

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

JULY/  
AUGUST  
2022

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# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 43 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Graytown Camp



Tibooburra sunset



## Your Committee of Management 2021-2022

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
<b>President:</b>	<b>Club management and representation, Chairperson</b>	<b>Paul Hart</b>	
<b>Vice President &amp; Research Officer:</b>	President's deputy, arrange speakers. Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration	Michael Davies	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking	Kevin Hubbard	
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records	Pam Griffin	
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Newsletter compilation and distribution	Gary Harvey	
<b>IT &amp; Social Media Officers:</b>	Website administration & Facebook	Mark David (field officer)	
		Anja M	
		Rob Shannon	
<b>Catering Supervisor:</b>	Supper at General Meetings, special occasion camp catering	Alex Eram	
<b>Social Secretary:</b>	Organising social functions, raffles, theatre bookings etc	Tina Whelan	
<b>Almoner:</b>	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc	Louise McGough	
<b>Library Officer:</b>	Managing library at General Meetings	Sam Shvemer	
<b>Clothing Officer:</b>	Managing club clothing display at General Meetings and at camp outings	Susan Moore	
<b>Field Officers:</b>	Assist new members at outings, manage campfires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up duties	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"

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

### **JULY 2022**

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

### **AUGUST 2022**

- General meeting, 3rd Mulgrave
- Havelock 11th-16th

### **SEPTEMBER 2022**

- General meeting, 7th Mulgrave
- Homebush 8th-13th

### **SEPT/OCTOBER 2022**

- General meeting, 5th October
- Waanyarra 29th Sept -4th Oct



Gold price as at 23/06/2022

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## President's Report

By Paul Hart



Hi All,

I trust you are all well and getting through this winter. Tracey and I are travelling for a few months and I would like to thank Eric, Michael, Kevin, Steve and others on the committee for keeping things going on the home front. When I get back it will be late August and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be just around the corner.

I could not be happier with the current committee as there is a core of really good people who work hard for the club and take pride in their individual contributions. In the last few years we have had a great 40th anniversary celebration with lots of sponsor support, we have kept our equipment and procedures up to date with the introduction of MYOB (accounting software), a new computer and light pro. Most committee positions now have a detailed position description and / or detailed guide on what, when and how to do things. On the safety front the committee has managed so far to get through the worst of covid and our general safety focus has meant we have not had any serious safety issues. The membership base is still strong at about 190 and I believe we are on the right track by focussing on friends and family for additional members.

Financially we are strong thanks to the many thousands of dollars in support we have obtained from the likes of Coiltek, Miners Den, Nugget Finder and Minelab (donations of Go Find, Equinox 800 and our SDC2300 loan machine) etc. Of course, I cannot forget the many members who support our raffles and games financially and with food and prize donations. Our strong financial position has resulted in the committee implementing a "give back to members policy" which means we have

been lifting the quality of our raffle and other prizes, subsidising functions, continuing to provide free dinners and other meals. This year the committee also decided to put on hold all membership fees so no new fees are due until July 2023.

So back to the current committee and the AGM. In the last few years some of our older and previously very active members have stepped back as active members on the committee. This continues this year with Louise and Eric both wanting to step down from their current roles. I totally understand and support this as members such as Vice President Eric have done more than their fair share and are getting to the age when things are not quite as easy as they used to be. Fortunately, at this stage we have members who are considering these positions for our next year.

In my 17 odd years with the club, I have been a field officer on and off, the Treasurer for a couple of years and President for the last 3 years. In my roles as Treasurer and President I was very active in many of the activities and achievements described above and it has been rewarding and satisfying. Those who know me will also know I am a keen golfer and the club I am in is a little bit similar to the Seekers in that it is made up of mainly retired middle aged and older gentlemen. This year I was approached by the now President and asked to be vice president of the golf club. I had to decline as I do not wish to hold 2 important positions at the same time. Tracey and I would also like to increase our travel domestically and overseas.

