

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY
2023

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- VP Report
- Christmas Party
- Rosebud camp
details

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 44 ISSUE 1

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Merry
Christmas



*Merry Christmas to all.
Enjoy the festive season and stay safe.*

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	
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)**

Postal:

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Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

Email:

vickseekersclub@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:

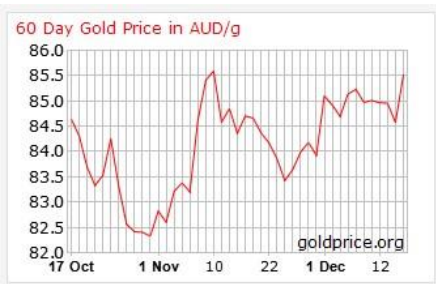
- Promote the skill of prospecting using metal detectors and other suitable equipment in the search for gold, other precious metals, minerals, gemstones, coins, artifacts and relics.
- Encourage and foster friendship and co-operation amongst people interested in the above pursuits.
- Collaborate with 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"

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)**



Gold price as at 17/12/2022

DECEMBER 2022

- Moonambel 26th Dec -1st Jan

JANUARY 2023

- General meeting- NO MEETING

- Amherst 26 -31 Jan

FEBRUARY 2023

- General meeting- 1st Feb

- Rosebud 17 -23 Feb

MARCH 2023

- General meeting- 1st march

- Wedderburn 9 -14 March

SEEKERS CLUB CALENDAR

Committee Meeting							General Meeting							Club Outings							Public Holidays							Special VSC Events						
January							April							July							October													
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa							
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																					31													
Wedderburn Detecting J'boree 11th & 12th Blackwood Aust Panning C/ship 4th March							King's B'Day 12th June							Father's Day is September 3							Christmas Party 10th Wicks Reserve													
Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Month	Camp Venue		Comments							
Jan	Amherst		April	Fryerstown		July			Oct																									
Feb	Rosebud		May			Aug			Nov	Whroo																								
March	Wedderburn		June			Sept			Dec																									
NOTES:	For those who may prefer to head bush, you can have an unofficial camp (IE: not a club camp) in February. Organise amongst yourselves if req'd																																	
Possible June/July trip to Tiboburra - TBC																																		
FYI the Rushworth Gold Revival is scheduled for 10th November (TBC) for those interested																																		
Club may consider again cancelling some camps if weather conditions are not suitable. Notice will be given																																		

President's Report

By Steve Hillman



Hi Members!

Well another year has come and gone. When we look back at the last few years, yes there have been some horrible times. But also some good times in there as well. My lovely wife and I joined this club early in 2021. Since then, we have made many new friends and had some great times together with fellow club members.

Quite a few of this year's camps were soaking wet. So much so that our November camp was postponed and then cancelled. Several others we were camping in the rain and the ground was soaked. No good for metal detecting. The first couple of camps by contrast, were stinking hot! But you know what? We still had good times. Our members make it so no matter what the conditions and we are grateful to be able to share these times with you all.

Some of the highlights for us were the Easter camp at Fryerstown, the Wedderburn Gold Jamboree, our trip to Tibooburra, the Laanecoorie Gold Bash, no lockdowns and being free to travel within our State. Plus of course, as I write this, we just had our Christmas break-up party today at Wicks Reserve. I was truly sweating on the weather forecast. "90% chance of up to 40mm of rain" they said. But as the week went on, I was more and more hopeful that the rain would come later in the day - and it did. It started raining just after the last people left the reserve. So, thank you to the weather gods who looked after us today. Probably felt sorry for us after all the wet camps we have had to endure during the year! A report on today's event is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

After taking on the Club President role at the last AGM, I have been extremely grateful for all the support I have had from committee members who have helped me transition into the role and who continue to support me. For my wife who has been there the whole time helping out with absolutely everything! Without everyone's help this would be so much harder to do. So thank you all. Also thank you to the many club members who have congratulated me and shown their support towards me. It means a lot to me.

I welcome our newest members, just recently joined: Scott Garbutt and Les and Sue Kovach. Glad to have you aboard! I am sure that members will show them the same warm welcome and give them the same assistance that Marj and I received when we joined.

Next year we look forward to keeping our freedoms and being able to continue our club camps that we all so much enjoy.

Looking forward to the upcoming Moonambel Christmas/New Year camp, Amherst camp in January (Please note the last newsletter had the wrong dates. It will be 26th to 31st January so as to coincide with the Australia Day holiday).

