The Victorian Seekers Club

MAY/JUNE 2023

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Camp Reports

Rosebud

Wedderburn

Fryerstown

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 44 ISSUE 3

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter





Rosebud
Our first beach camp

Wedderburn
Camp fires are back



Fryerstown
Stake your claim

POSITION

Your Committee of Management 2022-2023

Club management and representation, **Steve Hillman President:** Chairperson President's deputy, arrange speakers. Paul Hart Vice President: Research Officer: Information about outings, field activity. **Eric Grummett** Correspondence, meetings, camp permits Michael Davies Secretary: and other administration Financial reporting, paying and receiving Kevin Hubbard Treasurer: money, banking Membership enquiries, subscriptions, Membership Pam Griffin membership records Secretary: Newsletter compilation and distribution **Newsletter Editor:** Gary Harvey Website administration & Facebook IT & Social Media Officers: Anja M Rob Shannon Supper at General Meetings, Catering Steve Iorlano special occasion camp catering Supervisor: Organising social functions, raffles, theatre Tina Whelan Social Secretary: bookings etc Contact on matters of personal nature: Almoner: Susan Moore weddings, bereavement etc Managing library at General Meetings Sam Shvemer Library Officer: Managing club clothing display at General Clothing Officer: Susan Moore Meetings and at camp outings

ATA SERVICE SE

The Victorian Seekers Club Inc. (Reg. No. A0001477T)

Assist new members at outings, manage

campfires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up d uties

Postal:

PO Box 15

Field Officers:

Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

Email:

vicseekersclub@gmail.com

Website:

http:/www.victorianseekersclub.org.au

Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/Victorian-Seekers-Prospecting-Club-1985818041670592/

The purposes of the Club are to:

Bob Lake

Alistair M

Tony Pappas

Ivan Albrecht

- 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) RESTRICTIONS)



Gold price as at 24/4/2023



Support the group that is protecting your rights to enjoy the bush https://www.bugu.org.au/

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.



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

MAY 2023

- General meeting 3rd May

- Talbot 18-23 May

JUNE 2023

- General meeting 7th June

- Mountain Hut 8 -13 June

JULY 2023

- General meeting- 5th July

- Moliagul 6th –11th July

AUGUST 2023

- General meeting- 2nd August

- Ararat 10th -15th Aug

Tibooburra

A few members intend going to Tibooburra again from around mid June (subject to good weather and health). If you are going or need more information, please contact Eric or Paul H.





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GPX6000

President's Report

By Steve Hillman



Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a great Easter break.

Rosebud beach camp and Wedderburn-camp has come and gone, just . I would have to say that we all had a super time. Fishing, beach detecting, competitions, a gin tasting (thank you Anna), a dinner at the local RSL, fish and chips. Thanks to Paul for suggesting the beach camp as something different and for doing a lot of the organising.

We had a "visitor" one night who appeared to be a homeless young lady who was keen to sleep under Anna's annex but, the police convinced her to move on.

Quite a few coins and other items were found on the beach. I did find a wallet buried deep down in the mud under the sand. I found it because it had a house key and a 5-cent piece in it plus a 10 dollar note and a kids ID. I am actively trying to find the owner of it so it can be returned to them. I estimate it was buried in the sand/mud for around 23 years and the "kid" would now be 36-37 years old!

Our Fryerstown Easter camp has just been completed. Despite the weather (we did have one beautiful sunny day on the Tuesday) we had 37 camps with 71 people attending in total. Many people found gold on this trip, with Peter Graser finding a nice 4 gram nugget along with other pieces for nearly 10 grams.

There will be a camp report completed by Sue Kovach elsewhere in this newsletter so I will let Sue fill you in on all the other details.

Despite my greatest fears, the meat

cooking went very well and everyone had more than enough meat to eat with seconds and some even thirds. The roast potatoes in their jackets also went down very well.

We had some prospective members attend the camp. Robert and Catherine. Robert's SD2000 was not working properly and I believe that Bob Brumby very kindly gave him his working SD2000 for free, that he was going to put into the buy/swap/sell.

