The Victorian Seekers Club

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2021

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
- Covid Update
- Upcoming Camps

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 42 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Congratulations to Frank M for his 480g Find of the year



A few other great finds this year







Find by Lars



Find by Alistair

Find by Geoff

President's Report

By Paul Hart



Hi All,

By the time you read this, Seeker's members based in Melbourne will have just been released from "lockdown" and we are looking forward to catching up at the various activities happening in Nov/Dec.

In late October I did send an email to all members giving a "heads up" on the club activities and the club covid vaccination policy. However, this email did not contain a lot of detail so please have a good look at the Newsletter for the full story. This newsletter also has further news on club vaccination policy, activities for Nov and Dec and outcomes from the AGM and recent committee meetings.

Before I get to these important issues, I have to let you know that in early October I collected the mail and there were two fee payment envelopes which I put into another envelope and mailed them to the Treasurer. Somehow, they appear to have gone missing so if you sent in fees in Sep / Oct and have a cheque that has not been presented could you please contact Kevin H or myself and discuss.

Club Vaccination Policy

At the time of writing, it was the Victorian governments intention that travel restrictions to regional Victoria were to be lifted for Melbournians at 6 pm on the 29 October. when we reached 80 % + double vaccinations. It is clear that it in the short term there is going

to a lot of focus on the benefits for those in the public who can prove they are double vaccinated. Equally there are real downsides and risks for individuals and organizations who don't pursue a double vaccination policy.

As you are all aware the club has an older and potentially more covid susceptible age group. We have had members who have voiced real concern about mixing with members, visitors or guests who are not double vaccinated. We also learnt this week that both Monash Halls (meeting room) and the Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve are requiring that all attendees be double vaccinated and need to prove it via an official vaccination certificate.

The full covid vaccination policy is elsewhere in this newsletter but in summary the committee has agreed that to participate in club activities members, visitors or guests need to be double vaccinated and to provide proof via an official vaccination certificate. The committee believes that this policy and associated procedures is also best for the members



President's Report cont.

as it provides a level of legal protection should something untoward happen.

The committee is also of the opinion that it is possible for restrictions to ease as the vaccination rate increases and we will move with the times.

Club Activities in Nov & Dec

The committee is planning the following activities for Nov / Dec. If anything changes, we will get back to you via email ASAP.

General Meetings. It is expected that the 1st Dec 21 will be our first General Meeting. Members will be advised by email if it is cancelled.

Christmas Party. Will be held on Sunday 12 Dec. It will be at the Wicks Reserve site.

Camps. Following some discussion, we will not have an official camp in November but we can advise members that the Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve is open from 30 Oct and some members will be attending from then, with more members arriving around the 6 th to about mid-month. Please be aware it is only open for the double vaccinated (proof required) and you will need to sign in via a QR code. Apparently, the toilets are operational but the showers are not and the \$5 / night fee still applies.

Others are going to Choken Flat about 12 Nov (ring Eric G)

The annual Boxing Day / New Year camp will also be at the Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve (when the showers may be operational).

Have a look in the Newsletter for "ads" for some of our fun events e.g. the Christmas Party at Wicks where we have lots of give a way's, big raffle prizes, token hunt, stake your claim etc. At Tarnagulla we will have a New Year celebration with games and other activities. For a bit of fun on new year's eve everyone is asked to bring a face mask and yes it can be a funny or interesting covid mask if you like.

Annual General Meeting.

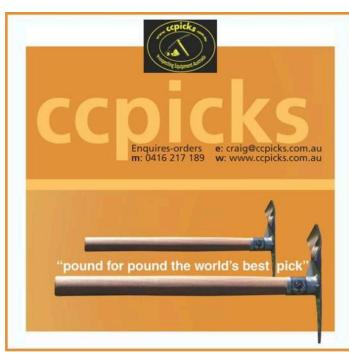
We did the AGM via email again this year and judging on the member feedback it was again judged as successful. Thanks go to the two members Sam S (Library) and Steve H (Field Officer), who nominated for committee positions.

At our last two committee meetings it was moved and approved that the committee would be consist of an executive or leadership group composed of 8 to 10 committee members. The Leadership group would include the President & Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Newsletter Editor, the Membership Secretary, the Social Secretary, a Field Officer representative and two other positions (currently Clothing and one to be decided).

The executive are made up of key positions and experienced members (several ex-Presidents) who contribute their time and effort to the club on a regular basis. This group will be able to collectively discuss and make decisions at committee meetings etc.

