

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

SEPT/OCT  
2023

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Camp Reports

Moliagul

Ararat

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 44 ISSUE 5

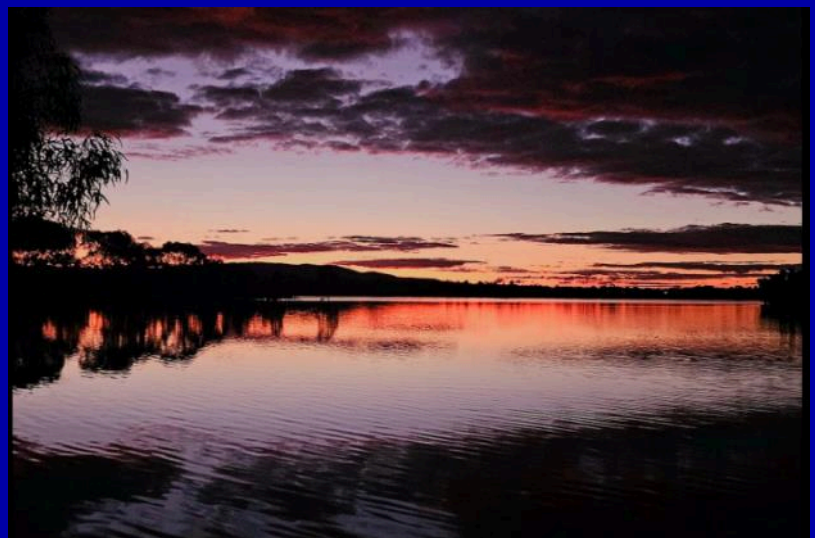
The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Moliagul Camp



Ararat camp Green Hill lake reserve



Ararat

## Your Committee of Management 2022-2023

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



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

Postal:

PO Box 15

Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

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[vickseekersclub@gmail.com](mailto: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:

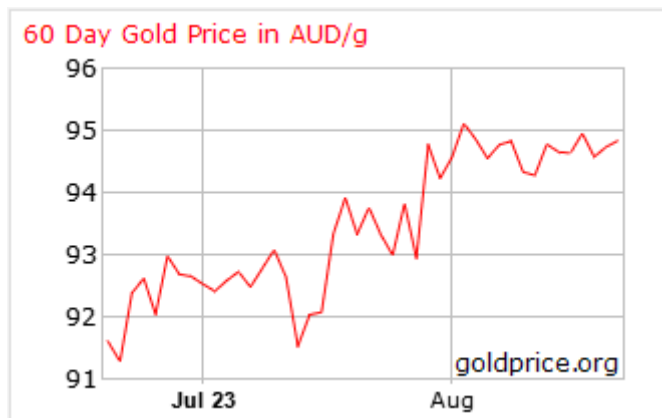
- Promote the skill of prospecting using metal detectors and other suitable equipment in the search for gold, other precious metals, minerals, gemstones, coins, artifacts and relics.
- Encourage and foster friendship and co-operation amongst people interested in the above pursuits.
- Collaborate with 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 23/8/2023



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 solar panel instead of a generator.

### **SEPTEMBER 2023**

- General meeting- 6th September
- Heathcote 7th -12th September

### **OCTOBER 2023**

- General meeting/AGM 4th October
- Tarnagulla 5th-10th October

### **NOVEMBER 2023**

- General meeting 1st November
- Whroo 5th-12th November

### **DECEMBER 2023**

- General meeting 6th December
- Moonambel 25th Dec- 1st Jan

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## President's Report



By Steve Hillman

G'Day fellow club members!

Well, the end is near! By the time you get to read this, there should only be a week or so of Winter left. Then on to Spring and (hopefully) warmer and drier weather. Best for us prospectors.

Also I cannot believe that I have been your club President for almost a year too. I have been blessed with the help of all the present committee to help guide me through. In particular Paul, who had written notes and guidance for me from the start. A great bunch of people without who, we would not have a club. Thanks to you one and all.

