

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JAN / FEB
2024

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Camp Reports

Moora

Xmas Break Up

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 45 ISSUE 1

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Xmas Hamper Winners



Lauries 12.3gm

Lauries 12 Grammer found at
Moora Camp

Cup Sweep Winners

Your Committee of Management 2023-2024

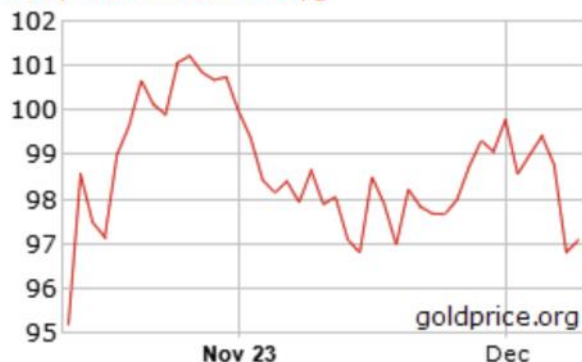
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.		
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration	Ken Barlow	
Treasurer:	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking	Kevin Hubbard	
Membership Secretary:	Membership enquiries, subscriptions, membership records	Louise McGough	
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	
		Brian McGough	
		Paul Griffin	
		Pam Griffin	

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)**

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold price as at 14/12/2023



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.

DECEMBER 2023

Moonambel 26th Dec– 1st Jan

Lots of fun and games. See notes page 5

Remember Green theme for NYE

JANUARY 2024

No General meeting

Amherst 26th Jan—31st Jan

FEBRUARY 2024

General meeting 7th Feb

Harvest Home 16th –21st Feb

Alternative Beach Camp

Likely at Newhaven Philip Island

For those interested contact Steve Hillman on 0418 171 968 for details



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

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Email:

vicseekersclub@gmail.com

Website:

<http://www.victorianseekersclub.org.au>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Victorian-Seekers-Pro 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"

President's Report

By Steve H



Francine, I heard a rumour that you didn't like my picture that I used on my President's reports. So, I have changed it just for you for this newsletter issue (an improvement?) and the picture also includes my lovely and very supportive wifey, without whom this position would be so much more difficult.

Another year almost gone! When we take the time to look back and reflect on the year 2023, we can - and should - think about all the good and positive things that we have experienced. Like that special gold find, the camp most enjoyed, the friendships made and sustained, any particular travel that we have enjoyed throughout the year.

As I write this, we have some members who are very unwell. Marj and I wish them well and hope for them to recover. So that makes one think about how lucky we are to be (relatively) fit and able to do the things we enjoy. Hence my saying "Don't count the days - make the days count".

Club camps - please note:

For February there was some discussion about having another beach camp. A few issues, not the least that Rosebud foreshore put the price up from \$165 for 7 nights, to \$286.50 for 6 nights! So a decision has been made that the official club camp for February will be a bush

camp at Harvest Home.

I know some of you are still interested in having a beach camp. As you know I did shop around and it looks like the Big4 caravan park at Newhaven was possibly the best option. That was \$232.05, power and water, based on 2 persons, for five nights starting 16th February (option for start on 9th February but then can't guarantee all sites will be together) as a group booking with minimum of 15 sites. If you are interested, please contact me. If there are sufficient takers, I am happy to help facilitate this. I am unsure if Marj and I can come for the entire time anyway as we have number 10 grandchild due around that time. I would imagine that you would need to decide before Christmas or at least very early in the new year, to secure the booking.

The club calendar for 2024 is just about finalised and there should be a copy in this newsletter. You will note that there is no camp shown for April next year. As the Easter camp finishes in early April, we could have a camp at say, Mountain Hut starting 19th and finishing on 24th or Anzac Day 25th. The May camp being scheduled for 17-22 May. Let committee know your thoughts please.

As you read this, our club Christmas breakup BBQ/picnic at Wicks Reserve will have been and gone (see report elsewhere in this newsletter) and those of us ready to brave the (possibly) hot weather will be getting ready for our Christmas/New Year camp at Moonambel. We look forward to the new year with excitement for what it may bring to us all - More gold?, grandkids or great grandkids?, a lotto win even? Maybe the Greenies will see sense and leave our pastime alone? LOL.

Most of all I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, good health and happiness for the coming year.

Moonambel camp

Officially 27th December to 1st January but yes, we know that some of you will want to get there a couple of days earlier.

We have fun and games planned as per last year and with a "green" theme for NYE, a trivia comp run by Anna StClair and other games and activities. Bring your board games, outdoor games, packs of cards for a crazy whist night for anyone interested.

Friday 29th December, for those who wish to participate please bring something to share for a taste only, of your favourite food or of the country you come from (main, snack, drink, or dessert?) to cut up and share for our evening meal. For example, I could bring Pork Pie or English sausage

and maybe some British beer to share as I am from Pommyland originally.

Site costs are the same as last year, being \$15/night for power and \$10/night for unpowered. Reminder that we will have a "pay day" probably on the 2nd day of camp where you are expected to settle up for fees. This to prevent the Defibrillator having to be used on Steve from stressing about those who seem to want to delay payment until the last minute of the last day. And yes, if you decide to leave earlier than planned we can arrange a refund.

If you want power, try and bring an extra long power cable as from memory, some sites are stretching it to make it to the power pole.