February is the beach camp at Rosebud.

March camp will be at Wedderburn to coincide with the Wedderburn Gold Jamboree.

I take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of luck in your quest for finding more of the shiny gold. I wish you all a very merry Christmas time. More importantly, I wish everyone a happy, safe and healthy 2023.

Your President, Steve H

PMAV John Winter Award

At the recent PMAV AGM at Dunolly, Jim Darragh was presented with the John Winter Memorial Trophy, which is the most prestigious annual award given by the PMAV for recognition of outstanding service by a member for the association. Jim has been the treasurer and membership secretary of the PMAV for last 7 years, and what a task that has been. He also looks after the books of the Mitcham branch as well. It is an award well deserved.

The late John Winter was a founding member of the PMAV, and served on the committee for over 20 years in many roles including President, treasurer and newsletter editor.

Jim has been a wonderful supporter of the Seekers club over many years.



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Bushfire Awareness

During Camps and especially during the bushfire season, it is the Members' responsibility to keep themselves informed of potentially hazardous or severe weather. This could be through the radio, Victorian Bushfire Information Line, the CFA website or the CFA smart phone application "FireReady", the VicEmergency website, or the Club's Bushfire Status board. VicEmergency is Victoria's primary website for incident information and warnings on fire and flood, and lists other types of emergencies and incidents.

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

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

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



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/>

Vice Presidents Report

By Paul H



We are heading into the summer months and "touch wood" we get a break from the wet weather, boggy conditions and

mosquitoes. Our next three camps are Moonambel, Amherst and then the Rosebud Beach camp. Please see elsewhere in the newsletter for a comprehensive run-down on Rosebud including the rules and what you need to know, pricing and the booking procedure.

Moonambel Camp

For Moonambel the official dates are 26 Dec to 1 Jan 23. The camp ground has modern showers and toilets and there are some powered sites for \$15 / night and non-powered sites for \$10 / n. Members are encouraged to use the non-powered sites where possible and leave the powered sites for older members or those with medical issues. The club has made a booking so members are requested not to book sites ahead of time, just turn up and see the treasurer Kevin or President Steve about payment.

Please note water is limited to 3 large rain water tanks and there are no taps provided in the camping area. So please ensure you arrive with full water tanks for drinking and possibly for showers etc if the rain water tanks get low.

The nearest dump point is at the caravan park at Avoca.

There will of course be a New Year's Eve Function and the club has booked the air-conditioned hall for this event.

There will be fun and games and the theme for the evening is Gold so bring along an outfit or a gold-coloured adornment to wear.

Eric is bringing the club BBQ and there will be free sausages and burgers but BYO salads, desert and drinks.

Guest Speakers

For general meetings guest speakers we are planning the following for the first quarter of next year. We need to stay a little flexible because sometimes presenters can't make it for various reasons. Topics will include –

New Minelab detectors – Manticor and new Equinox models – Miners Den

Field Research – using GeoVic and Google Earth to help with the search for gold

4 WD and Caravan Tyres

Coin / Relic Detectors

With my hobby business finding lost jewelry for people I need a fully waterproof detector for searchers in the bay, ocean, rock pools etc. Water got into my Equinox 800 on two occasions and to their credit Minelab did replace the control box both times. While I really liked this detector I had to sell it because the warranty was about to run out. I know we have quite a few Equinox users and if you are out of warranty and plan on submerging this detector I suggest you have a look online at what users are doing to better waterproof and protect their machines.

So after selling the Nox I began the search for a replacement unit and was surprised at the number of options now available for coin / relic hunters who also want a gold and beach / water mode. I cannot go into any detail but below are some of the detectors I looked at in the last few months.

Minelab Manticore \$2500 waterproof 5 m, 11" coil, 3 year warranty, 2 dimensional ID map

XP Deus II (dive ready version) \$2148 – 5 year warranty & 20 m waterproof. Wireless but need antenna in water.

Minelab new Equinox 900 (\$1699) waterproof 5 m, 11 & 6 " coils, 3 year warranty

Garret AT Max \$1575 (and they also have their GPX 6000 equivalent – the Axiom \$7385)

Nokta – The Legend. \$1000 - \$1250 propack with extra battery and 6 inch coil etc. Great value machine especially with additional inclusions and/or discounts. 3 m waterproof and 3 year warranty.

