The Victorian Seekers Club

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2022

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 43 ISSUE 1

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Happy New

Merry Christmas

Christmas Party 2021

Hamper winners - Alex E (1st), Jimmy & Patty (3rd), and Louise & Brian (not present)





Stake Your Claim winners Peter M, Kathy D and Eric

By Paul Hart

President's Report



Hi All,

I hope you are all well and are enjoying the festive season with friends and family. Tracey and I are flying to Queensland for the first time in about 3 years to catch up with our families and friends over Christmas and plan on being back in late December to go up to Tarnagulla for New Year's Eve. Please have a read below for recent club activities and developments including an important update on covid.

The committee had our last meeting for the year in late November and we were hosted by Louise and Brian who made us feel very welcome at their lovely property. In addition to our normal agenda items we :-

Welcomed Steve and Sam as field officer and librarian.

Decided to cap club membership numbers at 200 (with new members coming from family and friends)

Implemented a policy whereby help at general meetings and larger camps will be by alphabet e.g. surnames from A to H required to help

Discussed covid and while we hoped restrictions would continue to ease the requirement for double vaccination, signing in, etc will continue until advised differently

We finalised the 2022 calendar, a copy of which is in the Newsletter

I presented the new covid compliant multipurpose sign in book for meetings, functions, camps etc

We acknowledged donations of a finds bag and pin-pointer from Nenad at Phase Technical (see advertisement in Newsletter)

Lindsay talked about an old gold related book he obtained and donated to the club - see Newsletter for full story. Certificates of Appreciation and a gift voucher were given to Virginia and Lindsay for their hard work and dedication for many years

I gave Louise and Brian a small gift for hosting our meeting and committee Christmas party

A number of the above items were discussed at our general meeting we had in early December. At this long overdue meeting -

Stefanos told us about the car he won in the Gary & Warren Smith raffle

Peter M told us his good news about his fight with cancer

Sam won find of the month (November) with 25 g of gold and Thomas entered a nice ring.

I made a presentation on the trip Tracey and I made around the western half of Australia

The meeting finished with lots of raffle prizes and a yummy supper

The club Christmas Party was held at Wicks Reserve again this year and as usual it was a lot of fun. Fortunately for a few of us Thomas was banned from the token hunt which meant a few of us with lesser skills, including "yours truly", were able to win some prizes. Eric has written a more detailed account elsewhere in the Newsletter.



President's Report cont.

Thanks as always go to the committee (Eric, Susan, Tina, Alex, Steve) and others (Thomas) who pitched in and made the day a success.

In mid-December I was interviewed by Ben from "The Age" paper about the club and my small hobby business (Metal Detector Guy). While it is good to promote our hobby and the club, I was very conscious of our membership cap and not taking new members at this stage, so I hope this come through in the story.

Before signing off it pains me but I need to mention covid again. A good number of our members will now be at the stage where they are due to get their booster shot. If like me, you previously had two Astra Zeneca shots the protection from these jabs might be waning but your booster may not yet be due.

At the time of writing the Omicron variant has only been in the press for a couple of weeks and there has been conflicting information about the severity of this strain. The boxing day camp at Tarnagulla has caretakers and the last I spoke to them they still required double vaccination and to sign in, which is consistent with the club policy (please also sign in at our sign in tent). This camp promises to be a fun event again with plans for a New Year party etc. There will be mixing and there can be close contact in the toilets and around our fires etc. I just remind everyone that at the end of the day you are responsible for assessing the risk of participating in club activities and deciding what you want to do and the precautions you need to take. If there are any important updates about covid or other issues I will send out an email.

Once again on behalf of the committee I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy New Year and stay safe.

regards

Paul



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Historic Book Donation

Lindsay, presented the club with an excellently restored 1 St edition 1896 copy of "Gold fields and Mineral districts of Victoria" by Robert Brough Smyth. As this is a valuable resource and rare book it will be held by the librarian in safe custody. Considered too rare and fragile for general library use. A reproduced copy can be purchased for a modest sum and copies of the text are available online Geological Survey of Victoria (<u>gsv.vic.gov.au</u>) The book was donated from a family in NSW who made contact with Lindsay. Committee will look to source a copy for general library use.

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JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2022

Your Committee of Management 2021-2022

POSITION	DUTIES		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)

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"

Certificates of Appreciation

At our last committee meeting for the year, it was my pleasure to award Certificates of Appreciation to Virginia L and Lindsay T for many years of service to the club.