President's Report cont...





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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		
		Louise McGough	
Library Officer:	Managing library at General Meetings	Sam Shvemer	
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 d uties	Bob Lake	
		Steve Hillman	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Alistair M	



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

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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"

Differences between White Gold & platinum.

White gold versus platinum: which is better?

Most rings or wedding bands are made from one of three metals: platinum, white gold or yellow gold. For diamond engagement rings or wedding rings, the popularity of platinum and white gold has increased dramatically in recent years. To help you make an informed choice for your ring or band material, here are some basic facts about the differences between platinum and white gold.

Purity

The purity of a platinum diamond engagement ring is usually higher than that of a gold ring, with the exception of 24 karat gold, which is 100% gold. Platinum is graded by a sterling number that represents parts per thousand of pure platinum. 900 sterling is 90% platinum, 950 sterling is 95% platinum and so forth. White gold engagement rings are often 18kt, which is 75% pure, or 14kt, which is just under 60% pure.

Colour

Both white gold and platinum are "white" in colour. However, the colour of white gold is actually due to its alloys and plating. Unlike yellow gold, which is alloyed with copper, silver and zinc, white gold is typically alloyed with copper, nickel (sometimes palladium is used due to nickel-related skin allergies) and zinc, resulting in gold that is light gray in colour. A white gold wedding band or ring is usually plated with a very hard, white metal known as rhodium. To maintain the full whiteness of a white gold engagement ring, the rhodium must be replated about every year. A platinum wedding band or ring is naturally "white" and does not require plating. Platinum can lose its lustre over time and become greyer, but this can be ameliorated with professional polishing.

Weight

Though rhodium-plated white gold and platinum jewelry are virtually indistinguishable to the casual eye, there is a

significant difference in weight. Platinum is a very dense material and therefore much heavier than white gold. For example, a men's diamond wedding band made from platinum will be about 1/3 heavier than one **made from 18kt white gold.**

Durability

Hand-worn jewelry inevitably receives many invisible scratches that dull its appearance. The difference between platinum rings and white gold rings is that these so-called micro-scratches do not remove platinum from the ring. Burnishing a platinum ring will smooth out these infinitesimal furrows and restore the ring's original appearance. To renew the lustre of a white gold ring, a small amount of metal is often added during polishing to replace the gold lost to scratching.

Cost

Platinum is an extremely rare metal that is 60% denser than gold. It is also less malleable than gold, which means that more labour is required to create a platinum antique engagement ring or wedding band than one made from

White gold jewelry. However, because of platinum's natural beaty, endurance and low maintenance requirements, it is an ideal choice for long term wear.

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Member only

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)

NOVEMBER 2021

- General meeting, Cancelled
- No Camps

DECEMBER 2021

- -General Meeting 1st Mulgrave
- -Christmas Picnic 12th Wicks Reserve 11am (see page 9)
- -Camp Tarnagulla Historical Reserve 26th Dec- 5th Jan \$5 P/N Toilets/no showers

New Years Eve theme is Wear a Mask

JANUARY 2022

- General meeting, no meeting
- Camp Amherst 20th-26th

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

By now most members would be aware of the different covid related announcements which are made at the end of restrictions / lockdowns, and the need to stay flexible. Where public gatherings are restricted to 10 no official seekers camp will take place.

The Victorian Seekers Club Vaccination Policy.

As you are all aware the club has an older and potentially more covid susceptible age group. We also have had members who have voiced real concern about mixing with members, visitors or guests who are not double vaccinated. We also learnt this week that both Monash Halls (meeting room) and the Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve are insisting that all attendees are to be double vaccinated and need to prove it via an official vaccination certificate.

During the week we received an update from Monash Halls who manage our meeting hall for the City of Monash. They have given very clear instructions regarding use of their facilities and it includes the following requirements.

The club needs to appoint a covid marshall(s) (Michael D & I)

All person over 16 must provide proof of full vaccination (digital or hard copy certificate) or an authorised exemption from a medical practitioner

Everyone needs to complete the VSC attendance regis-



Christmas is coming!

Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 12th December!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 12th December from 11am onwards at Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Melways ref 65 D8).

Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin-Olinda road, turn right into the Reserve. * Drawing of the Christmas Raffle: 3 HAMPERS TO BE WON!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

- * Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)
- * Door prizes
- * Bring your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket on arrival.

Electric BBQs and water on premises. BYO table, chairs, food and drink. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Come along to this break up party and support the club. You're sure to have a great time!

ter. Attendance is capped at 4 msq per person (our current cap is 30) and maintain social distancing.

