#### The Victorian Seekers Club

#### MAY/JUNE 2022

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- Wedderburn
- Fryerstown

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

#### VOL. 43 ISSUE 3

#### The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Paul & Eric presenting club donation to Good Friday Appeal

Drone photos by Tony P.



#### Your Committee of Management 2021-2022

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	<b>CONTACT</b> 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, oth- er 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.	
• Encode in fund unicing potivities for the home fide number	

- 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.

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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"

## <u>CLUB CALENDAR</u>

#### *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 / lock-downs, and the need to stay flexible.

#### MAY 2022

- General meeting, 3rd Mulgrave
- Graytown 12th-17th

This is a National park so No Dogs.

#### **JUNE 2022**

- General meeting, 1st Mulgrave
- Ararat 9th-14th
- Tibooburra 18th-26th

#### **JULY 2022**

- General meeting, 6th Mulgrave
- Chute 7th-12th

#### **AUGUST 2022**

- Havelock 11th-16th

#### SEPTEMBER 2022

- Homebush 8th-13th

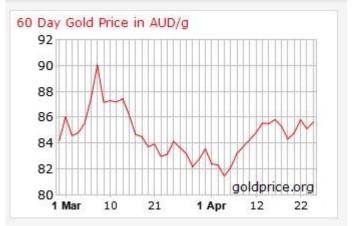
#### **SEPT/OCTOBER 2022**

- Waanyarra 29th Sept -4th Oct



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://pmay.org.au/



#### Gold price as at 28/04/2022

#### NUGGETFINDER

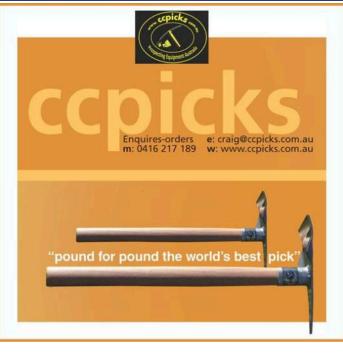
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## President's Report



#### Hi All,

In the last few months it is good to see more members at meetings and camps enjoying our new covid normal freedoms. We had roughly 40 at Wedderburn and 70 odd at our recent dinner on Easter Saturday. General meetings are also being well attended due in part to some interesting guest speakers, yummy suppers and of course the chance to catch up and have a chat.

Shirley S, Cathy D and Eric have camp reports and other information and I don't want to steal their thunder but I will share some of my personal favourite things from the last couple of months.

I have always enjoyed the Wedderburn detector jamboree and have now lost count of the numbers of times I have entered this big token hunt. Other club entrants included Eric, Steve, Alex and Tony and we all found at least one key / token and most of us won a small prize. The event had a record attendance and with about 225 detectorists hitting the field on both days it did not take long for most of the keys to be found. The vice president of the Bendigo club found one key and won the GPX 6000.

With only about one days detecting I also found 4 small nuggets not too far from the Wedderburn camp site and with another 8 small nuggets at Easter my confidence in the 6000 is growing. In another first for me at Easter I found 4 small nuggets in diggings in one small shallow hole.

Easter is our most popular camp for the year and the committee put in a big effort to make it a fun event with a pancake

breakfast, 2 dinners, games and a new style coin hunt. The local community of

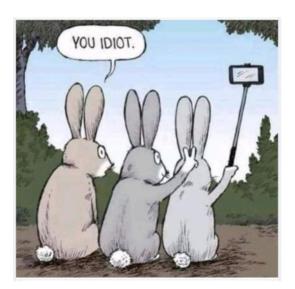
Fryerstown and surrounds are quite supportive of our club and had recently done work on the oval and the council was back at the oval doing more works as Eric was leaving.

My good wife Tracey enjoyed the camp and the tripping around the district with other wives / partners. She was also pleased to have won the women's ball throw and came third in the Stake Your Claim.

There are too many names to mention but a big thanks to all those committee members who helped out at the Easter Camp in particular. I was also very pleased to note that we had more help from other club members and this was greatly appreciated. Thanks also to all those members who participated in the events and the many who supported the club financially through buying tickets and making donations.

Finally, we have camps coming up at Graytown, Ararat and also Tibooburra and please find an additional article on Tibooburra elsewhere in this Newsletter. After Tibooburra my wife and I are heading further north into outback Queensland then across to the coast before coming back to SE Qld to catch up with family and friends. This will take about 3 months and Eric will be acting President while I am away.

