

The Victorian
Seekers Club

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
2022

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 43 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Homebush Camp



Flooding Tarnagulla



WA Trip

Your Committee of Management 2021-2022

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Paul Hart	
Research Officer:	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	Anja M Rob Shannon Steve Iorlano	
Catering Supervisor:	Supper at General Meetings, special occasion camp catering	Steve Iorlano	
Social Secretary:	Organising social functions, raffles, theatre bookings etc	Tina Whelan	
Almoner:	Contact on matters of personal nature: weddings, bereavement etc	Susan Moore	
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 duties	Bob Lake Tony Pappas 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

CLUB CALENDAR

VSC General Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm for 8pm start.

***Mulgrave Community Centre, 355 Wellington Road, Mulgrave. All welcome. (SUBJECT TO CURRENT COVID19 RESTRICTIONS)**

NOVEMBER 2022

- General meeting- 2nd November
- Moliagul 17th-22nd November

Note: new date

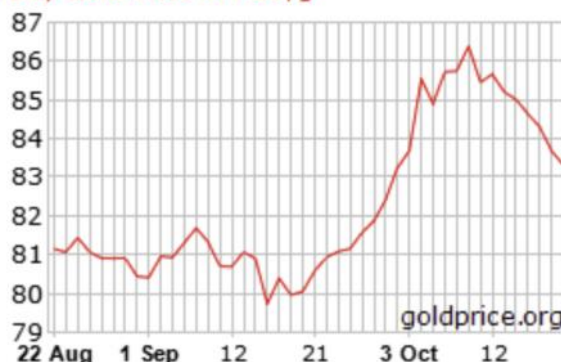
DECEMBER 2022

- General meeting- 7th December
- Xmas Barbeque Sun 11th December
- Moonambel 26th Dec -1st Jan

JANUARY 2023

- General meeting- NO MEETING
- Amherst 19-24 Jan

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold price as at 22/10/2022

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Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 11th December!



Christmas is coming!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 8th 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 !

President's Report

By Steve Hillman



Hi Members!

Well, as most of you know by now, at the last AGM I put my hand up to take on the role of club President. Eric needed to take a step back from some of his duties and Paul had filled the President role for several years and also wished to take a step back. Paul, I thank you for your past hard work and for the work yet to come. It is much appreciated and I can only hope to be as good a president as I have seen you be for the club during my brief membership thus far.

So, a three-way deal was done whereby I took on the President role and Paul kindly obliged by taking on the Vice President role. Eric has kindly offered to stay on as Research Officer. The wealth of knowledge in his head is invaluable to the Club and it is my hope that he can impart some of that knowledge to us as a club so that we may continue to pass it on to current and future members. My sincere thanks to both Paul and Eric and all the committee members who have stayed on for yet another term plus the new committee members. Without our committee, we would not have a club. I urge those members who have not yet held a committee position to seriously consider nominating for a position at the next AGM (yes, I will be reminding you!). Many of those on the committee have been there for quite some time and really deserve a break. It is unfair of us as members to expect the same few to keep on putting in year on year. As the old saying goes, you get back what you put in.

To Paul and the rest of the committee, I say thank you very much for supporting me in this role. A raw recruit, being a member for only around 18 months it is quite daunting.

What a great club this is. In the short

amount of time Marj and I have been members, we have made many new friends and had many great times. We want to be able to make camps and meetings as enjoyable for everyone as we can. In particular the last few camps have been great in spite of the inclement weather. Fun and games, with board and card games in the evenings, great times around the fire with Lars giving us trivia questions to test our knowledge. Members cooking dampers, scones, quesadillas and nachos over our campfire cooking set-up, a coffee/tea station and just generally good times around the camp fire. As a bonus, some of us have even been fortunate enough to find some shiny gold metal.

The upcoming camp at Moliagul we plan on having some more fun and games as is the club tradition for this camp.

It is my wish that the club continues the "give back to members" policy and committee will be looking to see how we can continue to implement this in the future.