After looking I opted for the Nokta The Legend with propack because it also had a \$250 black Friday discount. If you are in the market please do your own research but happy to discuss. PS at the Wicks Reserve end of year function I managed to

find the most tokens with the Nokta after only using it previously for a couple of hours.

Hope you all have a happy holiday season and better new year (won't be hard for most....)


Cheers Paul



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Christmas Breakup Party 2022

By Steve H

Our club Christmas breakup party was again held at Wicks Reserve, The Basin.

After worrying about the weather all week, I was extremely happy that the rain held off until after we had finished. In fact, as Eric, Kevin, Marj and I were driving out of the reserve, being the last ones to leave, it just started to rain with a few drops on the windscreen of the car (Phew!)

We had a great attendance this year with close to 60 people attending. We had the usual fun and games and Tina and Susan outdid themselves with the raffle and door prizes.

A rundown on the day's winners:

Stake your Claim: First prize to Susan Moore (1.5 gram nugget). Second prize to Marj Hillman (1 gram nugget). Third prize to Lindsay Tricker (0.5 gram nugget).

Token Hunt: First prize went to Paul Hart for the most tokens found (12). Lucky token number prizes went to Tony Papas (1st), Tomas Mameletzis (2nd) and Bob Lake (3rd). Stephan got the prize for finding golden token number 100. The number one token has eluded us all for the second year in a row!

Key hunt, held in conjunction with the token hunt: Lindsay Tricker found the winning key that opened the golden box and scored himself \$50 cash!

The main raffle for three hampers: first prize was won by Sam Shvemer. Second by Giseler Graser and third prize by Heike Muller.

The many door prizes were won and shared by lots of different members, so shared around very well.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped run all the activities. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it a great day.



Eric and Kevin adjudicating the key and token hunt



Patty and Joan



Lucky key hunt \$50 winner



The lucky stake your claim winners



Checking out the raffle hampers



Members attend rally for Neville Perry

By Eric G



On 16 Nov, Steve and I joined the PMAV in a rally of support for Neville Perry outside the Magistrates court in Maryborough, who was appearing to defend his case for mining on his own property on which the Heritage Dept has placed a ban. Members will remember Neville showing us his 2 1/2 kilogram nugget at our camp last year. Neville has to wait until 16 Dec for a determination on his case .

UPDATE

Local prospector Neville Perry was today found NOT GUILTY of knowingly – and without consent – damaging a heritage site on a property he owns near Dunolly, with the questionable charge being dismissed. It's been a trying time, and unfortunately this still doesn't allow me to work on my land. That's another fight that I'm going to have, so it's certainly not the end of where I'm at. But so much appreciation and love to all you people out there, and I just can't thank you enough."

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ROSEBUD BEACH CAMP 17—23 FEB

By Paul H

ROSEBUD BEACH CAMP 17 FEB 23

Hi Members,

As announced at meetings and in the last Newsletter the club is conducting a beach camp at the Rosebud Foreshore Camp Ground for the first time from Friday 17 Feb 2023 for 7 nights. It is obviously different to our traditional bush camp looking for gold but there will still be lots of metal detecting to be done as well as a range of other fun activities which you would associate with a visit to the Mornington Peninsula.

For many it will be like a beach holiday with friends so you might like to put aside some extra holiday money if you would like to participate in some of the optional organised activities. The committee realizes that things like this can be costly so the emphasis will be planning a number of fun, low cost or free activities (see below).

The Offer

You might remember that the club has a very good post school holiday deal of 7 nights for the price of 4. The cost is \$168 per site for members and sites will be allocated on a first come first served basis from the release of this Newsletter. Please note the Foreshore Camp Ground has not offered any other rates but continue to read below for other options. Full disclosure – up to ten members of the core committee that will be most involved in planning and running this activity will be allocated the first ten sites. This is also because the club also needs to pay for a minimum of ten sites in Dec to secure our booking.

Booking Procedure

Tony Pappas has been appointed as the "Booking Manager"(BM) for the club and will allocate sites to members based on your Caravan size. Current club members who book and pay in full for the 7 nights will be allocated the first sites on first in best dressed basis. Members who are not able to stay for the full 7 nights have a choice to pay in full to secure a site or advise the BM of their preferred dates and wait until later in January to see if their request can be met (see below for details and other options).