Gold digger Dave and the Coffee Bush Kid from Miner's Den came to camp on Saturday, demonstrated the newest Minelab coin and relic machines and let us try them out and answered our questions. They did take some footage of their visit and you can see a bit of that on the latest Minelab Show on YouTube, plus they did a live interview with me later in the show.

Covid still seems to be bubbling away in the background so we all still need to be aware of that and take appropriate precautions based on our age/health condition. Hopefully it fades away to the point where it mutates down to something like a common cold, but sadly I suspect it is with us for good in whatever form it becomes.

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Some of you may have heard me say "don't count the days - make the days count" - maybe more than once! Well after the lockdowns and issues we had with Covid over the last few years, we are finally able to travel again so Marj and I are heading to WA to see if we can find some gold over there. We are doing it now as we have never done that and you never know what the future will bring and simply, because we can. That means we will be away for several months, but I am sure the rest of the committee will look after the club very well and you won't miss me. I will be sure to send reports along the way.

Also for those of you who buy gold, there have been reports of fake nuggets (basically clusters of lead pellets coated in gold) being sold on-line so please be aware and make sure you buy from reputable sellers.

Until I see you all again, keep well everyone, stay safe and I hope that you can get onto some gold.

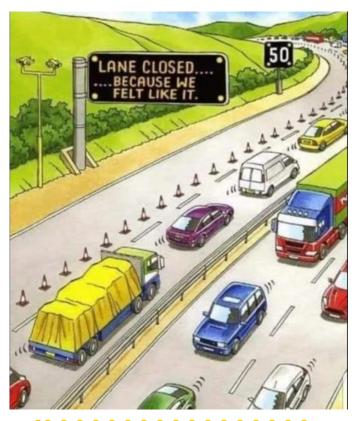
Regards, Your Club President, Steve H





Update on Steve's Wallet find.

Last Friday located the owner of the lost wallet! It was lost in 2001, so 22 years ago! I will hopefully have a meeting with the owner and the man who helped find him (a part time private investigator who saw the interview I did in the Minelab show and found him at no charge). I will get photos for the next newsletter.





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,

In March and April, camps were held at Wedderburn and Fryerstown and I really enjoyed both camps for different reasons. At Wedderburn I joined 190 fellow Detectorists in the 2 day annual token hunt / jamboree and managed to find 4 of the 200 hidden keys. A couple of us also caught up with a Minelab rep (Bradley C) and he had me salivating with stories about "a new gold rush in the NT". Lots of stories about dectorists and muti once finds on quartz out crops throughout the territory and a tour company ordering 40 GPZ 7000 to take customers out. The winner of the GPX 5000 was one of the guys (Neil C) who does detector field testing work for Minelab. I managed to win one of Minelabs new canvas drover hats.

Unlike previous years at the Jamboree I only spent about 3 hours each morning looking for the token / keys as about 90 % are found in the first couple of hours. This meant I had more time using my GPX 6000 looking for the yellow stuff. I started at a patch I had found small nuggets at last year and managed another 3 small bits.

On Saturday after lunch a couple of the guys took me to the private property we were give permission to detect on. It was getting on in the afternoon but I found a gully about 100 m long and 20 to 30 m wide where I started to find small nuggets. I can say that very few were out in the open with most being hard up against trees or rocks and many under the numerous dead trees I had moved. The following day I showed Eric where I was detecting and he watched me dig out a 1.6 gram piece from about 30 cm

down. We went on to both find a similar amount of gold but I was fortunate to be awarded find of the month. Despite numerous club members trying in a lot of other areas over about 5 days very few other nuggets were found.

We did thank the landowner and Eric passed on a present and some cash. At this point I just want to remind members that access to private property by the club is something that is valued and is only restricted to official club camp dates after the club President or other committee member (i.e. Eric G) has been to see the Landowner to ensure everything is ok.