At time of writing we have just recently returned from the Tarnagulla camp which was changed from Waanyarra due to the very wet condition of the ground. During the camp the Laanecoorie Gold Bash was held with most members attending the Bash for one or more days. Many competitions were held and proceeds going to the Peter Mac for cancer research. A very worthy cause and I am sure all of us have family or friends that have been affected by this terrible disease. Over \$41,000 was raised over the weekend which is a great effort by all those concerned. One highlight was Paul Hart having a winning bid on a DEUS 11 detector which was well below retail price. I personally was able to purchase one of these at the bash at a considerable discount (but not as good as Paul's win!). Some of us also found some gold. At time of writing I do not know of all finds but I do know that Laurie found eight small bits. There was little opportunity for us to go prospecting; however Marj opened her account on Mon-

day afternoon with two bits. I was allowed to move in on "Marj's Patch" and found another three bits. On returning to "The Patch" the next morning for an hour before we packed up and headed for home, I found one more bit. In all we found six small bits for about 2 grams.

On return from the June Tibooburra trip I told my wife that she needed her own GPX 6000 as mine was frequently "borrowed" from me whilst up there. After some discussion, Marj reluctantly agreed to the purchase and she has been very happy, finding gold with Her new machine. On the Thursday of the recent camp I thought I was getting a scam call until I realised it was true: I had won a competition with Miners Den to win the purchase price of the detector back. What a win! It was meant to be that Marj has her own machine.

At the last general meeting, Eric brought along a plethora of various non-gold finds that he has gathered over the last many years. I was particularly interested in some of the relics he showed us including the many old clay pipes and a lovely cigarette box. I also believe that he has found virtually every silver sixpence and threepence that was ever made. He has a huge collection! It was unfortunate that many members had left the meeting before/during coffee and tea and did not have the opportunity to see these treasures. I hope that Eric will oblige us by bringing his collection back to another meeting and have the opportunity to talk to us about these finds and their historic value.

Gary and Jenny are back from their WA trip along with Al and Anja. Gary attended the meeting and showed us his 88 grams of gold that He and Jenny had found. He won find of the month for his finds. Gary also accepted the find of the year award for Al McK, for his 118 gram nugget found in WA last year. I hope to congratulate Al in person sometime soon.

On a safety note, the tracks out there are very wet, boggy and slippery. Please take extra care when out and about in these

very wet conditions, which seem set to continue for some weeks yet. Stay safe and we hope that our country members are all keeping safe in particular, given the swollen state of all the rivers and waterways.

Here's looking forward to a great year ahead for the club and our members. I wish us all "happy and successful hunting" for some more of the shiny yellow metal we seek.

Well, that's all for this issue. See you next time.

Your President, Steve H

CLUB INSURANCE

I would like to confirm some important information about our Club's insurance: Thank you to Michael for confirming this as there seemed to be some confusion amongst some members.

In simple terms, we have two policies. One for Associations Liability (Indemnity for Committee members from being sued), and one for Public & Products Liability.

The Public & Products Liability covers all financial & registered Club members for any damage that they may cause to non-club members Property or any Personal Injury to non-Club members that members may cause.

The policy does not cover Club members for their own Property or Personal Injury

To be covered under this policy members must be at a registered Club Camp or event pursuing Club associated activities.

If members attend a Camp or activity outside the dates on the approved permit obtained by the club for the camp duration, then they are not covered by our Insurance.

In other words if members turn up early or stay late at Camps they are not covered by the Club Insurance.

Your President, Steve H

Homebush Camp Report

By Steve & Marj

Our first camp since becoming Club President!

Arriving on Friday 9th, we found about 10 members already there. I figure they wanted to get there early to try and snaffle all the gold LOL!

This was a great camp. Very social and everyone joining in on activities around the campfire. The ground was quite wet as there had been heavy rain right up until the Wednesday. Upon arrival at camp, your President decided to give an impromptu demonstration on how to get yourself out of a hopeless bogged situation all by yourself, using nothing but long handled shovel, a set of maxtracks and lots of sweating. The many onlookers I'm sure were truly amazed. Marj – not so much.

More members arrived over the next couple of days and we ended up with 24 attendees plus some day visitors (Big Paul and his wife, Peter Schmidt and a friend of his).