The booking procedure is as follows :

- Member emails the BM (tonyspappas@gmail.com) with all details below -
- Name of members on site
- Name and age of any onsite member guests (site maximum is 6 and max 4 adults)
- Van size - length (including drawbar) and width in meters
- Size of any other guest tents, gazebo's etc
- Vehicle make and rego (only one vehicle allowed per site)
- Arrival and departure date if different to the official camp dates
- Preferred arrival time Friday after 11 am and departure time Friday before 11 am
- The Booking Manager (BM) will reply to your email with
- a site number
- allocated arrival and departure time
- payment options
- Member then accepts and pays VSC in full by mid Jan 23 or declines ASAP

Please also email the Booking Manager if any of the following applies.

- I would like to attend but I can only stay on the following dates - ? to ? Feb. Please



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advise if these dates are possible and the cost

- I will be staying at other local accommodation but please keep me informed about the camp via email

- I will just be doing day trips but please keep me informed about the camp via email

Members may request a separate guest site but these will be only made available in early February if available. We have had occasions in the past where guests attending camps have been loud and disruptive so any adult guests or prospective members will be subject to committee approval. Under no circumstances are members to contact the Rosebud Foreshore Camping Ground Office about our camp. All member questions can be directed to Steve H, Paul H or Tony Pappas (phone numbers and email addresses are in the Newsletter).

Arrival & Departures

Because we are all potentially arriving and departing on the same day it is important that arrival and departure times are staggered. Members will be asked to nominate a preferred arrival and departure time and the BM will then confirm a time with you. Please arrive as close as possible to your arrival and departure time. On arrival it is planned for a member of the committee to be on hand to help with getting you onto your site.

Unlike our normal camps there is no arriving a day or two before, or leaving a day or two after the official camp dates.



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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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ROSEBUD BEACH CAMP CONTINUED

Activities

Below is a guide to the type of activities that are being planned for the week. More details will be provided to those attending via email. For activities requiring bookings members may be asked to nominate those activities they want to participate in. Activity co-ordinators will be chosen to plan and lead most activities. An activity plan will be placed on a site white board and updated daily. The emphasis will be on low cost / free activities.

- Food / Dining - BYO fish & chips on beach. Chinese or RSL club dinner. Sunset drinks/nibbles, free sausage sizzle
- Detecting - lessons and tips, half day trips, competitions with prizes
- Tourist Activities - Fishing hire boats, 9 holes golf, Wine tour, Spa visit. Details and booking maybe required in Jan / early Feb.
- Cheap / Free fun stuff – metal detecting, beach / pier fishing, walking, markets, national park visit, shopping, bike ride along the foreshore, kayaking,
- Games / Quiz - after dinner fun (with prizes)

Camp Rules & other things you should know

Before you commit to the trip and book your site please see below to ensure you can live with the following.

- The Camp Ground is right on, and open to, the busy Point Nepean Road (some sites are within 20-30 m of the road)
- While we are very close to the beach there are sand dunes, trees and beach boxes which means you will need to walk about 50 to 100 m to see the bay.
- Tourists and locals use walking / bike tracks through the Camp Ground all the time
- Unfortunately, theft is a common occurrence in the camp grounds and you should secure / lock everything all the time
- Expect it to be noisier than our normal camps at night, especially on the weekend. All noise in camp to stop by 11 pm.
- The toilets and shower block has been renovated but are on the small side and won't always be spotless
- Dump point 1681 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud West, Victoria
- No pets of any description are allowed
- Alcohol consumption is confined to allocated sites
- Campers must ensure a 2-metre clearance between sites for fire services
- Only gas or electric BBQs allowed. No solid fuel fires are permitted at any time
- Only one vehicle is allowed on each site (and no sleeping is allowed in cars). 4 kmph speed limit.
- We have been allocated our own section of the Camp Ground but once every one is on site it will be quite packed and similar to most caravan parks
- Not all sites are level and some are not quite rectangular. There are lots of large pine and other trees on site
- There are about 40 sites and most are around the 9 to 10 m long by 5 to 6 m wide.
- All sites have access to power (bring long power cords). However, there are only half a dozen taps so you will not be connected to water.



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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

Bring a long hose to top up your tanks or ask a committee member to borrow one.