The next camp was Easter at Fryerstown and again it was a lot of fun. Highlights for me were the high level of member participation in the fun and games which was no doubt helped by the heap of Easter related prizes. I enjoyed the detector demonstration by the Coffee Bush Kid and Detector Dave. The new format for the roast dinner went down really with everyone and set a new standard. Tracey joined me after work at the dance on Saturday night. Unfortunately only about eight members went, which is a shame because it was so much fun and it was to support the SES and also to support Jimmy and Marilyn. I find it incredible that Jimmy is still playing the drums and tending to his sheep everyday at 98 years of age.

I know a lot went into the preparation and planning for the Easter weekend and a big thanks should go to President Steve and his very supportive wife Marj.

The next General Meeting in May we will have member of the Waverly Lapidary club talking to us about their hobby.



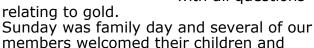
Rosebud Camp report...

ROSEBUD BEACH CAMP 17TH-23rd Feb

We were eager to learn how the 'Seekers' campers would transition from bush detecting to beach detecting and we weren't disappointed. There were approximately 20 caravan and campers arriving at predetermined times and all were ably assisted by Steve and Kevin into the allotted spaces. We had a section of the Rosebud foreshore to ourselves with a short stroll to the beach and shops. Fish and Chips were eaten on our first night as we settled into our usual circle for the evening.

The first of two fishing expeditions resulted in 11 flatheads for Tony and his brother. The rest of us took to the beach for buried treasures and Stefan was the first to bag a man's silver ring with Gary finding 1944 three pence. We had family visit on the Saturday and our son-in-law Jim, found

1948 three pence. In the afternoon we were very pleased to celebrate with Francois on his 81st birthday and share in some delicious chocolate cake. Some aches toward the evening as we were using different muscles, harnesses and bungies nowhere in sight! We relaxed in the evening as Steve played Quiz Master with all questions





Successful fishing day

By Jenny H

grandchildren. We were thrilled to see Judy and Phil, who live nearby. A barbeque lunch was provided by the Club which included burgers, sausages, salads and drinks. Thanks goes to those who helped prepare and serve.

Paul organized a club treasure hunt on the beach after lunch. Two squares, 3 metres x 3 metres were strewn with coin and the de-



tectorist had 2-minute challenge to find as many as they could in the allotted time. Great fun! Paul also buried many other items, mostly coins, on the beach and in the water and many an hour was spent by all to uncover the elusive targets.

Steve found, deep in the mud, a wallet be-

longing to a young boy with an identity and picture as well as a house key and a \$10 note. Born in 1986 he would now be 37 years old, and wouldn't it be a great story to reunite this boy and his lost wallet? Stay



tuned.
Another
pleasant
evening
was held
and Anna
shared her
very tasty
and thoroughly indulgent
Malteser
Slice...so
good!
On Monday,

some of the Club Members visited Point Nepean followed by Sorrento. Some great finds were revealed.

Lars found a bracelet, Steve found a pandora heart ring, Imi found a charming silver garnet ring and Anja found the first of Paul's marked 1 cents coin.

Thoughts turned to dinner and several of us were tempted by the views across the road....so KFC it was!

On Monday night Anna kindly presented a 'Gin tasting'. We were eager to taste the brew and there were several flavours to try. Hazelnut, Chambord, passionfruit, coconut,

Rosebud Camp report cont....

By Jenny H

and my particular favourite was Caramel. Anna very generously offered the remaining contents up to anyone who was keen to have some more.

Very early Tuesday morning was the 2nd



fishing expedition. The sea was a little rougher by all accounts, but fish were caught by all the participants, but many



had to be thrown back deemed too small.

Beach detecting continued in all directions. Point Leo, Shoreham, Flinders and Cape Schanck. We were very blessed with great weather.

We displayed our finds daily and were astounded to dis-

cover that Michael had found an earring on Monday and Peter found the matching earring on Tuesday!

Robyn and Murray found a beautiful silver opal ring. Eric also found a ring and oh so many coins; he worked hard! Paul had a great haul as did Tony who found a similar bracelet to Lars' and he also brought a canoe along. The water was quite shallow for about 500 metres. On Tuesday evening Marj kindly booked the RSL for us and we enjoyed a wonderful meal there.