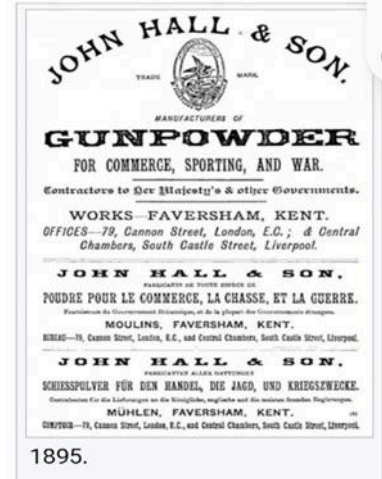
With the ground being so wet, detecting was somewhat difficult with everyone complaining about lots of "false targets". Lars and Peter G opened the accounts with some nice little pieces of shiny gold. Imi found a couple of pieces and I think some others also found some, but I don't have details and it was all small stuff.

Andrew found a nice old label from what we believe to be a powder flask! It looks to be made of brass?



1851 Registered designs of safety stopper and measure for powder canisters and flasks; and of a powder canister^[2]

1898 Curtis's and Harvey was incorporated to take over the businesses of certain firms and companies manufacturing black and smokeless military and blasting powders, including **John Hall and Son** ^[3]



I was feeling rather despondent, only having found one small pinhead sized tiny bit of gold on the second day of camp. However, on Monday I found a little patch that gave up four small species. The next day I took Marj there and whilst I dug and raked, She detected and together we gleaned ten more little species and pieces from that patch. Today I wanted to go back there for one last try before we packed up and one more little specie revealed itself to me. So, no less than FIFTEEN little pieces from "Steve and Marj's Patch". Yet to be cleaned and weighed but will let you know in due course.

Marj and I took along our "Hillbilly" camp cooking gear consisting of a steel spike onto which we attach a large frypan, a cooking hotplate and grill plus two billy hangers. With our billy and Kevin's one, we never ran out of hot water for tea and coffee for everyone.

Some people even used it to cook their breakfast.....



After the damper cooking was a success at the last camp, there were suggestions made about cooking scones at this camp. Marj made a huge batch of scones in our camp oven which turned

out perfectly and were enjoyed by everyone together with whipped cream and jam. Peter G also made a lovely fruit damper, also delicious. Karen and Mal supplied disposable cups plus tea, coffee and milk to be shared by everyone whilst stuffing our faces with the scones and damper.



The next night, pre-dinner snacks were enjoyed. So much so that everyone was very full and not much dinner was required that night! First, Anna made Quesadillas using our campfire cooking pan. Then Karen made Nachos, also using the campfire cooking pan. Peter G made another damper on his BBQ. This time a herb and garlic savoury one. Then Graham M produced




a large tray of party pies, fresh from his grill.

Monday night, Kathy D made a damper using her caravan oven. It was also delicious and we were very impressed, as it was her first attempt at damper.


I think it would be fair to say that all members are probably returning home somewhat heavier than when they arrived.

Trivia questions were read at the campfire by Lars on a couple of nights and much fun was had by all.



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Homebush Camp report continued...

By Steve & Marj



The raffle was also held on Saturday night as we had enough members at camp.

Even the local council sent a guy to help hold up the shovel.



Thank you to everyone who pitched in with firewood collection. We had a great camp-fire every night which was very welcome to ward off the chilly nights. Of course, my fire tending skills were also excellent using the camp cooking gear and my shovel. And I think I only dropped the billy once, but I don't think anyone saw...

We were very lucky with the weather. We had two periods of heavy rain, both of which were overnight.

The rain during the day was at most a light shower and for the last two days the weather was beautiful and sunny.

We look forward to the next camp, which is

timed to coincide with the Laanecoorie Gold Bash. Be there or be square!

Steve and Marj H

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Vice Presidents Report

Hi All,

By now you will all be aware that I have stepped down from the Presidents role but have agreed to be the Vice President to give Eric a well-deserved break and make a smooth transition for President Steve. The 2 years I had as Treasurer and the 3 terms as President were enjoyable but also challenging. Those years included the transition to My Own Business (MYOB), the 40 th anniversary and then a couple of years of covid and all the safety related work this involved.

