforts of the pilots, we managed to overtake in a safe manner and were soon on our way.

We booked into the Prospectors Caravan Park which had been recommended to us by fellow Seekers. We once again took advantage of the near new en-suite sites which offered very spacious parking areas. We visited the Gold Museum and Hannan's Tourist Mine. We indulged and had a few meals in town. Paddy's at the Exchange, Monty's in Hannan Street and our favourite, the balcony of the Palace Hotel. We loved the rich history of Kalgoorlie and the wonderful buildings that line Hannan Street. We had lovely crisp sunny days and a full day of rain while we visited. We were lucky to have the company of fellow seekers, Murray and Robyn for a few nights and they were kind enough to teach us a thing or two. We

all made our way to Niagara Dam to spend a couple of nights free camping. It was a great spot. Unfortunately, the Kookynie pub was shut when we visited but we didn't miss the horse at the front door. Murray and Robyn took us under their wings and showed us around and gave us some good tips to take with us on our gold tour.

We had booked into Leonora Caravan Park and while there, visited Gwalia Museum and had Devonshire tea at the house once owned by Herbert Hoover.

On the first day of our Gold Tour with Mark Hyde, about 7 caravans and one camper trailer set off up the dusty road. We finally arrived at our destination which was fairly remote and probably the toughest on our caravan. There were 11 detectorists in total. We were taken to many spots, sometimes 3 different ones in a day depending on the gold found over the next 10 days. We had a great time and the diversity of the landscape, and the differing vegetation was amazing.

The total gold found for the trip was 236 pieces and 90 grams in weight. The least found was a gram or so and the most 21 grams individually. One lucky lady found a patch behind her caravan which produced 50 pieces and counting, had she continued. We

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Trek to the west cont.

personally found 17 pieces for 5.3 grams but only found gold 5 out of 10 days. We loved the tour. We had no rain and survived the 10 nights without any drama...toilet lasted and no need for our backup generator either.

We made our way out of the remote area west of Leonora, in a convoy and headed straight for the caravan park.

The washing machines got a workout, and it was wonderful to have a decent, long shower and hair wash.

We had a farewell dinner with the tour group however all but 4 of us were doing all 6 tours.

Due to The Goldfields Cyclassic our stay at the park was cut short...they were booked out. We were expecting Imi to arrive after spending his "quarantine" in South Australia, so we decided to take our van to the free RV parking area outside the Gwalia Museum where we found Stefan and Maike. You must register at the Museum entrance where you will be given a document to display on your car dash. There is a 72-hour limit and vans must be self-sufficient and have at least a 20L container for grey water. There was some leniency as the Caravan Park was full.

Imi arrived in the afternoon, and it was decided that we would hang around for a couple of days. Sadly, a visit to the Mines department indicated that pending areas in the Leonora district were scarce and the ones available were extremely difficult to locate. Shirley and Laurie arrived in Gwalia and for a time "the Seekers" had taken over! We attempted to locate another pending area but after much frustration we returned to camp. Coffee and cake were enjoyed at the café in the IGA as a farewell to us as we had decided to head home the next day.

We set off on our long journey the next morning, lunching in Kalgoorlie on our way through and overnighting at a roadside stop passed Balladonia. The following day we overnighed at the Best of Bight however due to a swirly wind, we decided to move on at midnight, in our pj's!! What a laugh, we will

remember that for a long time.

Travelling steadily we decided to stay in Ceduna which we had passed through on our way over. Staying at the Fore-shore Caravan Park, we had a lovely walk on the pier and enjoyed a seafood meal at the local pub.



We stayed at the Sports ground in Port Augusta for \$7 and once settled, had time to have a drive around.

Another 5 and a bit hours the next day, we arrived at the Werrimull Hotel and once again we were there on a Sunday! Early closure and no meals but a lovely quiet night for a good sleep. We decided to overnight at Anja and Al's in Axedale as they played a big part in our trip planning, and we were keen to catch up with them.

Now all that is left is looking forward to an even better trip next year!!



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What to know about the GPX6000 and pushing the 5000 hard.

This article was written by NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc. and published in their newsletter, we thank them for allowing us to share this great write up with Vic Seekers members.

Ok the GPX 6000 is out. So, what does it do? In simple terms the "GeoSense PI" allows the detector to be optimally tuned for any ground conditions all the time. Sounds simple but it is extraordinarily complex and an incredible piece of technology. So, what does that mean?

Let us compare it to the GPX5000 where you have to play around and test for the best timing to use at a given location. Most prospectors start in the goldfields with Fine and move up to Enhance if noisy, and to Smooth if it gets really hot. How many prospectors "know" their settings for a spot and just use the same ones when they go back there?

How many prospectors regularly test their 5000 on a tiny bit to test settings, and importantly check if they can come back to a less aggressive timing which gives better depth and sensitivity while being comfortable with ground and other noise?