What was I getting myself into?!! Well I can say it has at times been a little stressful, but overall a very rewarding experience indeed. To see the club members enjoying themselves and, the club in my opinion becoming even stronger, is reward in itself. I must also say that my lovely wife has been with me on this all the way through and I think anyone who has seen her at camps, functions, even helping out in the kitchen at the general meetings, will agree that Marj is a huge asset to the club and great assistance to me personally and I thank her wholeheartedly

If you will have me, I am happy to stay on as club President for another term. But like all other committee positions, if anyone wishes to contest it they are welcome to do so.

As you know the Annual General Meeting

was postponed until first week October to allow those of us committee members who have been away, to get home and make ready for the AGM. Many of the committee members have been there year on year for a long time. Some positions are now becoming vacant as people step down to take a well earned rest. So please, I ask you to seriously consider taking up a position on the committee. As I have said before, you get out more than what you put in. It's a very worthwhile thing to do. Especially to help keep our club strong and for members to continue to enjoy the benefits of the club.

I do recall the words of Paul Hart last year which rang true with me. So I will repeat them here: " We also need members who have not yet done their bit for the club to make it known that they are available for a committee position. So, if you are retired or semi-retired and ideally located in Melbourne, please think seriously about which committee position would suit you most and that you would be available to serve. There are a variety of roles and a number don't even require regular attendance at meetings or camps".

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If you are ready for a role for this coming year, please contact Paul, myself or any committee member and we will be very happy to discuss it with you.

Speaking of the club, yes we are strong, having a little under 200 members. Financially we are strong also and this past year the decision was made to not increase the bank balance but to put back every excess dollar in to increased prize value, improve the camp experiences and other things to generally improve the benefits of being a part of our club.

We did also in the last 12 months purchase a fully automatic defibrillator that is taken to camps and the general meetings. We hope we never need to use it but, it's there if we need to.

As a lot of you know, our VP Paul Hart has been interstate and overseas for quite a while. Marj and I have been on our first ever prospecting trip to WA. We should be home before end September and ready for the club AGM. This has been an interesting experience for us in many ways. Some

things we would do again in a heartbeat. Others, we will never do again! And some experiences were less than pleasant. Happy to discuss if anyone is interested or thinking of going to the West, prospecting for the first time.

Soon we will have the November camp and then, our Christmas picnic followed by our Christmas/New year camp. Last year the November camp cup day festivities were cancelled due to inclement weather and low numbers. We hope this year will be better and it will be Marj's and my first ever "Seekers Club" cup day camp. We look forward to it.

Regarding the Christmas/New Year camp: I believe that last year a great time was had by all that attended. I love to see everyone having a great time! So..... last year we had a "gold" theme (clothing and decorations etc) and a big trivia quiz, big raffle, other fun games. A couple of people have asked for another trivia quiz this year (are they just asking me to save them from being bored If people would like to offer any suggestions on a "theme" and what kind of games/entertainment they would like to see, please put your suggestions forward and committee will consider all options/suggestions available. Personally it took me probably best part of three days to prepare the quiz (getting questions, vetting facts and ensuring the answers were accurate, printing everything out etc) but I am happy to do another one if the majority wishes. Otherwise I am sure we will come up with other activities for everyone to enjoy.

Well that's all from me at this time. I am looking forward to catching up with you all ASAP after my return!

Regards,

Steve Hillman

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## Vice Presidents Report

By Paul H



Hi All,

Tracey and I are on holiday in Europe and this is possibly the longest I have gone without swinging a metal detector for many years. We have been touring through England & Scotland and constantly being reminded about the very long history of these countries. The detecting possibilities are endless.

At one stage we were on a ferry in the Thames river and tide was very low with about 30 m of exposed river bank. We saw at least half a dozen people in different spots in high vis vests on their hands and knees scratching around in the mud. I was looking for metal detectors but they did not have any. I found out later that they were looking for artifacts and that they are not allowed to dig. I believe permits are also required.