For these reasons I signalled to the committee last year and again more recently my wish to stand down as President. I think it is in the best interests of the club that an incoming President is an active member, knows the club well and also knows the workings of the committee by already having served on it. I think we are fortunate that we have several more than capable

members who could do the role now or in the near future. As a committee we will work through this issue to deliver the best outcome for the club and the members involved.

However, I need to reinforce that we also need members who have not yet done their bit for the club to make it known that they are available for a committee position. So, if you are retired or semi-retired and ideally located in Melbourne, please think seriously about which committee position would suit you most and when you would be available to serve. There are a variety of roles and a number don't even require regular attendance at meetings or camps. If you are ready for a role for this coming year, please contact Eric or myself and we will discuss it with you.

Tracey and I left for Tibooburra in mid June and we went from Wheelers Hill to Swan Hill to Broken Hill. Tracey and I had a pleasant 2 days at Swan Hill where we went to the Pioneer Village and did the horse and buggy and paddle steamer rides. At Broken Hill we stayed 3 nights and we did a city historic tour, visited the Pro Hart gallery and went to Silverton where they are shooting the next mad max movie.

In the lead up to the stay at Tibooburra I must say there was a bit of anxiety around members getting a powered site as not only were there a heap of detectorists but there was a part of the camp taken over by temporary accommodation for the gas line construction crew. Anyway it mainly worked for the best although some members camped at other locations. We bought Sophie a box of chocolates as a thank you for looking after us.

On the first official camp detecting day we went to the common and on the way out there were roughly 25 PMAV members waiting in cars for their day out with John G. Surprisingly on this day and the following at Evans Gully members found a good number of nuggets with many finding over a dozen each. The 2300's and 6000's are finding the majority of the gold now.

As with previous trips to Tibooburra the members are enjoying the comradery of the convoy to our detecting spot. On return to the caravan park there are pre and post dinner drinks with Seekers members only at the fire after about 7.30 pm.

A few members have now returned with Pam and Paul leaving after a big trip to WA and then two weeks at Tibooburra. Sam had to leave early with very painful wrist which meant he could not swing his detector.

I had to get this report to Gary today so I could not fully report on a couple of things. On Friday we will have the judging of the "funny rock" competition and I know some members are putting in quite an effort. We will also be awarding the Gold GOAT (greatest of all time) Tibooburra 2022 to the member who finds the most gold for the week. Also my birthday on that Friday so we are all off to the pub for some fun. Thanks to all those who made the Tibooburra trip another enjoyable experience.

P.S. Anna is also reporting elsewhere in the Newsletter on earlier events.

Funny rock winner was Theo  
GOAT Award went to Paul B

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## General Meetings

By Eric G

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 Lasseater's Reef which he claims to be located about 600km east of the area where Lasseater was searching. I must say he was very convincing. Those interested can read his book 'Lasseater's Reef, One Man's Journey Uncovers the Truth'.

The Find of month went to 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 'Audi' 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](http://www.gold-tec.com.au) for more information.

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

In May we had Steve Hillman who gave 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.

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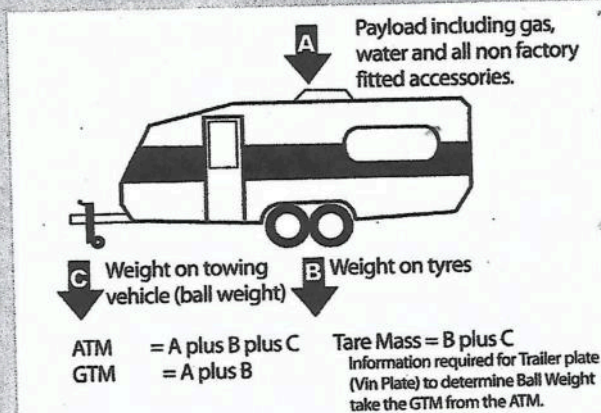


**Ball Weight**

The weight imposed on the rear of the tow vehicle's towball from the coupling of a trailer.

**Payload**

Payload is specified by the manufacturer. It must not be exceeded under any circumstances. Safety, insurance & warranty may be affected if the specified payload is exceeded.

