

The Victorian
Seekers Club

MARCH /
APRIL

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 44 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Moonambel New years Eve



Your Committee of Management 2022-2023

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)**

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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:

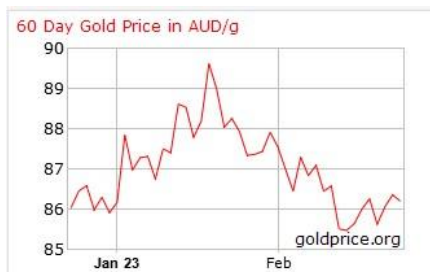
- Promote the skill of prospecting using metal detectors and other suitable equipment in the search for gold, other precious metals, minerals, gemstones, coins, artifacts and relics.
- Encourage and foster friendship and co-operation amongst people interested in the above pursuits.
- Collaborate with 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 7.30pm for 8pm start.

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



Gold price as at 25/2/2023

MARCH 2023

- General meeting- 1st march
- Wedderburn 9 -14 March

APRIL 2023

- General meeting- 5th April
- Fryerstown 6th -11th April

See details page 5

MAY 2023

- General meeting- 3rd May
- Talbot 18-23 May

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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March							June							September							December													
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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			Nov	Whroo																					
Feb	Rosebud		May			Aug			Dec																									
March	Wedderburn		June			Sept																												
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!

Here we are again with another newsletter. Since the last one we have had our Christmas/New Year camp at Moonambel and, our January camp at Amherst. Both were great camps with lots of fun had by all and the bonus of gold found by many of us. It certainly seems that gold is getting harder to find and the average size is getting smaller. But it's still there waiting to be found if we put the effort in.

At the Moonambel camp, Brian and Maree Blease joined our club. They are based in Ballarat. Please make sure you welcome them when you see them at a camp. During the Amherst camp, our illustrious Research Officer Eric had a birthday! We celebrated at the Talbot pub and Marj arranged birthday cake for Eric to be enjoyed all 19 of us at the pub. Also, Les and Sue Kovach both found their first gold, Les with three pieces and Sue with one, which I am sure will be the first of many.

Ken Whittaker's daughter very kindly donated a one-gram gold ingot to the club. Thank you! It will be used as one of the prizes for the raffle at Fryerstown Easter camp.

As I write this, we are getting ready for our Rosebud camp which looks like it's going to be a good one with plenty to do. I think we have about 19 camps booked and a couple of day trippers to come visit us whilst there. By the time you read this, the camp will be done and dusted, and you will have to wait until the next newsletter to get the report and all the details of how we went.

Also just confirming that Marj and I have a trip to WA booked for this year. We leave at the end of April and hope to be back by end of July at this stage. I also have to visit my Dad, who lives interstate and will be 96 YO this year. That visit is planned to be during March. It's a very busy year again as usual! April is approaching fast and is the month for our fantastic Fryerstown camp. We attended our first Fryerstown camp last year and had a ball. Looking forward to it and I hope you are too. We hope for better weather this year so as not to have a "Lake Grummett" like

last year on the last day of camp. It is also hoped that this Covid business would start to go away and we can once again get back to our old normal lives. We live in hope!

Well, that's all from me for now. Keep well and I hope to catch up with you all in the near future. If I haven't met you yet, please come and say hi!

Regards,
Your Club President, Steve H

2023 GWS AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

SHARE THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Show your support and help raise money for your local Community by purchasing a ticket in the GWS Auto Group raffle.

All proceeds raised 100% goes back to participating Community clubs and associations. Over \$740,000 raised so far!

MAJOR PRIZE \$25,000

TOWARDS THE CONTRIBUTION TO PURCHASE A VEHICLE FROM THE GWS GROUP

Drawn on the 16th of June 2023 at Chadstone Mitsubishi / Chadstone Kia, 1575 Dandenong Rd Oakleigh.