Virginia has always been a happy and supportive member of the club (and of Bob). She has done a great job of Almoner and has always been willing to help out at camps and other functions. Lindsay is a member who I remember from my very early days in the club some 16 years ago. He has a memory to be envied and is very willing to assist anyone who asks. He did a great job as secretary for many years and then as president. In the last couple of years as field officer and committee member he was a great support to those such as myself still learning the ropes.

We can never really repay anywhere near what members such as Virginia and Lindsay put in but as a token of appreciation both were also given a \$100 gift voucher.

Paul H







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Christmas Breakup

The weather gods were certainly kind to us for our get together, because we enjoyed a fantastic day under perfect conditions. We had 40 members in attendance who, after 6 months of lockdown, were finally able to relax together and socialize with old friends. As a surprise we had the pleasure of having along some old members who we hadn't seen for a long time. Peter Maffey picked up Joan Heraud, who is 95yo from her nursing home for a visit, which certainly brightened up her day. Also along was Peter and Heiki Muller. Peter was a past president who is now having health problems. It was good to catch up with these old friends and reminiscence the past. We also had along Stephanos, arriving in his



shiny new car that he won in the recent Monash raffle.

The Stake Your Claim was held before lunch, 1st prize a 2gm nugget won by Peter Maffey, 2nd prize of a 1gm nugget to Kathy Davies, and I managed 3rd with the 0.5gm nugget. After lunch we conducted our token and key hunt which were planted by Thomas this year after taking out most of the major prizes last year due mainly to his superior coin hunt skills, which gave the rest of us a fighting chance this time. The lucky key was located by Alex for \$50. 1st in the token draw was Stefan [\$50], 2nd was Paul [\$20], 3rd Bob. Many members also won numerous door prizes. The finale event was the huge Xmas hampers put together by Tina and Susan, the 1st of which was won by Alex [his lucky

day}, 2nd Louise McGough and 3rd Jim Darragh.

President Paul ended the day by thanking all those that put in the huge effort to make it a special day and wished everyone a happy Xmas and a healthy New year.



Token Hunt Winners - Paul H (most tokens), Alex E







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Member only

Membership Report

Membership Report as at the end of

DECEMBER

We currently have a total of 211 members:

- 132 Family members
 - 57 Singles
 - 1 Honorary
 - 21 Life Members



Almoner's report

By Louise McGough

Sadly Ron Whitling passed away.

Ron was a tireless worker for our club over many years. He did a lot of historical research and photography of the artefacts we found and co-edited our newsletter for many years, and also was a tireless worker on our camps. Ron is fondly remembered by many of our older members.

RIP

A condolence card sent to Anja and Alistair, Anja's mum has sadly passed away, We are all thinking of Anja and Alistair

A card was also sent to Jennifer H after her father passed away.

And also a Xmas card to Joan Haraud, whom is now in care, Joan has been a member for years, We wish her a merry Christmas, and are thinking off her.

> Please contact me on 0490156597 or Imcgough44@icloud.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. <u>Please</u> advise if the member would prefer the matter not publicised.

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)

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. 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 and sign in etc. With the emerging Omicron strain it is possible that things could change again and members will be updated via email of anything important that may affect club activities.

J A N U A R Y / F E B R U A R Y 2 0 2 2

Monash Halls 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 & Paul H)

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 register

Attendance is capped at 4 msq per person and maintain social distancing.

All persons attending are still to wear a mask if social distancing is not possible

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 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.



Clubs 2300 detector for hire.

Free for members and \$20/day to non members (accompanied by a member) and also comes with limits on frequency of use. To book, contact Eric 0488972922



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JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2022

Gary & Warren Smith Raffle

For many years VSC members have been supporting the club by buying tickets in the big Gary & Warren Smith raffle for a car and other prizes. The tickets are always popular because the money spent on tickets all comes back to the club and for quite some time, we always raise the full \$800. For the first time one of our members Stephanos won the car and this is what he had to say"

Hi Paul there some photos of the car, The one with gift wrapping was sent to me by the dealership as there was no presentation night due to covid 19

On the 8th of July it was a very bad day for me as i was getting hammered by scammers by phone calls and texting ,Nearly \$2000 was taken out of my account and I became very vigilant on who's calling and what they say.