Doing this procedure of testing and adjusting saw one example of being able to come back to Normal mode, and a lot of ridiculously small gold was found near surface that could not be detected in Fine. Sometimes areas are noisier than normal, but on the rare occasion they can be very quiet. You need to check.

On that note how many prospectors have taken advantage of a small or faint signal, and rather than dig it up, play around with the timings and settings to see if they can get a better signal and thus a better combination of timings and settings for the area?

Who has used Deep audio filter on the 5000 and pushed up the Gain and brought down the Stabiliser to see what works best on test targets to get started in an area? This process can result in high gains, low stabiliser and a pretty quiet 5000 that gives exceptional results. This always worked well on very large coils such as 25" mono's, and now even better with all sizes of the new generation of flat wound coils produced by Coiltek and Nugget Finder.

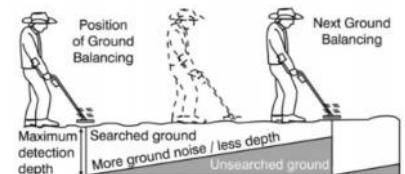
See to the right:



The 0.12g was found at 10cm depth with a small elliptical flat wound coil and the 0.03g under "golf ball" sized rocks on the surface, both with the GPX5000 and both in ridiculously hot patches that have been flogged.

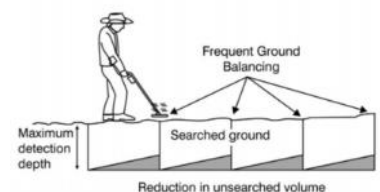
Using a larger elliptical flat wound on the 5000 found a 0.51g piece easily at 15cm down in the middle of one of the hottest patches in Vic. Using the new generation of flat wound coils with these settings gives extraordinary results and is the best way to use your 5000 and to pay for your new GPX6000.

For all detectors getting optimal operation is simply mastering the unit, and keeping it operating at its best. We all remember this old diagram at right showing the loss of depth between ground balancing.



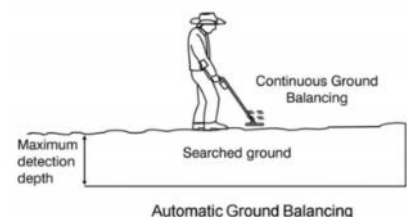
Makes sense, over time you lose performance.

Simple, you get better results with more regular ground balancing shown at right.



Now it is not just the depth that is improved with more frequent ground balancing, it reduces noise allowing higher sensitivity and smaller targets to be found deeper.

If you have fully automatic ground balancing, then it gets better again, shown to the right.



Well, the GeoSense PI on the GPX 6000 does a similar thing, but it does it with both the timings and the settings to give the optimal combination in the ground you are in, fully automatically all the time. Even if you practice the procedures discussed above with your 5000, and even you are particularly good at it, you will not be anywhere near the new GPX6000 which does it constantly, and at electronics speed. Added to this there is several other advantages with the new 6000. Its lighter at 2.1kg, including the battery, a huge bonus. The 5000 is 2.4kg plus the battery at 0.8kg (a total of 3.2kg), and the GPZ 7000 at 3.32 kg including the battery. Having the battery on the unit gives the 6000 a better balance than the

GPX6000 *cont.*

5000, and with the lighter coils that are hollow inside and not filled with space filler. It takes less force to swing and reduces fatigue. This helps keep the coil where you want it, not wandering around after many hours of use. I used it all day with 11" coil and no need for a bungy cord.



GPX6000 versus earlier GPX.

No pesky power/audio cables, no backpack! This makes a big difference when digging, especially for deeper holes. Set up and pack up is quick. The 6000 sits better on the ground. In the time I have used it, not once has it tipped over on me. It is so light, that when digging and on your knees, you can reach over grab the 6000 a third of the way up from the coil and easily wave it over the hole.

Okay let us get serious. GeoSense PI, how does work? Good question. Looking from a physics point of view: the way previous technologies work, the various timings and what they do, when the signal is read (see the tech report graphs), zero voltage technology etc there is a hell of a lot of smart technology to receive, analyse, process and filter incoming signals. Some of which are real targets, some ground noise, some EMI.

As a scientist and first seeing the patent some 2 years ago, it was obvious that Minelab had made a very significant breakthrough. It looked as though we could get true automatic operation by understanding in real time what the ground was doing. No need to tuning frequencies, no setting timings or settings. Just go. True automation. Well its pretty close.

Most Minelab tech reports tell how these technologies work from a theoretical point of view. In practice this requires ground-breaking physics and engineering and is a closely guarded secret. The development of these technologies is world first on many occasions.

Hence why the term "wizards" should be used when referring to the people at Minelab. As a past President of APLA, the coveted APLA Pro-

spector of the Year award was given to Bruce Candy for the breakthrough in technology that enabled the first PI detector to operate in the goldfields, the SD 2000. By the time Bruce was awarded his breakthrough was responsible for a Billion-dollar gold boom!