**Cheers Paul** 



#### M A Y / J U N E 2 0 2 2

### General Meeting

At last we can finally have our meetings without those tight Covid restrictions, now giving us a semblance of normality. The March meeting featured a talk by Bill DeCarli presenting us with what he believes is irrefutable evidence on the location of Lasseter's Reef which he claims to be located about 600km east of the area where Lasseter was searching. I must say he was very convincing. Those interested can read his book 'Lasseter's Reef, One Man's Journey Uncovers the Truth'.

The Find of month went Thomas M with yet another fabulous ring found on a local beach, consisting of white gold imbedded with dozens of diamonds, and valued at thousands of dollars.

At the April meeting it was agreed that we will try and sell our large and cumbersome marquee which has been in storage for the last 10 years and not being used. It was also agreed that we would donate \$200 to the Red Cross to help the plight of the Ukrainians. Our speaker was John Garcia from Gold Tec showing us his new device 'Quavar-PI' which allows hard of hearing or profound deaf people to be able to prospect with a detector by incorporating a vibrating sensor that vibrates when the coil passes over a metal target, and is not triggered by mineralized ground and most hot rocks. John also has available an 'Audii' audio amplifier with filters to remove unwanted background noises, powered by polymer lithium batteries which maintain a longer use before charging, more output and stability. Those interested can contact John on 03 8658 6648 or see www.gold-tec.com.au for more information.

April find of month went to Ted Cox for his beautiful gold ring find.

Next month we will have Steve Hillman who is going to give us a reminder of the perils of having incorrect loading weights in our tow vehicles and vans. June. I have an interesting DVD of an old prospector being interviewed on his life in the goldfields around Gulgong in NSW.

#### ERIC



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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This is written mainly for first timers planning on going to Tibooburra. You can go at anytime but the official club dates are 18 to 26 June. During this week those new to this part of the world can join a daily group led by experienced club operators. There are also likely to be additional activities during this week such as a funny rock competition (with prize), late afternoon drinks with the normal gold show & tell and a group dinner at the pub.

If you are planning on going up to Tibooburra and have a minute please drop me a quick email or text with approximate dates and numbers going (0490 315156 / paul.hart@live.com.au). This way we can make contact with you if anything important comes up before or during the trip.

A few things have changed in recent years but below is a summary of things you should be aware of before taking on a trip to Tibooburra.

#### Safety

Tibooburra is about 1300 km from Melbourne in the far NW corner of NSW. Most members take two to three days for the drive. For the final leg of the trip up, it is a good idea to overnight in Broken Hill, stock up on food and fuel (both expensive in Tibooburra) and drive to Tibooburra the next morning. That way you will get there around lunch time and well before the afternoon/ nightly influx of outback tourists.

The amount of wildlife on and beside the roads after about 4 pm, during the night and from first light to about 8 am can be alarming. I have driven extensively through outback Australia and on the half a dozen trips to Tibooburra I have never experienced so many kangaroos, goats and emus. There are also pigs, camels, eagles, cattle and sheep. They are most numerous from about the Victorian border to Broken Hill and onto Tibooburra. The main reason I have seen hundreds of animals is because I would often be coming into Broken Hill on dark and travelling early mornings so this should be avoided. You will also experience animals on the drive out to the farm stations and on the properties.

The road to Tibooburra from Broken Hill is now all bitumen but there could be road works and sometimes the culverts have dirt, rocks and potholes. Most trips in the past someone has mechanical issues, flat tyres and / or a damaged van. If you can travel with another vehicle that is a good idea. I will personally be upgrading to RACV top level of roadside assistance before this trip because it is so remote in parts.

The roads out from Tibooburra to the stations we visit are dirt and vary in condition. You need to drive to conditions for example leave lots of space if it is dusty, slow down if the road is in poor condition. If the roads are wet and declared closed you risk enormous fines if you drive on them. I will be checking the short term and 14 day weather forecast before leaving.

For most of the trip you should get a mobile phone signal in small towns and communities but between Broken Hill and Tibooburra even less so. If you have a serious break



## Tibooburra continued...

down after leaving Broken Hill you might need to wave down another driver for assistance. If driving alone I suggest you speak to someone at Tibooburra letting them know your expected arrival time.

As usual you should carry spare water, fuel, food , tools, tyre replacement gear and a first aid kit. There is a small hospital in Tibooburra and an airport. On the road between Broken Hill and Tibooburra there are a couple of landing areas for the Royal Flying doctor service.

Flies can be bad (bring a fly net) and it can get very cold. If we go out to the stations such as Gumvale or Mount Stuart we will be out all day so don't over do it and look after your mates.