**ATM****Aggregate Trailer Mass**

The total laden mass of a trailer, which includes the towball weight and whatever you add as payload (eg. water, gas, luggage). The ATM is specified by the trailer manufacturer and must not be exceeded.

**GTM****Gross Trailer Mass**

The total permissible mass which includes whatever you add as payload (eg. water, gas and luggage) that can be supported by the wheels of a trailer. The GTM is specified by the trailer manufacturer and must not be exceeded.

**Tare Mass**

The unladen mass of the trailer.



I went to the grocery store and they now have a parking spot for Fat guys that like to grill. That's so considerate.

**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

## Tow Vehicle Terminology



### Swift 500 Series Cooktops Not To Be Used

Hi,

Swift Appliance Group has informed their customers that the Swift 500 series is **not allowed to be used Australia Wide** until further notice. In addition, they are working with local government bodies to attend to the matter and notify everyone as soon as possible.

The most current information can be found on the Swift Appliance Group Website. <https://www.swiftappliancegroup.com.au/notices>

Please read this information and if you have any questions contact Swift Appliances Group directly. Ph: (03) 9359 3068 or email [accnts@swiftappliancegroup.com.au](mailto:accnts@swiftappliancegroup.com.au)

Regards

Leigh

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## Graytown Camp Report

A first time visit by the club to the Spring Creek Camp Site at Graytown which was enjoyed by the 14 members present, plus the 3, day trip members, making a total of 17.

The site itself is well laid out, complete with a large picnic table and bench seats, to which someone kindly erected a top cover to keep us all dry. Well done Steve, Also available was a great well made fireplace with swing in BBQ plate and kettle arm which was used by a few members.

The first couple of days had everyone running back to their cars, dodging the rain showers, but after that the weather settled down to some very pleasant days with tem-

peratures in the mid teens, perfect for detecting. The nights were quite mild for this time of year which was a bonus as I was expecting a few cold one's Brrrrr, don't like those cold ones.

The days were enjoyed looking around this new area, searching for the most likely detecting spots to try our luck, with everyone looking forward to the " Happy hour " around the camp fire at night with the usual drinky poo's, nibbles, gossip, jokes and a few whoppers all being enjoyed by those present.

Nearly all members found Gold on this outing, mostly single figures, but I think future visits will deliver much more after careful research.

Summing up then, a very pleasant Camp site with great potential and definitely worth a future visit.

See you at the next camp, be there.