On Wednesday there was a hotly contested sand art event. Some very good efforts but the winner was Anja's amazing mermaid. The detecting could be challenging with cave ins etc. and was best done at low tide as was Pauls' at-

tempt at art, which sadly washed away by the incoming tide, leaving a couple of 'pointers' behind.

Thursday lunchtime we shared the remaining burgers and cooked up the pinky's and flatheads caught by our fishermen. Following lunch, we took to the bocce field then there was a last ditched effort to find anything remaining from Paul's stash before the awards were handed out. We were visited by Judy and Phil again and they treated us to some lovely scones, jam and cream. Thank you so much Judy, they were delicious.

The awards were read at 4pm for the anxiously awaiting contestants.

and the winners are...

| 2 minute challenge | most money found | Francine |
|--|--|---|
| Fishing competition | biggest fish | Paul G |
| and | First fish keeper | Steve H Tony P |
| Sand Art Marked Coin Lucky Coin Date Most impressive haul | Most fish mermaid found 2 1925 sixpence sheer volume | Paul H Anja M Imi Anna Eric G |

All worthy winners but I have to say the most excited person was Anna which was great to see. I think I speak for everyone who attended, we really enjoyed the week and appreciate all the efforts of the committee and helpers, particularly Paul who came up with

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the idea and of course Steve and Marj for all the work they did to ensure we had the best time we could. Kevin and Steve for ushering us to our site, Eric for the barbeque equipment, Anna for our gin tasting night, Paul G and Alistair for cooking and those who prepared the salads etc. The consensus is that this should be an annual event and I sure hope it is.





Fun at the beach



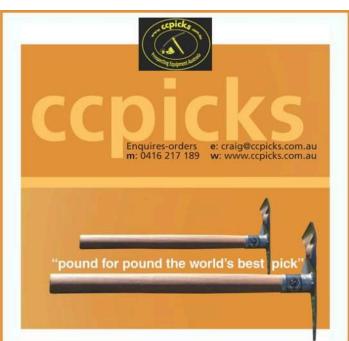


Enjoying an easy dinner









Wedderburn Camp report

Wedderburn Camp was held on the Labour Day Long Weekend in March, the camp was attended by approximately 20 members.

There was plenty of wildlife observed during the camp with sightings of goannas, kangaroos, quails, parrots, also plenty of March flies, detecting between shrubs you would either walk through large spider webs or, come

face to face with a spider

in its web.



The Wedderburn
Gold Jamboree was
held over the weekend. Paul H participated in the token
hunt and scored a
fancy minelab hat.
Well done Paul.

Eric entered the gold panning competition and unfortunately just missed out on the final.

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

Best street name.



Thanks to Ian for allowing us to prospect on his private property where some nice patches of gold were found.

Gold was also found in other areas.

Paul H taking top billing with 4.47 grams and

By Pam G

20 pieces, biggest piece at 1.66 grams, Geoff chipped in with a 1.35 gram nugget and Eric was very chuffed with an afternoon session netting him 8 pieces.

Other members also finding small pieces of gold.

Unfortunately not everyone found gold but that's the way it goes when out detecting.

We had a nightly bonfire and thanks to Malcolm and Karen for their work setting up the fire and keeping up the firewood supply.

The raffle was held on Saturday night a very fun time was had by all that attended.

Also a timely reminder that members should always have a gps and know how to use it and always take your walkie talkie with you, in case you have any issues remember channel 12.







Fryerstown Camp report

Easter Fryerstown Camp Report – By Les and Sue Kovach

Easter Camp at Fryerstown started off with everyone arriving and setting up on Thursday 6th April. Some lucky members arrived a few days early and enjoyed a couple of days of fine weather.

After setting up on Thursday, some went detecting whilst the sun was shinning as there was a cool change heading our way later in the day.