#### **Gold and Detecting**

Like many places the gold is small and getting harder to get. If you think you will come up for a week or two and pay for your trip you are likely to be sadly disappointed. Best to think of it as an interesting and fun outback holiday and maybe make it part of a longer trip.

The town of Tibooburra is surrounded by "The Common" and the borders are marked by cattle grids on the dirt roads. The cost to detect the common is \$10 for a month. Other places we will visit include Mount Stuart and Gumvale Station which is \$15 and \$10 per day.

#### Accommodation

The Granites Motel and Caravan Park is where we stay but you cannot book a camping or van site. On entry to the town you will see TJ's Roadhouse and store on the right. You go in there and let them know you are with the Seekers Detecting club and you can then pay Mavis for your accommodation. When you drive to the caravan park you will most likely be met by club member Sophie who will guide you to a spot. The caravan park is very basic and typical of more remote areas. The toilet / shower block is small and the hot water often runs out. I believe a new treatment plant has been installed and the town water is more drinkable than it used to be.

7am to 8pm Monday – Saturday

8am to 6pm Sunday

Please call us on:

Granites Motel/Caravan Park:

08 80 913 305 TJ's Roadhouse: 08 80 913 477 Mobile Contact number: 0427 913 477

#### Things to do in the area.

For a list of things to do in the area you can google Tibooburra or the Granites Motel and Caravan Park. Broken Hill, Silver City and Cameron's Corner are other worthwhile visits.



**By Shirley S** 

## Wedderburn Camp Report March 2022

Thirty-five to forty members were in attendance over the Victorian Long Weekend, including guests of Laurie and Shirl, (Richard and Prue Crutch from Heywood, Vic), the camp was held in the State Park 5ks from the picturesque historic gold town of Wedderburn. Club members began arriving on Wednesday through to Friday in readiness for a much-awaited camp, the approaching Autumn weather made for pleasant conditions, cool nights and good detecting weather.



The Wedderburn Gold Jamboree was held in a great venue at the recreation reserve overlooking the town centre, with many participants camping on site. Several club members participated in the various "gold events"

including the "token hunt", with members hoping to be the lucky winner of a 6000 detector, after a lot of hard effort over the twoday period, only a few members won small token prizes. There was also gold panning and various other events held over the Saturday and Sunday for all age groups.

A town garage sale and market were held around the streets of Wedderburn on Saturday, some club members attended, and some picked up some bargains?

Prospectors headed in various locations around the state forest searching for that elusive "Gold Nugget", several members found tiny nuggets the biggest piece was approximately 1 gram. It is worth noting that Shirley relinquished her "Leprechaun role as digger for Laurie" and found a tiny nugget on Monday, using the club 2300 detector.



On Sunday evening, Club President Paul Hart gave an update to members in attendance, prior to the usual raffles being held with several redraws taking place to give other members a chance to have a win. This camp was held during the club rules of no campfires with the first official fire hop-

ing to be lit at the Easter Camp, to be held at Fryers Town, near Castlemaine from the 14 to 19 April 2022. Word has it the Easter Bunny may even be in attendance.





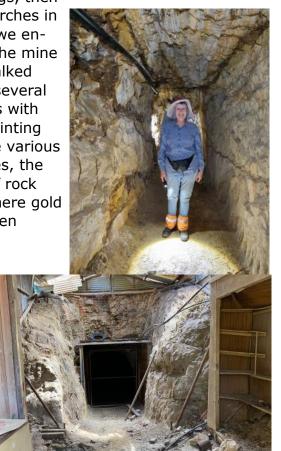
## Wedderburn Camp Report continued...

Big thank you to Rob Shannon who took members on a very informative tour of the abandoned "Christmas Hills Mine" attendees drove to the top of the mine site, Rob explained the history of the mine, the surface

workings, then with torches in hand, we entered the mine and walked along several tunnels with Rob pointing out the various features, the type of rock and where gold had been found.

MAY/JUNE

2022



With the change in the weather and rain, some hardy members stayed until Thursday most members leaving by Tuesday.

Hope to see you all at the Easter Camp, bring along your smiles, think of some games we can all participate in and enjoy a wonderful break with good friends you never know your luck it might be your turn to wave the detector over that large nugget. I even have a name for it, the "Easter Surprise", wouldn't it be fun to guess the weight of a large nugget, now that's a thought.

Until we meet again, happy prospecting, look after the bush and stay safe.





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



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**By Shirley S** 

By Cathy D

## Fryerstown Camp Report

Our Easter camp was again at Fryerstown this year and Mother Nature produced some amazing autumn days for us to enjoy.

Arrivals for the camp began on Tuesday and by Thursday nearly 80 people had descended on the oval.