VSC is again supporting the Gary & Warren Smith Auto Group Raffle. Keep an eye out at General meetings and camps for Susan Moore selling tickets. Remember 100% of proceeds go to the club.

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Fryerstown Camp

6th-13th April

Easter Friday morning

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday

4pm-5pm Buy Swap Sell

Bring along your unwanted gear
to swap or sell.

Evening– Roast Dinner/Raffle

Roast Beef and Pork provided by club.
BYO salads and dessert.

Non-members \$5 kids free

Sunday

Stake your claim, fun and games for
everyone.

Monday

Dinner at Five Flags Hotel.



Victorian Gold Panning Association

Fosterville Gold Australian Gold Panning Championships



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Australia



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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,

Vice Presidents Report

By Paul H



Hi All,

At the time of writing I have been working with Steve on the final bits and pieces for Rosebud. The weather looks good and we have some enjoyable activities lined up so looking forward to it.

After Rosebud we have camps at Wedderburn and then Easter at Fryerstown.

At our committee meeting in the coming months we are hoping to get someone from Miners Den to come along and talk about the new Minelab Equinox range and the new Manticore. Another night we have a few You Tube videos to help with our field research prior to going to the gold fields.

Finally I have a new toy which I will be trying at Rosebud and which may have an application in the gold fields. I have bought a couple of Fishing Magnets. For those who are not aware they consist of a large neodymium rare earth magnet inside a steel casing or ring. They can have eye bolts on the top and / or side which you attach a good length of rope.

I have two fishing magnets and they are rated to 650 and 1150 Kg and are double sided so this really means they are supposed to be able to lift 325 and 575 Kg per side. In my garage tests so far I think this is a gross over exaggeration . However you do have to be careful with the larger magnets as you can get damaged fingers if the magnets decides to clamps onto something between your digits and a large metal object.

The prices vary quite a bit but I bought the

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MINELAB GPX8000

large one with really good case, gloves, a grapple hook, 20 m of rope and loctitie for \$160. The 650 kg magnet with rope was \$65 on ebay. You can pay double these prices at some shops but they can also get hooked up on things and lost in the water so I did not want to pay too much.

Next week I hope to try them around the piers and water holes on the Mornington Peninsula and will report if I get anything worthwhile. In the gold fields there are lots of places where there is lots of surface metal and rust which maybe hiding gold so I might see if it can clean up a patch with the magnets. I don't hold any great hopes of this being too successful. Another thing I might try is throwing them down a mine shaft and see if there are any relics to be found. Much more likely to hook onto a big piece of corrugated iron I think.

Anyway bye for now and will let you know how I go.

New Episode Every Week
Wednesday 7.30pm AEDT

[Discover More](#)

THE MINELAB SHOW

what3words

VKS-737 Radio Network and other Australian emergency services accept what3words

What is what3words?

what3words is the easiest way to tell VKS-737 Base Station Operators, Triple Zero (000) and other emergency service organisations exactly where you are when you need help. **what3words** has divided the world into 3 metre squares and given each one a unique three word identifier.

Where to find the three words to identify your location.

Australia's emergency services have developed a free life-saving mobile phone app, **Emergency+**, which helps people call the right emergency number and confirm their location.

what3words is available in this app, and emergency services in Australia accept and use **what3words** addresses to find callers faster.

The **Emergency+** app displays a caller's current **what3words** address so they can easily give Australian emergency services their exact location and receive help quickly.



Alternatively the free **what3words** mobile phone app can be used to obtain the 3 words for your location.

Do I need Wi-Fi, mobile data or phone reception to use **Emergency+** or the **what3words** app?

Both the **Emergency+** and **what3words** mobile apps work offline, so you will be able to find the **what3words** address for your current location on either app without Wi-Fi, mobile data or phone reception.

It is important to remember that GPS / Location is enabled on your phone for the apps to be able to find your location.

Once you have identified the 3 words for your location you will be able to pass these via radio to the relevant operator handling your emergency.