However, despite the hard work I was always very well supported by the core committee and there is always a degree of self-satisfaction and reward when you are doing things right and getting positive feedback. In my AGM Presidents report I went into some detail thanking Eric for his efforts over about 40 years. I also thanked those on the committee for their effort as well as the members who have also lent a hand. It is a cliché but it is true that I could not have done it without your support.

I have a lot of fond memories over the last few years and the best ones include how well the 40 th anniversary in Melbourne went, the good vibe and feel in the many committee meetings, the enjoyable Christ-



By Paul H

mas parties, the fun and games at Easter, finding more gold with my 6000 and my last camp as President at Tibooburra where we had a lot of fun and everyone came to the pub for my birthday.

My wife and I are looking forward to a little more travel and I am certainly hoping that covid and the weather will allow me to get out and spend more time with you all and also to find some more shiny yellow stuff.

One of my roles as Vice President is to find guest speakers for our general meetings and camps. It is not always as easy as it could be so please come forward with ideas for guest speakers at any time. This includes member presentations on any interesting topic you are passionate about.

We have been a lucky club in recent times with a car being won and President Steve (& Marj) getting their money back on a GPX 6000. Nowhere near the same scale but at the recent Laanecoorie Gold Bash auction I secured an XP Deus II dive ready metal detector worth \$2148 for \$1300. Funds raised went toward cancer research.

I look forward to catching up at Moliagul and at Moonambel in late Dec to 1 Jan. Having started the research into the Rosebud beach camp I am continuing to follow up with the shire and full details will be made available in the Jan/ Feb newsletter. The committee has had a lot of positive feedback regarding this camp and expect it to be popular. At this stage we only have the offer of \$168 for seven nights but this is great value as 7 nights would normally be \$294. Feel free to google Mornington Peninsular Foreshore Camping for more information and the rules for camping but please note all communications, payments etc will be via the VSC committee.

Regards Paul



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WA Trip 2022

By Jen H

What an amazing time we have had so far. We started off at the Seekers Graytown Camp which produced a nice 1.2g nugget for Gary and only a few tiny bits for me. It was a small camp as the weather was threatening. Following this, we travelled up to the Seekers Camp in Tibooburra where we met up with Anja and Alistair and many other Seeker members. We shared our time between the Caravan Park, Gumvale and Mt. Stuart. Gold was tiny to say the least and I found about 25 bits which weighed 2gs. Anja found 22 bits for 2.12gs. Alistair worked hard as usual and was happy to find 7 bits for 4.13gs. We stayed in Tibooburra for about 3 weeks and then it was time to make our way to Birdsville for the 'Big Red Bash'.

The Sunland and Zone set up in the makeshift camping ground just outside of Birdsville with hundreds of caravans, campers and tents. Looked like an up-market refugee camp. We were there for 4 nights until our early entry to the Bash for another 5 nights. It was fantastic. We really enjoyed the music and the enthusiasm of the crowd. Facilities were better than expected and a good time was had by all.



After leaving the bash we travelled the Plenty Hwy stopping a couple of times along the way. We set up in the Gemfields where we discovered Gary had contracted Covid at the Bash (along with

thousands of others). I eventually succumbed as well so we isolated for the required time before moving on.

Luckily for us Covid was like a mild cold. Anja and Al went fossicking for gemstones every day and at night we waved at each other from our distant vans.

Feeling healthy again, we rolled into Alice Springs where we enjoyed 4 nights at the Showgrounds. Gary and I haven't been to the Northern Territory, so we were keen to do a bit of sightseeing.

We travelled on to Uluru where we first visited The Olgas. We then booked a Segway tour around the base of Uluru, which was just the best fun. I think we were all a bit



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nervous but with a little training, you are soon on your way. What a great experience, and the Rock was excellent too.

The Great Central Road which required a permit from Yulara NT to Laverton WA through Aboriginal land, was a solid drive and probably better than anticipated. Saw 2 dingoes and 5 camels and lots of burnt-out cars.... We were relieved to arrive in Laverton.

We arrived early enough to travel on to our destination near Leonora where we set up camp for almost 3 weeks while waiting for our Laverton E40 permits. During that time, we were all lucky to find more gold than I have seen before!! I found 2.84g for 15 bits on my first days detecting. Amazing.

We had so much fun. Remoteness, campfires, baked potatoes, daily gold.... who could ask for more?