We caught the Eurostar from London to Holland and are now on a Viking ship on the river Main in Germany and heading for Budapest. Trip highlights so far for me include the Imperial War Museum, Edinburgh Castle, the Tower of London, the Dutch Resistance Museum, Rembrandt's House, Amsterdam canal cruise and meeting one of my Dutch cousins for the first time.

There are few places in Europe we would like to come back and visit for longer but next time I will investigate


the rules around metal detecting and pack the coin / relic machine.

Look forward to getting back and catch-up at a camp.

regards


Paul





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## Moliagul Camp report

By Eric

Twenty five brave souls made it up to the Moliagul camp, including 4 visitors.

There was no problem with the campsite after all the wet weather we have had.

Many members chose not to come due to a bad forecast, but apart from some strong winds on Friday and some light showers on Sunday all was well. We were

all kept warm with a roaring fire from a well-supplied wood heap ably gathered by

Kevin, Eric, Les and Tye, around which much merriment was enjoyed by all.

Louise did it again with her damper cooking, with not one but two delicious



offerings which disappeared in quick time.

It was difficult to drag us away from the camp fire to search for gold but most managed to get in a few hours a day. Our gold finds this camp were not very impressive, with most finding only some small pieces, the largest being Louise's 1.7gm. The best find was visitor Tony's well rusted pepper-box pistol dating back to 1830-50 which got us quite excited, well done Tony!

Andrew, in his desperate search, located a strong signal near a tree stump and proceeded to dig half way to China in his endeavors, having to call on his mate Mal to return to camp on several trips for some heavy equipment (shovels, crowbar, and a chainsaw) After 4.5 hours into his frantic search, and 3 feet deep he believed he was going to extract a Foot of Faith from below the stump.

A Friendly reminder that Membership fees are now due. For those that have paid , Thank you..

### Annual Membership Fees

Family Membership \$65.00

Single Membership \$40.00

One off joining fee \$10.00 single  
\$20.00 family

Newsletter paper copy \$20.00

Members will receive advice of membership renewal being due, to their email or postal address.

Direct deposits can be made to A/c  
Vic Seekers Club, BSB 633000 A/C  
140771171

**Please Include name in reference.**

## Moliagul Camp report cont....

By Eric

As the stump was hollow, I suggested that they should clean that out before proceeding any further which was done and low and behold out popped a metal can. Words don't describe Andrews looks with this result, expressing "#^\$!@\*&?" in a language that would embarrass a bullock driver.



Daytripper's Geoff & Kaye Visiting

Sorry Andrew, a sardine can does not qualify for a Find of Month award. I think most of us have fallen for this

Most despicable practice by lazy prospectors who think it is funny. Let it be a lesson to all newbies.

As always it was a great camp and look forward to the next one.

Eric

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Louise had a great find



## Ararat Camp report

By Eric

Ararat was yet another location where we had to change our campsite due to the bad state of the access track. This time we opted for the Green Hill Lake Reserve just out of town. It was a wise choice, as the facilities could not be faulted, with toilets and showers, rubbish bins and fire pits, all for \$5 a night. We were able to have a whole section to ourselves in front of a most beautiful lake setting. The weather started off very windy and a few light showers but improved as the days went on with perfect sunny conditions Sun, Mon, Tue, but the minus 3 degrees in the mornings meant a late start until the sun came



up. Each night we were entertained by several brush tail possums who came down at dusk to sample whatever happy hour snacks were available around our roaring campfires. Their appetite was insatiable devouring bread, biscuits, apple, banana and even chocolate bullets out of our hands. They will miss us.

We had 17 members plus 7 potential members in attendance who all had a great time. Each day we all went off in convoy to several locations around Ararat,



achieving some success with many small nuggets<sup>1</sup> (about 100), notably Robert and Kathy 39 for 3.65g using 6000's, Eric 20 for 2.5g using his trusty 5000, John C 32 for 2.45g with his 6000. In some places we were beaten back by the sharp prickles on the thick growth of gorse and acacia bushes.

Ararat is an area that has never failed to produce gold, and this trip didn't let us down, and so we look forward to our return.