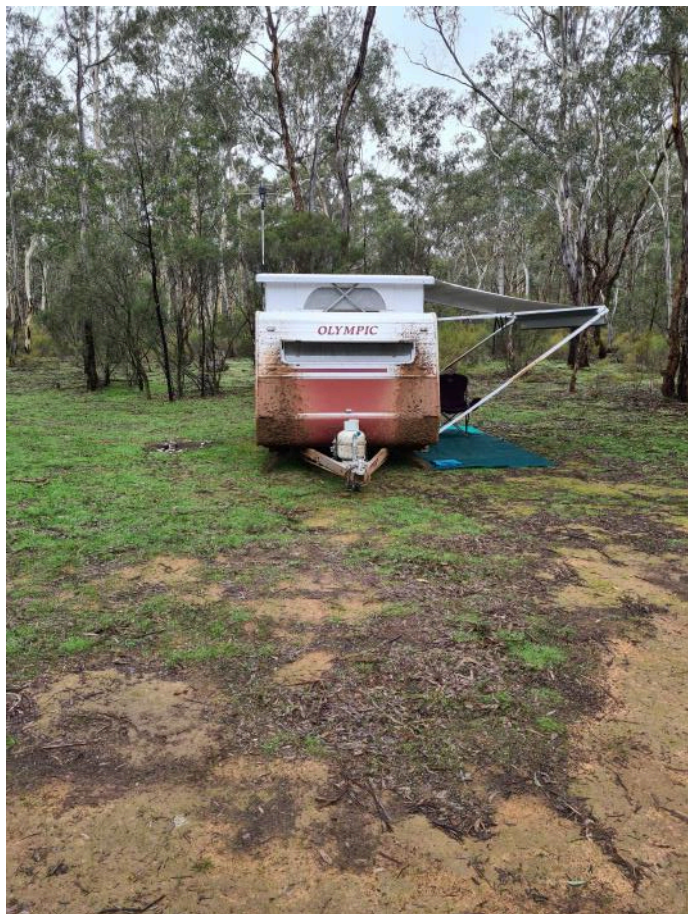
Graham Mee



Local flora







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## Tibooburra Camp Report

By Anna St C

Are you going to Tibooburra they asked? I'd like to, I replied, but work.... you know. And then miraculously work was able to be juggled and I was free to join the annual northwards migration of Victorian Seekers who congregate in a flock in the arid uplands of Corner Country.

The Seekers are a generous lot and soon organised an escort for the lone woman traveller with Imi drawing the short straw. I drove to Tarnagulla to join up with him in Neil, resplendent in his smart new livery of flowers and we were soon on our way.

It was a long first day when we finally drew up at the, appropriately named, Annabranche river area and set up camp and cooked on a fire that someone had left for us before retiring early to bed with the splash of jumping fish alternating with the rumble of passing trucks.

The next morning saw me awake early and keen for the next leg up to Broken Hill. Neil has an enormous fuel tank, but Imi was coasting on fumes by the time we rolled into what seemed a fairly bleak town despite what I had been told of its rich history and as Tibooburra beckoned we stopped only for fuel and food before we set off on the last and most beautiful leg of our journey.

The road winds up through an undulating landscape almost devoid of trees with hidden dips and amazing vistas around every turn. I had been told that the views were amazing, but I hadn't been prepared for just how beautiful I found it. I was itching to stop and explore but Imi set a relentless pace and before I knew it we were pulling into Packsaddle for a pie and pee!

This quaint little pub is a great pit stop, either for just a bite to eat and a top up of fuel or, as many of our members have found over the years, a super place to spend the night as it is always best to arrive at the Tibooburra campsite early as, with no bookings taken, the early bird catches the worm, or in this case the powered sites.

Imi and I didn't stand a chance as we arrived at five o'clock, but we are both very self sufficient and were soon organised by club member and Camp Commandant, Sophie, into adjoining spaces in this very laid-back and friendly campsite.

There were a surprising number of Seekers there already by the time we arrived, and we all met around the large campfire in the evenings to chat and to show off the number of finds each member had for the day. The gold here is miniscule and the weight negligible so the number is all important. Numbers ranged from none (me) to some in their twenties, (Briony) with the SDC and 6000 being the most successful detectors to have.

I went out with Lindsay the first day and he showed me some of his favourite spots as well as some of the historical highlights of the town and explained the differences between detecting on the Common as opposed to the local Stations.

Some nights we went out to watch the sunset and others were spent at the pub and everyone was having the best time despite the early mornings being bitterly cold and as soon as the sun dipped over the horizon in the evening needing to reach for extra layers and thermal undies; but at least we were away from the rain of Victoria!

It is almost mandatory for newbies and first timers to take a day and visit Cameron Corner. I hooked up with Imi, Marj and Steve and we all drove together to the only point in Australia where you can simultaneously stand on the three states of New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland. Sadly, the pub had been closed due to a Covid scare but we had been forewarned, so enjoyed our picnic in the sun next to a giant Bilby. The road to Cameron Corner is populated by a number of these special re-introduced species in giant form by commissioned artists and are great fun to see.

However, we were not really here for sight-

seeing so much, as we were for hunting down nuggets.

The campfire chat had devolved onto which coils worked best on which machine and a friend of (Big) Paul had great success with his seven thousand which yielded a honey hole of pieces so small that the boys just dug up the lot and brought it back to camp to pan it out.

For some members, Tibooburra is a stop along a far longer journey. Anja and Alistair together with Gary and Jenny are planning to be away travelling for months and three

which weighed in at 2.4 grams. However, in the main the gold proved to be small and hard to find.