We were all very pleased with our gold finds and it certainly beats Victoria.

It was sad to leave our spot, but we had to visit Leonora to find out if there were any objections to our E40 permits. Seems not, so we stocked up and were ready to go detecting again after 3 days and nights of R &

R during which, we celebrated my birthday with a visit to Hoover house for Devonshire tea and a pub dinner.

The E40 failed to give us the gold we were hoping for. Just a few small pieces each. We tried many different locations, but it seems we were beaten by a very keen chainer. We gave the area a good week but decided to travel back to Leonora and we settled on a pending lease. During our time there, the weather took a turn with



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WA Trip 2022...continued

torrential rains falling which made the roads impassable. We were still able to detect when the rain cleared, and we were all lucky enough to find some decent gold again. Gary was ecstatic to find a beautiful 9.2gram nugget, his largest find so far. We spent over 2 weeks in this location before deciding it was time to make our way home.

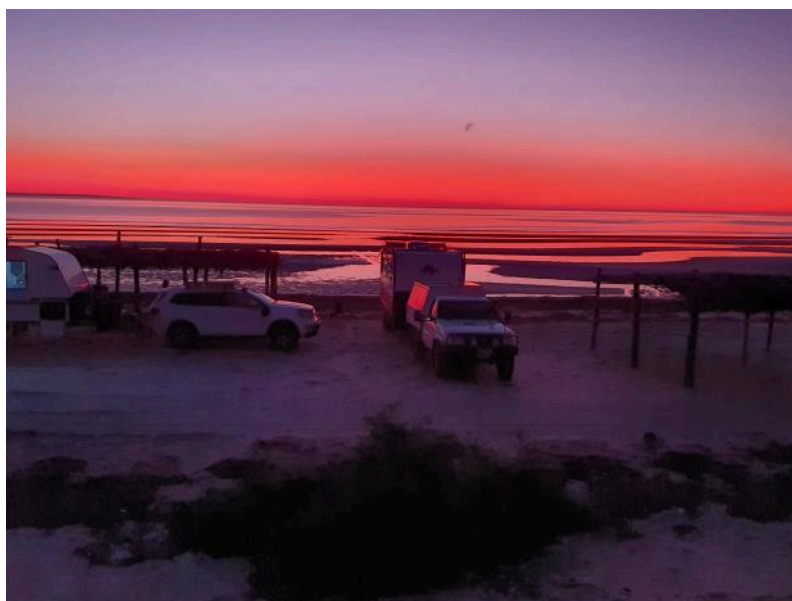
We decided to have a break along the Eyre Peninsula, and we camped at Perlubie beach for 2 nights.

We then travel a short distance to Streaky Bay. What a great little town. We stayed here 6 nights, and it was a relaxing way to finish our trip. The weather was very kind, and we managed some sightseeing including the Whistling Rock and blowholes, Woolshed Caves and Murphy's haystacks.

For Gary and me it was a great opportunity to accompany seasoned travelers like Anja and Alistair. We have learned so much and had so much fun along the way. It truly was a great experience.



Leonora free camp



Perlubie Beach



Jenny in action



Perlubie Beach

Tarnagulla Camp Report.

By Shirley S

(6 – 11 October 2022)

Due to the extreme wet conditions, the camp venue was changed from Waan-yarra state park to the Tarnagulla Historic Oval in the picturesque historic gold town of Tarnagulla. 22 members braved the severe weather conditions and attended the camp plus one prospective member.

The Laanecoorie Gold Bash was also held during this period, some of the club members tried their luck and participated in the various raffles, token hunt, gold panning competitions held during the Friday and Saturday, with all fundraising going to the Peter Mac Cancer Centre. Word is that Paul Hart starred in the token hunts, collecting approx. 40 tokens, however Paul did not win any major prize. Well done Paul for having a go, better luck next time. A few club members took advantage and got together for the roast meal on the Saturday evening, thank goodness the rain held off.

The caretaker of the Tarnagulla oval kindly opened up the bar area under the historic grandstand, they felt sorry for the people who had spent all day in their vans when the heavens opened up on Wednesday. The area was left open for the entire camp period and was a great place for fellow Seekers to get together in the evenings, share a few drinks, laughter and talk about the gold they found or did not find and the amount of lead shot that had been collected from the various prospecting areas.



