

The Victorian
Seekers Club

SEPTEMBER
/OCTOBER

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- PMAV Update

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 42 ISSUE 5

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Check out
Anja's WA find!



A few funny's



President's Report

By Paul Hart



Hi All, As you maybe aware my wife Tracey and I have just returned from a wonderful 3 month trip around the western half of Australia. While I was away Eric was acting President and he was ably assisted by secretary Michael - a big thanks to both of them for helping out.

On my return we squeezed in a committee meeting in early August but Covid continues play havoc with our activities and the August meeting and camp had to be cancelled. I hope I am wrong but I fear that the delta variant of covid will continue to result in lockdowns and an "on again off again" situation until a large proportion of the population is vaccinated.

Unfortunately it is likely that for September numbers at outdoor gathering will be restricted again so an official camp is unlikely. Myself and the club secretary Michael will do our best to keep members updated but sometimes our notifications may come just prior to an activity so keep an eye on the media and on your emails. Please see more on this below.

AGM

Before I share a little about my Holiday I remind all that September is normally when we hold our AGM. We have a great committee at the moment and most have indicated that they are continuing in their roles. However we have vacancies for a Membership Secretary and Field Officers. Please see elsewhere in the Newsletter for AGM information and nomination details.

Hart Holiday

Very fortunately our holiday was not marred by any covid restrictions with the exception of the last leg of the journey when we needed to get out of SA before it became a red zone. In one day I drove 13 hours from Ceduna to the border but it was worth it to avoid having to isolate at home for 14 days and have multiple tests.

Tracey and I did a lot of fun tourist stuff on the trip and I have been asked to give a presentation at one of our general meetings. However for this report I thought I would give members a brief summary of the metal detecting I did on the journey.

The road trip started in SA and then went up through the middle via the Flinders Ranges, Cober Pedy, Uluru and Alice Springs etc. At Tenant Creek they have a small common area about 50 Km from town. After an hour or two of detecting I decided I would go back to the entrance and picked up a 5.7 g nugget beside the road. It was about 20 cm down but I still picked it up with the GPX

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President's Report cont.

5000 and Sadie coil.

After this we went to Mataranka Springs and Katherine before heading to Lake Argyle and Kununarra and the Bungle Bungles. I took my boat out on Lake Argyle and got a large silver cobbler which was very nice eating.

The next stop was Halls Creek and we stayed at "Old Halls Creek" for 2 nights. It was good value at \$10 / night and you are right on the gold. Due to the heat, spinifex and other weeds it was not easy detecting and I only picked up a 0.9 gram nugget here. However I spoke to 3 guys who got 3.5 oz in 3 weeks.

Following this we spent about 6 days in Broome before heading to Marble Bar for a couple of nights. I only got a small piece on the common but had a very interesting experience which I will share at my presentation.

In the coastal holiday areas I did use the Equinox 800 and picked up a bunch of coins, a couple of rings and a lot of lead – mainly sinkers but a few bullets also. My most interesting find was a heavily encrusted belt buckle which most likely would have been awarded to a Rodeo rider.

After Karijini national park we went to Exmouth, Denham and Kalbari for about 2 weeks. The coral coast was really nice except it was too windy so I only got out in the boat a couple of times. At the start of July we headed to Carnarvon and then stopped for two nights at a very nice Caravan Park at Yalgoo. I went to the local common area twice but no luck.

The final gold detecting for the trip was done at Leonora where I caught up with Laurie, Shirley and Imi. Laurie and I did

the Gold Talk Leonora 3 day course which was quite good in my opinion. It also gave us access to some fairly large lease areas which we could detect on for up to a month on each lease. Laurie and I got some smaller bits and I was lucky to pick up a 4.4 g nugget at about 25 cm on my third last day. It was at the end of someone else's patch but it was quite close to a piece of timber so was probably missed.

A big thanks to Shirley who kept Tracey company in Leonora and made it possible for me to detect for a little longer than I thought I would.

Now back to some important club matters.

Camps Coming Up.

Spring and early summer are very popular camps and if covid doesn't get in the way they will be lots of fun.

Sep – we are looking to have a Fathers Day Breakfast on the Sunday with a prize for a lucky Dad.

Oct – this camp coincides with the Laene-coorie Gold Bash and unfortunately I see that it has just been cancelled.

Nov – this is traditionally our Melbourne Cup weekend and we have a big sweep stake as well as a meal.

However please take note - By now most members would be aware of the different announcements which might be made at the end of this lockdown and we need to stay flexible. For September we will either still be locked down or public gathering will be restricted to 10 again in which case no official seekers camp will take place. Following recent incidents in the press with a large indoor party in Melbourne, members need to be very careful regarding the size of any gatherings to

President's Report cont..

avoid large individual fines and potentially giving the VSC a bad name.