Please note that you will need a network signal to place a telephone call to Triple Zero (000) if you are not calling via radio.

Why can't I just share the GPS coordinates displayed on the **Emergency+** or **what3words** app?

You can share GPS coordinates, but saying 16 numbers over the radio or phone is hard and takes time.

what3words addresses are a much more human-friendly way of giving the same information. They are easy to say over the radio or phone and much harder to mix up, which is really useful in emergencies.

Want more information

If you need more information about **what3words** it is highly recommend that you assign 20 minutes of your time to watch this excellent You Tube Video from Chris Sheldrick, the original developer of this system:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hKh7DcQnuTE>

Moonambel Camp report...

By Anna S

Bah Humbug! I thought when asked about Christmas, choosing to eschew the family gathering and instead, sneaking off a day early in Neil accompanied for the first time by Dee.

We weren't the first ones there; Pieter and Lars were banging in their last tent pegs while Dave watched on as he waited by the Van of Requirement for the French contingent to arrive. Before long el Presidente rocked up with Marj and the party started in earnest.

Moonambel was a great camping spot; a deserted oval with power for whoever wanted it, the cleanest bathrooms in Australia and the use of the airconditioned hall made for a really relaxed and comfortable outing. People drifted in and out and we had 45 attendees this year.



The days were hot so most people got an early start at detecting with a few people finding the essentials to make their holiday complete. Unsurprisingly Alastair pulled a chunky specie out early on and yours truly found nothing. It was business as usual.



Steve and Marj had brought two sets of Bocchi with them and our competitiveness got an early workout most evenings with onlookers sipping drinks and accompanied by music we learned our aim was

on a par with our detecting!

Most afternoons people congregated in the hall and chatted in the cool or played games. Nibbles were shared and friendships made or rekindled in true Seekers fashion.

Sadly the French contingent had caravan trouble and were not just late in arriving but had to stay in Avoca for the duration and Francine was sorely missed in the evenings.

However she and Francois were determined to be there for the Big Day which Marj organised with breath-taking efficiency.

Due to Covid rearing its ugly head in the Grummet household Eric had to forgo camp at the last minute. He had not only the raffle prizes with him but also the sausages! Disaster loomed. However without even raising a sweat Marj soon procured more of both and the party was on.

Everyone rallied round to decorate the



hall in its, club appropriate, colour of gold and it looked great.

We retired to prepare and this was my chance to shine. No, I can't find gold but I know my way around a glue stick and my Gold Digger outfit was on point! I had high hopes.

People had made a great effort and everyone had something gold to wear and we congratulated each other as we gathered for the coin toss.



So much fun was had as we vied to get our dollars nearest the golden bottle. It honestly was one of the most fun things we've held as a fund raiser with Brian Mc Gough proving in the end to have the steadiest hand and the surest aim.

Then the men were hustled outside for the annual cook off. Barbecues had been set up in a row and some precision grilling took place with platters of burgers, sausages and onions appearing in short order, delicious!

We finished off with fruit and ice cream and finally the big moment arrived; the



FOSSICKIN' ROUND



costume judging.



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Moonambel Camp report continued...

It was a close run thing in the end with Alastair and I just sneaking ahead of the others but it cemented my place in the club as possibly worst person to ever hold a detector but nae bad with a glue gun. I'll take it.

Then we had the raffle with Imi winning the top prize of the \$100 Miner's Den voucher and most members winning either a door prize or some choccies in the raffle. It wasn't even nine o'clock and many

members were eyeing up their caravans and yawning when Steve started the quiz.


Numbers were drawn from a hat and I struck gold when I was teamed up with Imi and Michael. Steve and Marj had reams of questions on every subject and the time passed swiftly with picture rounds and general knowledge testing us to the utmost.

My teammates carried us over the line,



and we finished up just in time to share champagne as we all sang Auld Lang Syne.