Steve on the scent of another nugget

The weather cleared for 3 days, members were keen to get out in the field. Laurie was leading the gold tally with 8 tiny pieces collected, until Marj and Steve found several small pieces, weighing in at approximate-



Hungry faces waiting for their meal at the Bash

ly 2 grams total, Marj let Steve onto "her patch", well done Marj must have been that new lucky detector. Whilst at the camp Steve and Marj shared the news that they had won a competition which saw them be refunded the initial cost of the detector, well done Marj, may the gold gods, bring you lots of prospecting luck in the future.

The Vic Seekers welcomed some guests of Steve and Marj, Brian and Marie. They hired the club SDC 2300 for a day and were lucky enough to find a small piece of ironstone with a lovely shiny piece of gold protruding from the side, it weighed in at 1.5grams containing a gram of gold, big congratulations, given it was their first attempt at prospecting, may this be the start of bigger finds to come.

Most club members left the camp on Tuesday as heavy rain was forecast for the



Tarnagulla Township flooding



coming days, however, it was great to be out in the bush and at least see the sunshine for a couple of days.

Look forward to seeing everyone at the next camp scheduled for Moliagul, you never know when you may find that elusive nugget with your name on it. Don't forget to bring the Mossie repellent, also Claratyne, especially for those unlucky enough to have allergic reaction, the mossies' are the size of jumbos and in plague proportions.

Cheers, stay safe and well from
Shirley Schubach - Volunteer Camp Reporter



Alistair McKnight

Being presented with his Find of the year Trophy

Congratulations Al.



We'll always remember her sense of humour and that beautiful smile.

I was on Guard of Honour, waiting for the King of Saudi Arabia, on Horseguards.

On the right flank; Scots Guard (100 guardsmen) a gap, HM The

Queen, mounted in uniform; alongside her the CO Colonel Gerald, another gap, then on the left flank, the Queen's Company Grenadier Guards (100 guardsmen).

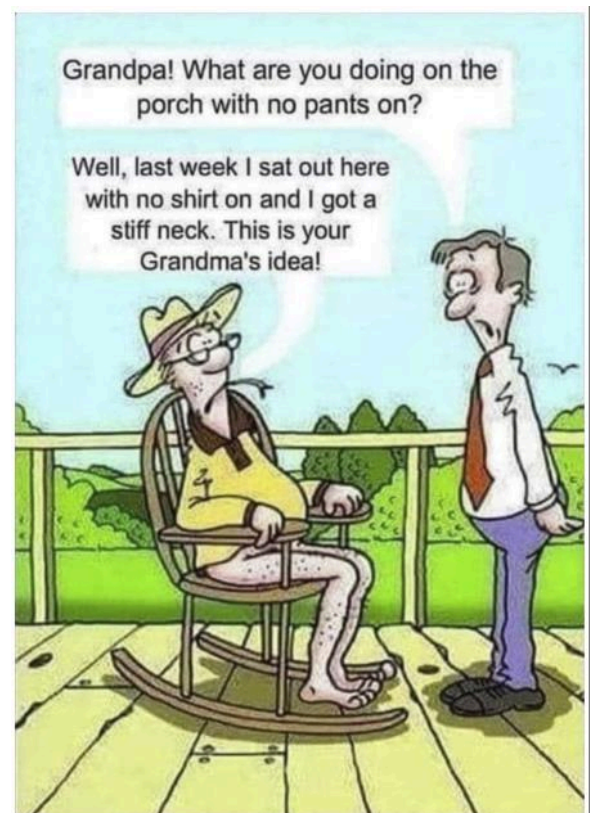
We're stood at ease waiting.

Suddenly the silence was broken by Colonel Gerald's charger erupting with horse farts at full volume for two minutes.

Embarrassed and staring straight ahead Colonel Gerald says, "Sorry about that your Majesty!" She replies, in a wonderful voice, "That's all right Gerald, . . . I thought it was your horse!"

200 guardsmen silently cried with laughter, and tapped their rifle butts on the gravel.

From that moment, every man there adored her!



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; highwaytraveller.com.au