Meanwhile, Imi and I were detecting on the common. The common is an enormous acreage of land hemming in the tiny township and is littered with quartz outcrops peppered with ironstone and amazing granite boulders. The whole of this vast area was once at the bottom of the Ocean and hence the quartz has been water smoothed into pretty coloured pebbles and gold can



Sunset get together

days after we arrived Briony, and Dean left for the long trip up to Rubyvale and I felt really envious. This was my first long trip in Neil, and I am keen to see as much of Australia as is possible.

A week and a day after we arrived, the official Tibooburra trip began with the arrival of a whole host of members including our president, Paul and treasurer, Kevin. With the campground becoming ever more crowded, a second bivouac was established at the nearby local Aborigine Campground set just outside town in a marvellously tranquil setting and well equipped with water (potable) and loos.

Plans were made for detecting on the two nearest Cattle Stations, Gumvale and Mount Stuart and some success was had by members with Alastair finding a piece of gold



Group outing

be found literally anywhere.

Except, of course, in my case where it con-





## *Tibooburra Camp Report continued...*

By Anna St C

tinued to prove elusive.

Imi had found one piece and Steve and Marge collectively had over a gram in minuscule, glitter weight pieces when, just walking along, Imi started spotting the shine of gold on the surface, invisible to the rest of us until pointed out. It was galling that Imi was having the most success when just walking along without his detector at all!

By day eight I was merely going through the motions. My growing rock collection was fantastic, with an assortment of stones that I planned to polish and set into 'Tibooburra' jewellery. Eyes on the ground on the lookout for clear rock crystal, I heard it; the faint hum of yet another shotgun pellet, or was it? I knelt, I scraped, I scooped and checked and there shiny and bright, blinking in the sunshine after millennia of lying in the ground was my first piece of gold, ever.

In true Scottish fashion I celebrated with a nudie run, streaking across the tundra to the startled gaze of local goats and a couple of nearby detectorists.

It was huge. Not in terms of size, (it later weighed in at .075g), but huge in making me feel finally like an actual part of the club. I'd felt somewhat of an outsider, full of promise but with nothing to show for it; the person everyone offered to help but still somehow managed to disappoint and now suddenly I was in. In the inner circle with the rest of our members who have a little plastic container that rattles. I took my tiny nugget to the pub that night proud as punch that not only was I a Seeker but now I was a Finder too.

\*\*\*

June 2022



**President Paul searching for his lost Gold, for the second time! Dropped it, found it, dropped it again! Then re detected it for a second time.**



Shirley's impression of Paul Hart's beach detecting presented for his birthday.



Celebrating Paul's birthday

The Weekend Prospector  
January 26 · 🌐

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Paul B winner GOAT Award



Paul B

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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

UHF  
**12**



**Remember to be considerate of others if you feel that you must use a generator**

*Don't use it close to other campers, take measures to mitigate the sound such as put it in a ditch or use a sound baffle, don't run it all day, and observe the 9:00 pm cut off time*

*We encourage you to consider charging batteries with a solar panel instead of a generator.*



## Public Dump Points

Members are reminded that human waste is not to be dumped in the bush but is to be disposed of at home or a Public Dump Point. Here are some that are in our areas of the camps:

- Ararat Dump Point: 4 Alexander Ave. Ararat , Grid Ref. 37:16:49.7S, 142:56:0.8E
- Bendigo Showground Public Dump Point: 42A Holmes Rd., North Bendigo, Grid Ref. 36:44:18.3S, 144:16:17.5E
- Clunes Public Dump Point : 70 Bailey St., Clunes, Grid Ref. 37:17:38.1S, 143:46:51.2E
- Harcourt Public Dump Point 6 Bridge St., Harcourt, Grid Ref. 36:59:40.3S, 144:15:45.3E
- Kyneton Mineral Springs Stopover: 219 Burton Ave., Kyneton, Grid Ref. 37:14:7.1 S, 144:25:9.1 E
- Seymour Public Dump Point: Cnr. Wallis & High St., Seymour, Grid Ref. 37:1:14.6S, 145:8:6.0E

Refer: [toiletmap.gov.au](http://toiletmap.gov.au); [highwaytraveller.com.au](http://highwaytraveller.com.au)