As i was in a bad state of mind the phone rang and on the other side there was a guy telling me that i won a car,

Frustrated as i was i thought it was another scam so my reply was " get the out of here " click,i hung up on him,

Then he called again trying to explain but i still would not believe it and i was ready to send him his way again until he convinced me,

Then i had a confirmation by Sue (Victorian seekers club) and after that i got excited, (such a nice feeling)

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

Snake bite



IN A MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL TRIPLE ZERO (000) FOR AN AMBULANCE.

DRSABCD Danger > Response > Send for help > Airway > Breathing > CPR > Defibrillation The DRSABCD Action Plan is the first step when providing first aid. Use this to assess the immediate situation.

All known or suspected snake bites must be treated as potentially life-threatening, and medical aid should be sought urgently.

WARNING

Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes because it may assist identification.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Signs of a snake bite are not always visible and, in some cases, the patient may not have felt anything. Symptoms may not appear for an hour or more after the person has been bitten.

Depending on the type of snake, signs and symptoms may include some or all of the following:

- · immediate or delayed pain at the bite site
- · swelling, bruising or local bleeding
- bite marks (usually on a limb) that may vary from obvious puncture wounds to scratches that may be almost invisible
- swollen and tender glands in the groin or armpit of the bitten limb
- faintness, dizziness
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- abdominal pain
- oozing of blood from the bite site or gums
- double or blurred vision
- · drooping eyelids
- difficulty in speaking or swallowing
- limb weakness or paralysis
- difficulty in breathing
- occasionally, initial collapse or confusion followed by partial or complete recovery.

WHAT TO DO

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Lie the patient down and ask them to keep still. Reassure the patient.
- 4 If on a limb, apply an elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide) over the bite site as soon as possible.

Apply a further elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide), starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.

Use clothing or other material if an elasticised roller bandage is not available.

Apply the bandage as tightly as possible to the limb.

- 5 Immobilise the bandaged limb using splints.
- 6 Keep the patient lying down and completely still (immobilised).
- 7 Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. If possible, mark the location of the bite site (if known) on the skin with a pen, or photograph the site.
- 8 Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.







YOU COULD SAVE A LIFE WITH FIRST AID TRAINING WWW.STJOHN.ORG.AU•1300 360 455

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Heat-induced illnesses



DRSABCD Danger

Response
Send for help
Airway
Breathing
CPR
Defibrillation
The DRSABCD Action Plan is the first step when providing first aid. Use this to assess the immediate situation.

HEAT EXHAUSTION

WARNING

If a person with heat exhaustion is not managed appropriately, they can develop heat stroke.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- feeling hot, exhausted, weak, fatigued
- persistent headache
- thirst
- nausea
- faintness, dizziness
- rapid breathing, shortness of breath
- pale, cool, moist skin
- rapid, weak pulse

WHAT TO DO

- Move the patient to a cool place with circulating air.
- Help the patient to sit or lie down in a comfortable position.
- 3 Remove unnecessary clothing from the patient, and loosen any tight clothing.
- 4 Sponge the patient with cold water.
- 5 Give the patient cool water to drink.
- 6 Seek medical aid if the patient vomits or does not recover quickly.

HEAT STROKE WARNING

Heat stroke is potentially life-threatening and immediate medical aid is needed.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- high body temperature of 40°C or more
- flushed, dry skin
- pounding, rapid pulse that gradually weakens
- headache and irritability
- nausea, vomiting
- visual disturbances
- faintness, dizziness, confusion
- loss of consciousness
- seizures

WHAT TO DO

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Move the patient to a cool place with circulating air.
- 4 Help the patient to sit or lie down in a comfortable position.
- 5 Remove almost all the patient's clothing, and loosen any tight clothing.
- 6 Apply a cold pack to areas of large blood vessels such as the neck, groin and armpits, to accelerate cooling.
- 7 If possible, cover the patient with a wet sheet and fan to increase air circulation. Stop cooling when the patient feels cold to touch.
- 8 If patient is fully conscious and is able to swallow, give them cool water to sip.

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In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled. Forests. periods of CODE RED LOW-MODERATE 3 FIRE DANGER RATING

During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and

Camp may also be cancelled during other severe weather.





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 F
- 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

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2022

FOSSICKIN' ROUND



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/



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Polar Fleece Vests : \$30