All persons attending are to still wear a mask

We have also been in contact with the Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve and they also have a requirement for proving double vaccination and signing an attendance register etc.

The VSC committee has spent some time discussing our policy with respect to member requirement for covid vaccinations and proof thereof. In coming to this policy decision, we have taken into account the Vic government / department of health guidelines, the requirement of Monash Halls, DELWP, the risks as well as the age and general health of our members. The committee also feels that this policy and associated procedures also provides a level of legal protection should something untoward happen.

The Victorian Seekers Club policy in relation to covid and vaccinations is as follows:-

The VSC encourages all members to be vaccinated for their own health and the health of others they interact with, including fellow club members. If still in doubt about vaccinations members should consult professional advice.

Members, visitors and/or guests who attend club meeting at our Mulgrave meeting room are required to comply with the requirements of Monash Halls.

All person over 16 must provide proof of full vaccination to the Covid Marshal (digital or hard copy certificate) or provide an authorised exemption from a medical practitioner

Everyone needs to complete the attendance register

Attendance is capped at 4 msq per person (our current cap is 30) and maintain social distancing.

All persons attending are still wear a mask

Members, visitors and/or guests who attend committee meetings, club camps or other gatherings (e.g. Christmas functions) are required to complete an attendance register and if over 16 prove they are fully vaccinated (digital or hard copy certificate checked by Covid Marshalls or Camp Duty Officer).

Those not vaccinated for medical or other reasons need to have an authorised exemption from a medical practitioner.

While in attendance at club meetings, camps and functions social distancing is required and masks are to be worn when members gather in a group (unless eating or drinking).

As previously advised, and as is standard practice, any member who has any covid like symptoms or who has been in contact with someone with covid or suspected of having covid should not attend Seeker's activities.

It is impossible for the club to guarantee the safety of members who attend Seeker's activities. At the end of the day, it is each individual members responsibility to assess the risk posed by club activities and decide whether to participate or not.

While the committee will do its best it is difficult to keep up with all the various requirements of the Department of Health and other Victoria Government Agencies in respect of Covid, members should always comply with official Government requirements which take precedence over club policy and advice.

The committee is also of the opinion that it is possible for restrictions to ease as the vaccination rate increases and we will move with the times.

Members can contact me if they have any questions or concerns regarding the policy.

Anja & Al's WA Escape

2021 our escape to WA was timed to 3 hours before the borders closed. We were lucky to not have to Isolate for 14 days. Our original plan was to get the 4wd serviced at Brunswick Junction in the south of WA. We (my idea) was to go the shortest route from Norseman. This turned out to be a good decision. We camped the night when it started to drizzle but by the time, we were halfway it started to rain. The road turned to a muddy slushy mess, and we weren't even in the goldfields yet.



We had arranged to meet Imi in Laverton who was camped with Lorry and Shirley on a pending lease. What seemed to be a long way out we settled into our 1st camp. It was like a Seekers club meet.

Nibbles, wine then dinner followed by star gazing. Shirley spoilt us with her delicious scones jam and cream and Pizza over the fire grate. Being excited to start detecting Alistair and I went out finding our first few small nuggets just near camp. That was my go-to place.

We drove in all directions with little to no gold found. It seemed that other luckier prospectors had beaten us to the gold. There were dig holes everywhere we went. After Lorry and Shirley left to return home Alistair was lucky enough to detect a beautiful deep sound. "Bring the camera" I knew it was going to be a nice nugget. A 118-gm nugget came out



of the hole. Then a 19gm followed by a 3gm in the same area.

Alistair and I moved camp leaving Imi at the last camp. We

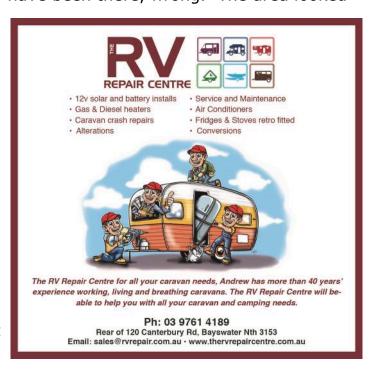
were meeting a friend from Perth. We decided to go to the Kookynie area because there were a few large pending leases there. This is where I found my 33-gram nugget about 3 inches in the ground. It



was the only gold in the area with the 3 of us detecting.

Imi decided to join us as the gold was getting harder to find where he was.