The GeoSense PI on the 6000 accurately measures the ground conditions all the time.

It reduces the unknowns and allows the detector to operate as best as possible with greater accuracy to sort out real target's vs noise. The more stable platform gives the signal processing side the ability to drive the technologies much harder without getting false outputs or creating unwanted problems. That gives even better performance.

Think of it like this. You are driving down a road and a passenger is filling a cup with a drink. The road is smooth but very narrow, and you hit the rough edge when giving clearance to oncoming traffic. If the cup is filled beyond a point, it will spill when hitting the bumps on the edge. If the driver had better situational awareness that allowed the passing of oncoming cars to be much, much closer, then the rough edge would never be hit. The cup could be filled almost to the top without spilling, and you will get more out of it.

In reality there is a lot more to it, especially in signal processing, but the improvement in the technology may also allow more aggressive signal transmission, or types of transmission, that previously would have caused more interference or unknowns with the receive signals.

With the GeoSense PI constantly checking and updating the system for optimal operation, the GPX6000 gets better depth on targets, and best of all it gets it across all target sizes too. It works so well that the highest sensitivity settings are factory set to have a zero threshold, so dead quiet on ground noise chatter. I had a few noises using this as EMI was rising, but interestingly on faint targets I switched back to lower sensitivity with a threshold tone, and some I would have missed with threshold chatter.

Okay the ElectroMagnetic Interference (EMI). It is a strange beast and operates over a very large spectrum, or range. On the surface of the earth detectorists face everything from TV, radio, various communications, and other strange signals that all can be anywhere from local to from over the horizon and bouncing off the ionosphere.

GPX6000 cont.

That's the man made. Next is space. The sun in particular (and why detecting at night is quieter) and other signals coming in from space also cause random noise.

The 6000 is simply the best at removing its effects from your detecting.

The EMI cancelling process takes only a few seconds and gets it right first time. In fact, it is so fast there is one catch.

Initially when you start the 6000 you should be holding the coil above, and parallel to the ground, and keeping still before you switch it on. This allows the EMI cancelling process to operate correctly, and because it works so fast you need to have the detector in this position before you switch on.

I found that often I would not be doing this correctly when getting set up, so I recommend always redoing this procedure once you are ready to start swinging, it takes a few seconds.

The GPX6000 is excellent at dealing with EMI.

On multiple occasions I stopped and held the coil above and parallel to the ground and could hear some EMI. Not enough to be a big problem, I could easily keep going, but obviously it effects performance to some extent. When it was apparent, I switched to lower sensitivity and threshold on, and swung the coil and yes, EMI was there. On the push of the button, it was gone. But on older models we would soldier on.

On one occasion for an hour or so I did the EMI check every 3 to 5 minutes to rectify it, and I did find very small targets at exceptional depth. Then the EMI went away and checking regularly in the next hour saw no changes.

Oh yes, we have silent threshold on the higher sensitivity settings. Dead quiet. The GPX6000 matches the performance of the SDC2300 with small gold finds and exceeds the SDC on depth with much of the range of target sizes. An old flogged patch was visited, and results are there, all deep targets.

15 bits of shot, 5 bullets, a .22 short casing & 19 bits of gold (a 47% strike rate)



From what I have seen so far, the GPX6000 is

better than the GPZ7000 on all small to medium targets, and limited testing showed the GPX6000 to match or better the GPZ7000 on targets to 40cm depth.

Interestingly using the 14" DD on the GPX6000 showed it detecting all targets to 40cm depth compared to the 7000, but the signal was not as sharp being a DD. Bigger deeper targets saw the GPZ7000 give better signal response, however once the 17" coil comes out for the GPX6000 then I think it will exceed the GPZ7000 on almost all occasions.

The 6000 is not just an automatic version of the 5000, it also has many advantages over the whole range of Minelab Gold Detectors in my view. The simple operation and easy focus on sensitivity is extremely easy to learn. I'll put it out there that by the end of 2021 when a lot of feedback has come in, the GPX6000 will be the detector that finds most of the gold out of any individual detector. Once the 17" coil, and possibly larger come out it will be the number one detector across the board.

Stop press: Going over a site with the 14" DD on the 6000 that may have been the location of a mining warden in the goldrush days. The stumps and building floor were erected and canvas walls. A lot of coins and relics have been found to the extent you can't find junk there anymore. I got a reasonable signal, not loud but you wouldn't miss it. Well, a big dig, over 50cm down (measured) and a bit deeper comes out a very worn 1797 cartwheel penny! GPX 6000 strikes again!





Doug Stone Gold Maps

Australia's
leading books
on gold
prospecting
and goldfields
maps

Doug's latest book has just been released - "Coin & Relic Detecting in Australia" which is the companion to Doug's popular "Metal Detecting for Gold in Australia".

www.dougstonegoldmaps.com.au

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

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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/>



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.

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