On Good Friday we shared a pancake and hot cross bun breakfast together and afterwards the Fryerstown Fire Brigade arrived at the oval with many donations flowing to the friendly Firies.

Thanks to Shirley for her donation of a Basket of Goods from the CWA which raised \$50 towards the Royal Children's Hospital appeal.

By Friday the entrance to Jimmy Coles property looked like a car park, full of Seekers hunting for treasure.

Good finds were made by Mal and Tony B. on this trip. Check out the Vic Seekers Facebook page for examples of finds made by members.

Friday Night was our first camp fire for the year; a welcome sight for those cool autumn evenings.



The next day a few us scoured the Wesley hill market which was much reduced in size to previous years but no less enjoyable.

A coffee and French pastry was a great way to finish the shopping trip.

That afternoon the games began with 1) closest shots to the targets and 2) couples egg throwing competition. Flinging the (snorkelling) flipper proved most challenging and provided the most laughs.

But the real winner of the afternoon was Paul

B. After his golf shot he leant down to pick up his beer and instead locked eyes on the piece of gold sitting next to his stubby.

No detector required. The dogs came a close second feasting on the raw eggs splattered across the pitch.



Egg throwing competition

Saturday night we were fortunate to have Lindsay return to cook up some delicious roasts. We all enjoyed having dinner together which was followed by the raffle.



During this event, without a breath of wind, a large tree branch near Graeme M caravan came crashing to the ground. He moved it the next day.

Fortunately nobody was there at the time but was a reminder that we need to be aware where we camp.

That night there a full moon and no clouds



#### M A Y / J U N E 2 0 2 2

## Fryerstown Camp Report continued...

By Cathy D

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which almost made it look like daylight and for a brief moment if you looked up, part of a moonbow was visible. Very cool.

Easter Sunday we all woke up to see that the Easter Bunny had left Easter eggs next to all our caravans . What a treat.

Those Easter Bunny's went on to win first and second prize in stake your claim (Shirley and Anja). Instant Karma. Tracey came 3rd.



Easter Bunnies



Stake your claim

The team coin hunt was a success with nearly everyone participating this year. Peter and Meike S won a chocolate rabbit for the oldest coin found.

Later that morning the ashes spreading service for Ron Whittling took place at Jimmy Coles property.

Sunday Night most of the camp went to the pub at Campbells creek for dinner.

It was booked out that night but we all eventually got our meals which were amazing, however I believe that Peter G is still waiting for his. That day Michaels pinpointer crashed out and whilst doing the raffle he did mutter about needing a new one. After 5 door prizes being won it came down to the last prise, the XPointer.

When he read out the ticket and saw my hand go up with the winning ticket, he nearly fell over backwards. Paul yelled out foul play for a joke.





## Fryerstown Camp Report continued...

By Kathy D

I took the Pointer back to the caravan and haven't seen it since...

By Monday the persistent rains came and Eric found he could go fishing at Lake Grummet. His caravan was surrounded and nearly had to be rescued.

Many people went home that day but some of us that stayed did a tour of Castlemaine where we enjoyed a lovely meal at Coffee Basics and went on to see the famed anticlinal fold in one of its streets.

That evening it was still raining so it was a perfect night for cheese and wine and board games in the shelter next to the oval. The fire was set up close by and a good time was had by all.

The following day most people left and Eric was left to rake the wheel ruts with a bit of

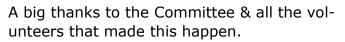
help from Francois which was done successfully until the trucks came to rip up the oval and pull out the surrounding fence for a complete do -over of the oval

All in all another very successful camp with many social activities.





Eric's van after the rains (lake grummet)









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#### M A Y / J U N E 2 0 2 2

## Ron Whittling Memorial

Easter Sunday saw members of Ron's family and those from our club who remembered him assemble in a pristine corner of Jimmy Cole's property in perfect weather for the scattering of Ron's ashes ceremony. It was Ron's wishes to have his ashes scattered around this rock to join his close friend Bluey Crawford who had his ashes placed there about 15 years ago. Ron and Bluey loved this paddock where they found many old coins and artefacts. After a moving few words we all shared in the scattering, using one of Ron's old gold pans which was left there in place (we concreted it in the next day) for a lasting memorial.





memorial

Spreading of ashes







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.



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Eric G

## Member only information



## Club Clothing

\*Available by order\* Samples available to try on at General meetings.



Caps \$18 each



Lightweight Polo Shirts \$35 each



Fleecy Jackets \$40.00 each

#### In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled. CODE RED LOW-MODERATE 3

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

Vic Seekers

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

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