We next drove north from Leonora to another Pending lease. We thought that being so far out not many people would have been there, wrong. The area looked



Anja & Al's WA Escape cont.

great with ironstone and quartz with breakaways. It was also flogged by other detectorists. I however was lucky to find a 17gm nugget sunbaking. It was the only nugget found in that area that was missed.

Not finding anymore we again moved closer to Leonora to another pending lease. This is where we celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary and Alistair's 70th birthday. Under the stars, roast pork dinner, wine and vodka and birthday cake.

There were more detectorists driving and camping in this area so again gold was hard to find. A few small nuggets but nothing big. A few days later we moved again this time towards Kookynie area again. It seemed everywhere we went someone had been there before us. Detector holes everywhere. So much ground was covered between the 4 of us. Our tracks could be seen from space.

All in all, it was more fun looking but very scarce finding gold. It's a great hobby one I'll enjoy for the rest of my life.

Anja







Summer and Fire Safety

As we approach the summer it is appropriate that members attending camps are reminded of the club fire related policies in the members handbook 2018 (copy available on the VSC website).

Camp Cancellation

The Club may cancel an outing before or during prescribed dates; nominally determined by weather forecasts, CFA Alerts and Code Red conditions, or any major incident.

Notification of a Camp Cancellation will be posted via available internet resources (e.g. Club website, Facebook and email). Members without internet access should contact other Club Members.

NOTE: In the event that a Code Red Alert is declared, the camp Duty Officer must initiate a Camp Cancellation. DELWP (Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning) or Parks Victoria will close most forests and parks during Code Red days and penalties may apply for those that enter a park or forest that is closed.

Bushfire Awareness

During Camps and especially during the bushfire season, it is the Members' responsibility to keep themselves informed of potentially hazardous or severe weather. This could be through the radio, Victorian Bushfire Information Line, the CFA website or the CFA smart phone application

"FireReady", the VicEmergency website, or the Club's Bushfire Status board. VicEmergency is Victoria's primary website for incident information and warnings on fire and flood, and lists other types of emergencies and incidents.

During adverse or threatening weather conditions, Members should make a special

effort to maintain UHF and/or mobile phone communications. However, as mobile phone and UHF reception is not always available, Members should periodically check for Voicemail and SMSs. Members who use a channel other than UHF Channel 12 should maintain a scan on Channel 12.

In the event that a Member detects smoke or fire, they should (not necessarily in this order):

- " Refer to any Bushfire Status notification on the Club's noticeboard
- " Check if it is a local burn-off via any of:
- " VicEmergency http://
 www.emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/
- " CFA website http://cfa.vic.gov.au
- " CFA FireReady app
- " Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 226 226
- " Inform the Duty Officer or a Committee Member (be it a burn-off or bushfire)
- " Advise 000, if warranted.

Bushfire Evacuation

If a bushfire or other threat is determined, the Club may initiate a Bushfire Evacuation. During such an event, the Club will attempt to advise Members of the urgency (e.g. pack or leave caravan), evacuation routes and a safe meeting place, if possible. Also, if possible, the Club will broadcast a General Alarm by sounding car horns (3 beeps, pause; then repeat as necessary); and UHF Channel 12 will also be used to broadcast the alarm. During an Emergency, UHF Channel 12

Summer and Fire Safety cont.

should be kept clear for emergency use. Any 'discussions' should be switched to alternative channels. Members should monitor UHF Channel 12 for alarms and updates.

On hearing an alarm, Members should take appropriate action as well as advise others. Members should only return to camp if safe to do so. The Club will endeavour to contact all unaccounted-for, Signed-in Members via mobile phone. This may be a time-consuming process and is a Secondary Priority. Members should not depend on this notification or its timeliness.

During or following an Evacuation, all attending Members must Sign-out and record their evacuation intentions, if possible. Otherwise advise the Duty Officer or a Committee Member of their well-being and evacuation intentions (in order that their status is recorded and efforts may be directed towards other Members who remain unaccounted-for).

N.B. During an emergency, Committee Members will also have themselves to consider, and resources to implement procedures will likely be limited. Whilst the Club will endeavour to ensure the safety of all Members and their property, responsibility remains with individual Members for their own safety and property.

Members should not rely on hearing an Emergency Alarm but use common sense at all times. In the event that Media or other Public Officials are involved, except for personal accounts, Members should refer all enquiries to the Duty Officer or Club President.





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.

FIRE DANGER RATING





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.



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"



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
- 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.

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