If in Oct and Nov outdoor gathering are restricted to 30 or more an official camp is likely but depending on the exact number allowed and the weather outlook we might have an alternate site.

As soon as official announcements are made an email will be sent to all members to advise them of any changes. Bear in mind official announcements are often only made the day before the lockdown ends so please be patient as you may not see an announcement until just before a meeting or outing.

Club Focus 2021-22

This year the committee will have a couple of areas of focus :-

Continuing to operate safely in the covid era.

Continue to review our membership position in light of high prospective membership demand and number limits at some camp locations


Spreading the workload and making it

easier for everyone to help out (particularly at camps).

Examine the club funds and look at where we can "give back" for the benefit of members and the benefit of our hobby.

In my opinion we have a fantastic committee at the moment and if you want to be part of it please make contact with us. Otherwise we all know that "many hands make light work" and I hope you can all make a particular effort to help the committee – particularly at our camps with firewood, newby training, raffles and functions etc.

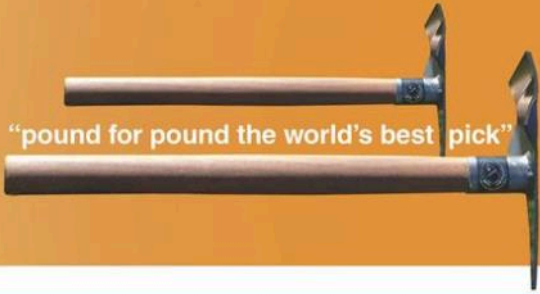
Finally I have recently sold my GPX 5000 and plan on buying a 6000 so I am looking forward to seeing how it performs in the coming months. I look forward to seeing you soon hopefully with some gold in our bottles.



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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:

vicsseekersclub@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"

Growing Partnerships

Here is an article by PMAV Vice president Jason Cornish taken from their last Eureka Echo detailing their meeting with the resources minister Jaclyn Symes at Heathcote to launch the new video and brochure, 'A guide to Recreational Prospecting in Victoria. Our Anja McKnight features on the front cover.

For two years now the PMAV committee has been talking to the Victorian government about continued access to land, the proposed creation of more national parks and protecting our industry.

The PMAV wants to foster a working partnership with government departments and we have been meeting with Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Agriculture, Regional Development and Resources and also the Department of Resources.

PMAV President, Mathew Carkeek has been at the forefront of this new partnership and has spent a lot of time and energy on building relationships with officials. One of the small but valuable items was the creation of a new informative guide - 'A guide to Recreational Prospecting in Victoria'.



With PMAV guidance, the department has been helpful in changing the layout and terminology, including minimising the term "fossicker" and references to "fossicking" which does not have any legal protection under

the Mines Act. It also diminishes what prospectors do.

In November 2020, the Department of Resources asked us to organise a photo shoot at the Heathcote creek reserve, several PMAV members and their families were good enough to attend.

Thank you to all those who helped on the day. Here are some of the great photos.

The photos and video were then used to create marketing material for the new guide as well as a short promotional video which the PMAV was given access to before being made public. Our feedback was welcomed and several phrases edited and changed.

(The video does have one error in the coil setup, but we left it in for the pros to chuckle at). Here is a link to the brochure and video here <https://earthresources.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/new-prospecting-guide-could-be-worth-its-weight-in-gold>



In March 2021, at the same location in =cal launch of the guide was again partnership with the PMAV.

As a relaxed, fun day for all those who attended and Bret Shannon (best known from the TV show Gold Hunters) had the Resource Minister enthralled with tales digging up monster nuggets from his lease at Tarnagulla. Brent had brought over \$400,000 in gold nuggets along and the crowd had a once in a lifetime experience of holding these golden beauties.

The PMAV also presented the Minister with small gifts for her children and offered her family the chance to come prospecting again.



Minister Jaclyn Symes is with PMAV president Matt Carkeek, vice pres Jason Cornish, BUGU president Bill Schulz, Brent Shannon and other PMAV identities.

We appreciate the validity and economic importance the Minister and her department have for prospecting in Victoria. Our working relationship is of high importance to the PMAV and should be for all prospectors, but we are also wary of how quickly things can change under a leader's or political parties directive.

Who can forget the 2015, when she stood shoulder to shoulder with Rita Bentley (VALE) and promised the PMAV support for land access?

Years later this same minister is now the Environment Minister and helped close over 14,000Ha of once accessible public land in Bendigo to prospectors and now at the forefront of a new drive to lock-up another 77,000 hectares of goldfields on public land in Central Victoria.