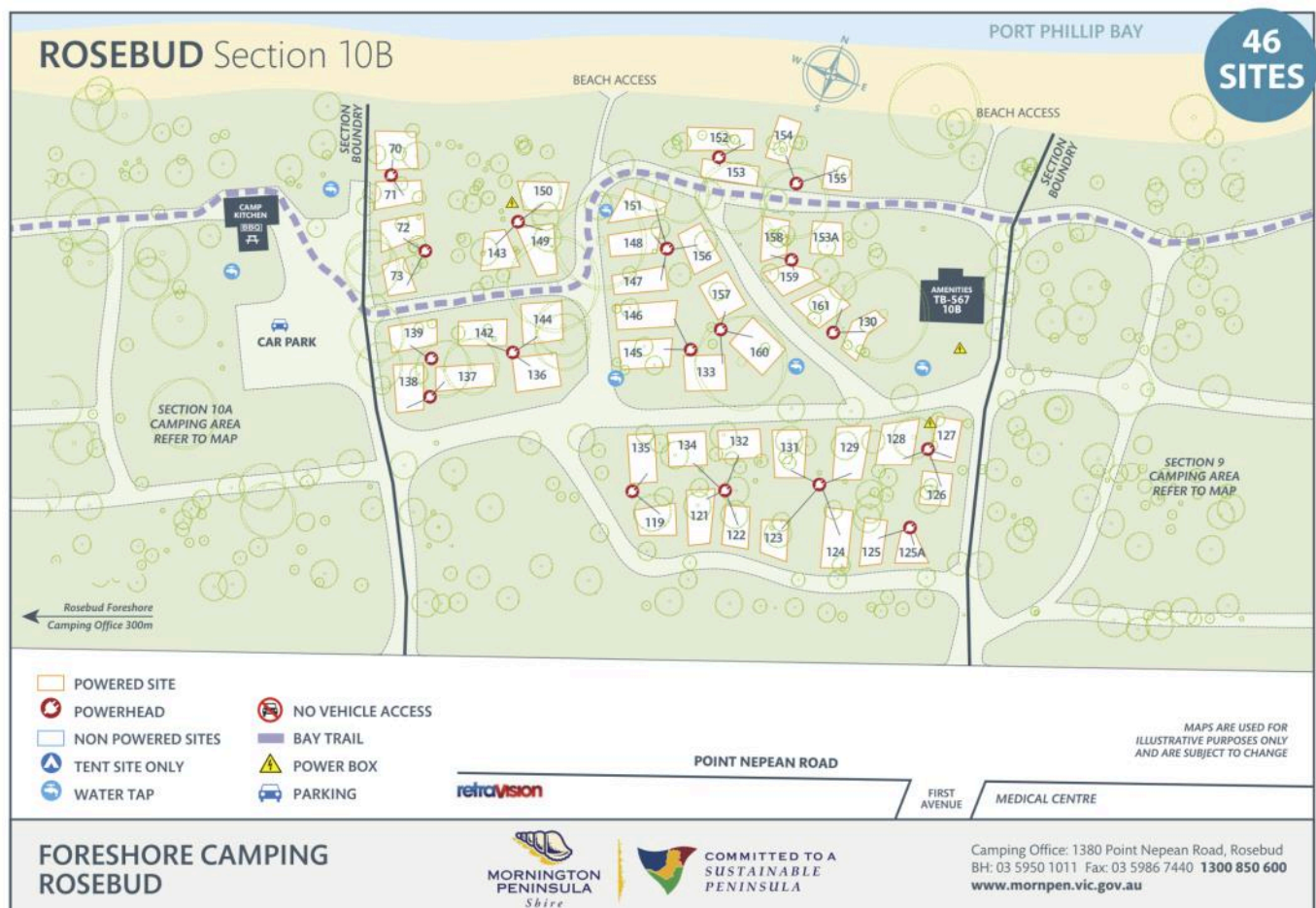
- As with our normal camps members will be responsible for their guest behavior and safety
 - The Camp Ground staff have the right to terminate your stay for breaches
 - We do need to be mindful that not everyone thinks that detectorists are cool. Use common sense but as a guide
 - don't detect on a busy beach, camp ground or playground (in water or out on sand flats at low tide is generally OK)
 - use your earphones or turn your external speakers down low
 - fill in all holes even on the beach or sand flats at low tide
 - in parks avoid using picks and larger digging implements unless no one is around.
- Take a plug and replace it. Ideally no one should see where we have been digging.
- only detect in small groups (pairs or threes) and even then, spread out
 - lets agree not to detect in our section of the

camp ground

For full conditions of camping copy and paste the following link into your web browser.

Conditions of camping - Mornington Peninsula Shire (mornpen.vic.gov.au)

regards





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

Club Clothing

Available by order

Samples available to try on at
General meetings.



Caps \$18 each



Fleecy Jackets \$40.00 each



Lightweight Polo Shirts \$35 each

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
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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