Rob S Finds



Katherines Finfs



John C Finds



Eric's finds



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## The Story of the Seekers Club

In February 1980, the Victorian Seekers Club was formed by David and Pam Snelling. At this time large gold nuggets were being found in the golden triangle of Victoria. David noticed that many metal detectors were being offered for sale in the local newspaper. He spoke to several people offering the detectors for sale and realised all of them had the same story - they were unsure



how to use their machines, did not know where to go to find gold and knew no-one of like interest to discuss detecting for gold.

David decided to use his experience in metal detect-

ing to form a club in the Waverley area and advertised in the local paper that a meeting would be held at Waverley, inviting all interested persons to attend. To his surprise there was 'standing room only'. That night the Victorian Seekers Club (hereafter referred to as the Club) was formed with 37 inaugural

members. Within the first 18 months membership grew to over 150 members.

During the 44 years that the Club has been operating, we have visited and detected in over 50 goldfields in Victoria, finding thousands of nuggets, and although most of these are small, there have been a few in the 3-5 ounces weight range. The Club has also found many coins and relics. In addition, there have been extended detecting trips to Western Australia, NSW and Queensland. We have had gold panning days, beach detecting outings and many social outings. We have also participated in detector token hunts organised by local community groups in Ararat, Wedderburn and Tarnagulla, and teams have participated in the Victorian and the National Gold Panning Championships with some We enjoy a good working relationship with



State Government bodies that regulate our activities and we are involved in all relevant government inquiries into our hobby by putting forward submissions in the support of our continued access to the prospecting areas.

Due to the hard work and dedication of the various Committees and the participation and support of members, the Club has grown to be one of the largest and most active detecting clubs in Australia.

The Club offers members an opportunity to go prospecting with other like-minded persons and to gain knowledge and experience of both



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prospecting and camping. In the Club there is a wide range of skills in all forms of prospecting, with the more experienced members willing to instruct newer members.

Another important aspect is that members are given the chance to explore local and remote areas that they would not normally visit, and appreciate the "Great Australian Bush".

We wish everyone success in their prospecting, but most importantly, to enjoy the time in the bush, the park, the beach or wherever you are. Have fun with this great hobby and enjoy the fresh air and exercise in the company of fellow prospectors.



## Lost in the Bush

It is advisable to always lock your vehicle and take a GPS reading before setting out detecting.

When you realise you are completely lost, panic and fear will set in and a desire to hurry or run will take over you. The first thing you must do is STOP. Look round for a place to rest and think. If it is hot, get into some shade and take time to calmly consider the situation. If it is raining, look for shelter. Look around you. Do you recognise any features at all?

Is there high ground easily accessible close by? If so, make your way up as from a higher vantage point you will see further and hear sounds better. Can you hear the sound of vehicles on a distant road? Can you see the glint of sunlight reflecting off a car windscreen? Is there a road nearby?

Unless you can actually see signs of habitation, do not cut through the bush but stay on the road or track. Searchers will initially look for you by car. The cars will only travel on the tracks. If you have ample daylight left, walk along the road in the direction of the traffic sounds you heard. If night is fast approaching it is far better to look for shelter close to the track.

If fire restrictions allow, and it is safe to do so, spend your time collecting firewood, sufficient to keep a small bright fire going all night; which is quite a lot of wood. Start your fire using a lighter or matches as soon as possible. A fire is very comforting and will keep you warm and its light will lead searchers to you.

Do not be tempted to stagger through the bush at night. Your chance of getting back to your camp is very remote while your chance of being injured is very high. If the spot you plan to spend the night at is out of sight of the road or track, draw arrows on the road surface pointing to where you are or which way you have gone. If your car breaks down and it is too far to walk to camp, stay with your car.



## Club Clothing

*\*Available by order\**

Samples available to try on at  
General meetings.

**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  
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**In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.**



*During Code Red days, no one is permitted to enter State Parks and Forests.*

*Camp may also be cancelled during other periods of severe weather.*



#### **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 E
- Seymour Public Dump Point: Cnr. Wallis & High St., Seymour, Grid Ref. 37:1:14.6S, 145:8:6.0E

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