Minister D'Ambrosio has for the last four years ignored all requests for a meeting with the PMAV, but that is not unexpected considering the amount of scrutiny we have brought to her decisions against rural communities and bush users.

That said, we are optimistic that the current Resources Minister and especially the department, can see the health, social and economic value that prospecting brings to our golden state.

Jason Cornish, Vice President.

with thanks - JASON EDWARDS Photographer

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold price as at 26/08/2021



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Member only information



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.

Single Membership \$40.00

Family Membership \$65.00

Newsletter Fee \$20

First Name(s)

Surname(s)

Address

Suburb/Town Post Code State

Phone No

Mobile No

Email(required if not receiving newsletter by post.)

Emergency Contact Details:

Name: Phone No:

Mobile No

Direct Deposit:

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.

VSC – Annual General Meeting

Hi All,

As most will know our AGM is traditionally held in September each year. Last year due to covid we held the AGM via email with all members being sent the Agenda, Presidents Report, Treasurers Report and a Nomination form. This email was then followed up with the outcomes of the meeting. An AGM via email is a distinct possibility again this year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to call on those who would like to give a little back to the club by helping out the committee. At our last committee meeting most committee members including myself put our hands up for another 12 months for the key positions. This does not stop members from nominating for any position or indicating that they might be able to help out in some capacity so please feel free to contact myself or another committee member to discuss your situation.

However we do need a membership secretary even though the role has slowed down somewhat because memberships have been on hold for some time due to covid. The membership secretary role has developed nicely under Pam's leadership and we have all the necessary procedures and documents in place to look after prospective / new members. The role does however require someone who knows the club fairly well and who can regularly attend meetings and camps.

We also need a couple more field officers whose primary role is to help at camps with firewood, functions, newby training etc. Prospective field officers should also know that is one my aims to set up a system where we can more easily utilize the services of other regular camp attendees (not just committee members).

We have a great committee at the moment and it is a good feeling to be able to contribute to the success of the club by volunteering your services. I also know that not everyone wants to attend lots of meetings

and do public speaking etc. However I can assure you that if you are willing we can find something you are comfortable with – it might be as simple as helping out a committee member. So feel free to contact myself or Eric or another committee member if you would like to discuss your situation.



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THE VICTORIAN SEEKERS CLUB INCORPORATED

Registration No. A0001477T ABN No. 81 006 528 329

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICE BEARER
FOR THE YEAR 2021-2022

I,

Nominate:

For the following position:-

.....

Seconded by:

Accepted by:
(Nominee)

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prior to the AGM



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VACANT POSITIONS:

President:

Catering Officer:

Vice President :

Almoner:

Secretary:

Librarian:

Treasurer:

Field Officer:

Membership Secretary:

Newsletter Editor:

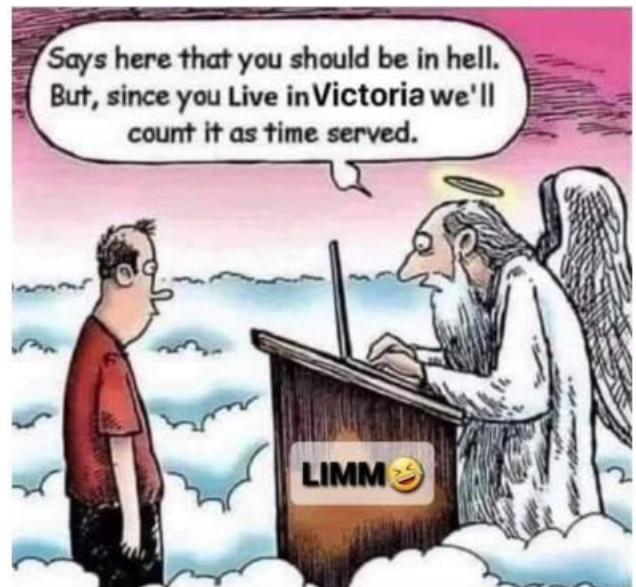
Social Secretary:

Clothing Officer:

Redcastle Camp

A few lucky Members managed to get a few days in at Redcastle, arriving 4hrs before lockdown 6, and along with Andrew and Mal decided to stay for the duration, which was a wise decision, even getting the thumbs up from the passing forest ranger. Gold for me was fortunate, managing 9 bits for 4.4gm. The other photos are of a puddler, an ants nest front door and a grass tree.

Regards Eric



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Rare Old Photos



Enjoying a meal in the car while getting cooled air piped in the car. This is a drive-in restaurant, in Texas, 1957.



Imperial Airlines airplane, 1936. It doesn't look very safe, right?



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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



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.

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