We awoke on Friday to a very wet and soggy campground as we had plenty of rain through the night and continued for most of the day. However, for breakfast we had lots of Hot Cross Buns and Pancakes as a fundraiser for the Good Friday Appeal. They were very yummy and plenty to have by all, even the local CFA mem-



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bers that dropped in to receive our donations from the Easter breakfast.

All members that attended were thanked for their generous donations to the Good

Friday Appeal by the CFA of Fryerstown.

The rain finally eased off late in the after-



noon on Friday for some diehard detectorists to have a swing. Some gold was found in the wet and muddy conditions. While some members were very content to stay in the camp around the fire and played games.

Saturday the weather improved slightly with some blue sky poking its way through the grey clouds. The rain was intermittent between heavy showers to annoying sprinkles. Some tempted fate and tried their



Great find by Erics brother Ian.

A 1826 farthing coin.



Fryerstown Camp report ...

By Sue & Les K

hand at detecting while others stayed at camp or visited the local market at Wesley Hill. Most of us were all back at camp by 11am where we had an informative presentation from Gold Digger Dave and The Coffee Bush Kid from Miners Den. The presentation was on 3 new detectors. The Manticore, Equinox 900 and Ex-Terra Pro. Some people had a try of the new units and were impressed with the lightness of the detectors particularly the Ex-Terra.

The buy swap and sell that was held in the afternoon was successful as many members picked up some bargains.



Miners Den presentation



I think the highlight of the camp so far was the games and the Easter Bonnet parade. Many laughs were had by everyone, and we all enjoyed ourselves.



Easter Bonnet competition

The game winners:

Easter Bonnet: Lisa B for the girls because her hat was mainly edible. (Said the judges). Mal M for the boys, (because the judges liked his dangling carrots)

The flipper toss: Sue L for the girls and Jim (Gary's son-inlaw) for the boys.

The golf pitch: Lisa B for the girls and Laurie F for the boys.

Bocce toss: Gunilla L for the girls and Robert H for the boys.

Luckily, all games were finished before the rain came and visited us again.

The roast dinner on Saturday was amazing. I must say a huge thank you to the chefs on the day/night in all the cooking of the meat and vegetables. There was plenty of food available for everyone and if you had room, you could have had seconds. There was a massive raffle after dinner and again many people won something. Lauchie R won first prize, being a \$100 Miners Den voucher.

Those that went to the dance afterwards thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were back at camp just before they all turned into pumpkins at midnight.

Easter Sunday and we all awoke to a visit from the Easter Bunny, who left behind treats at all the caravans and tents. He was very quiet as nobody heard him hopping on by. The kids that were present as the camp had a fantastic time on their hunt for more eggs that were left behind.

Paul organised a token hunt in the area behind the pavilion with teams of female vs female then swap to our partners for male vs male. Bob L won, finding the secret mystery coin.

After this we all moved over to the oval and played "stake your claim".

Gary and Jenny's Grandson Tyler won the first prize which was a beautiful 2.2 gram gold nugget. Louise and Brian's Grandson Luke won second prize – a 1 gram ingot from Perth Mint. Third prize went to Sue (Paul B's wife's cousin I think). She won a big bag of paydirt and a panning lesson from Eric. All great prizes. Jenny H and Eric G won Easter egg prizes for 4th and 5th respectively.

Then for a hoot of a laugh we had a game



where we tossed raw eggs at our partners, and they had to catch them without breaking the egg. Messy and lots of laughter was had by all that participated.

Amongst all the fun and hilarity at camp some did go out and detect. Some more gold was found by a few.

To finish the weekend off, on Sunday night we went out to dinner to the local pub, 5 Flags at Campbells Creek. 54 of us attended and had a great feed!

The local landowner, Jimmy Coles, allowed the members to again detect on his land which is greatly appreciated, and he joined us all the local pub for dinner.

This camp was full of much laughter and enjoyment by the members that attended, and many a yarn or two was held around the campfire at "happy hour".

See you all at the next camp.

Les and Sue Kovach



A few members enjoyed the dance put on by Jimmy Cole



Roast Lamb & Pork



Dinner being served

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.

FIRE DANGER RATING



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



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
- 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