As a Scot I would have scoffed if someone dared suggest that an Edinburgh New Year could be beaten by anyone, anywhere, but the Seekers New year of 2023 was one of the best that I have ever been to. We as a club are incredibly lucky to have Marj and Steve. Their unfailing good humour, incredible amounts of hard work and ability to bring everyone together made this camp the best I have ever been to. I know everyone will agree and join me in singing their praises, Hip Hip Hooray and a HUGE thank you to you both.



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Amherst Camp report ...

By Eric G

AMHERST RAMBLINGS

The forecast for this Australia Day week was very favorable except Friday with high 30's predicted. That was a trigger for a good attendance of 30 members arriving, which is more than double for this time of year due to the normally hot weather. Kevin had the initiative to bring along our gazebo which was a good idea to provide us with some extra shade and also to give a home to a large spider who created webs to catch most of the mozzies and moths that entered, it was entertaining to watch his frenzied activity. Alas at pack up time it was out with the old Pea Beu treatment to dispatch him, which was a bit sad to lose a friend like that after doing us a great service.

Ken Wittaker's daughter Courtney and son in-law Wayne, along with their 2 young kids came and stayed for a couple of days to try their luck, and to see what their old man gets up to on his trips away. In appreciation for all the good times Ken has had with us over many years, Courtney very generously donated to us with a magnificent Perth Mint 1 gram ingot to use in future raffles, and would fit nicely in our next 'stake your claim' event at Easter.

It is amazing how some things are meant to coincide. A miracle happened with Ken while he was out with his family. He pulled up on the side of a track and on getting out he found a set of keys on the side of the road and soon after, some friends of ours came past and stopped for a chat and Ken mentioned the keys he found. Because the friends were going back to the Talbot Rec. Reserve where they were staying they would spread the word, and lo and behold, the first person they spoke to had lost her keys in that area, so she raced back to see Ken who was still there and was relieved to reunited with her keys. Ken says that she was a pretty young thing, but due to his advancing years it precluded him from taking advantage of her amorous appreciations.



Spiders made there home in club marquee

Friday, being hot saw a few of us heading to the Talbot pool for a very refreshing dip, we came out shivering which got us through the heat of the day.

Saturday was pub night which saw us all attending the Talbot Hotel for tea and a few sherbets. We were very impressed with their large range of meals available and quick service. After the meal, I was embarrassed by Marj presenting me with a birthday cake for my 79th and all that goes with it. It was nice to be honored by all my



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friends in that way.

New members, Les and Sue Kovach got off to a good start on their first outing by both finding their first gold, with a little coaching from Steve—well done. Also John Calwell found several small nuggets on his second trip, they are now thoroughly bitten by the 'bug'. Talking of bugs biting, many of us were victims of large bull ants which are on the march out there at the moment, especially Steve who copped several bites on his neck—ouch.

One night we had a couple of prowlers about the camp at midnight, and it was only for Robert who was awake at the time noticed them and frightened them off with his very bright torchlight. It was a wakeup call for us all to make sure our cars are locked up at night, and vans when we are out.

We had a successful raffle on Saturday night raising \$180, half of which will be donated to the Heartfelt Photography organization, which is an Australia wide group of volunteer photographers who donate their time to travel to hospitals and take photos

of dying or diseased babies in a caring way to give families a lasting memory of the child.

Gold was hard to come by and seems to be getting smaller with every trip which is suiting the new 6000's, most of us with less than a gram. It's not like the old days with pieces nothing less than a gram. Robert was the only exception with 6 bits for about 4gram and Paul B a specimen containing 5grams. Shirley found the smallest with her 2300 the size of (.)

We all thoroughly enjoyed the week and are looking forward to the next camp, hoping that the weather gods will be kinder than last years' disastrous rains.

Good luck and the best of health to all.

Eric

I got my wife a metal detector as
a present, but she didn't like it.

Strange as she always likes to dig
up things from the past.





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 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