Hope to see you there.

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Jimmy Cole.

By Eric G

Long time supporter and honorary life member of Seekers, Jimmy Cole has had a book written about his life. Last Sunday (3 Dec) I took Francois and Francine up to Fryerstown for the day to attend a function in the old school to honour our 97 year old friend Jimmy Cole on the release of a biography written by his daughter Pat on Jim's life history. About 100 of his friends and family attended, and we all enjoyed the day. Jim and Marilyn even entertained us with some old numbers on the piano and drums. His story tells of the incredible life and hard times as he grew up in Fryerstown. The book sells for \$20 and if anyone would like one, to let me know



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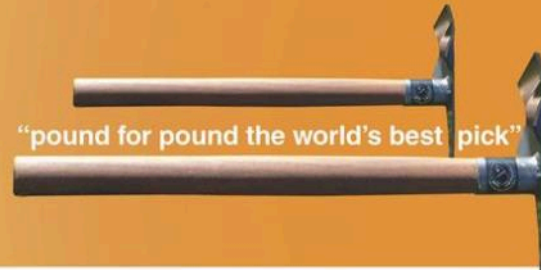
Support the group that is protecting your rights to enjoy the bush <https://www.bugu.org.au/>

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.



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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

Moora Camp Report

By Rob H

Once upon a time there was a liiiiiiitle group called the Seekers. Our group all have one thing in common : we all have OCD to dig holes for an elusive type of shiny metal. From Sun 5th to 12th Nov 2023 we went on an adventure to a tiny town called Moora. Some members are so obsessed that they even turned up a day or two early, however one member wasn't aware of the differing camp schedule this month and turned up well into the camp on Thursday. 51 people attended in 32 camps with departures varying from Cup Day all the way up to the following Monday.

The weather was warm right from the outset, great for those that don't like the colder camps. But that warmth turned into too much of a good thing - it got hotter as the days passed and many seemed to suffer in the heat, even those not out detecting. Friday turned out to be a scorching 34 degrees and ultimately led quite a few to throw in the towel and head back early that day or Saturday. But the gamble to leave didn't pay off since a nice cool change arrived Saturday after lunch, and that night was downright cold. The handful of remaining campers scrambled for jackets and extra blankets. At 6:45am Monday morning there was reportedly an earthquake just north of Moora which a few members said they felt.

On Sunday Steve, Eric and Lachie followed Anthony, (someone Steve met at the Tarnagulla camp) to a specific location to learn all about crystal fossicking. There they learned about how they're formed, where and how to dig, what to look for and how to recover the crystals. The next day they brought other members who were interested to pass on that

knowledge. Members spent a few hours digging and sifting for crystals, with only a few nicer finds. Rob S went out on his own a day or two later and found larger crystals hiding under the leaf litter on another side of that same hill, but when he directed everyone back to that rainbow nobody else could find it.

Tuesday (Cup Day) brought a BBQ of sausages and beef patties sourced from a local butcher. They came with bread, fried onions, and a freshly made salad on the side. This was gobbled down quite nicely by all. Yummy! After that magnificent feast came the fun. We played the old favourite "Stake your claim", never letting go of that dream to strike it rich. And a lucky few did: Robert H took out the first prize of \$100, Rob S the second prize of \$50, and Tracey H won the third prize of \$30. There apparently was a horse race on that day too. Some members didn't know or care about that but nevertheless thank the horses for giving them a long weekend plus a chance to win another prize. There were three sweeps run, the club contributing to the prize pools. First prizes were \$50. Not bad for a \$3 entry.



Notable shiny finds were Laurie with a nice 12 grammer, and several pieces of 1 to 1.5g by others. A good range of smaller finds too as usual.

One way to beat the mozzies

Due to the heat many people finished up detecting around lunchtime most days and spent the afternoons and evenings relaxing at camp, so perhaps the finds would have been greater if more time was spent out there detecting.



On

Saturday afternoon after most people had left, another unnamed member in a vehicle not designed for off-roading took a wrong turn onto a dry river bed (which by the way looked amazingly similar to near-by roads). Shortly thereafter he and the passenger got stuck in the soft sand. Fortunately after just a half hour of recovery attempts they managed to drive up the banks into firmer bushland and then dodge all the trees and dig-holes back to the road. Out of curiosity they tried to use their radio to see if they could contact other members but it seems they were too far away. Or perhaps had left



the radio on the wrong channel – ch12 was too chattery this camp so was changed to ch16. Nobody responded. So the main take-away from this incident is to ensure you have enough alcohol in your car if for some reason you can't make it back to camp for happy hour. As a bonus for you, your passenger and your future rescuers you will be feeling much more cheerful before and during the rescue. You can even offer some to the rescu-



ers who would likely be very pleased. Oh yeah... a 4WD and recovery gear would be handy too (but imagine how much wine could you buy instead of all that stuff).

Sunday night, the last day of camp, saw just 3 camps remaining. Unusually small. By lunchtime on Monday all but one camp had left. A sinking, lonely feeling set in. It was surprisingly intense and we'll never forget that feeling. Another magnificent camp, enjoyed with dozens of other people had



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Moora Camp Report Cont....

now come to an end, they had all gone home. It was a feeling of emptiness and packing up was hard. But that feeling was somewhat muted since we knew that it would all come back again next month for the December camp in Moonambel. Can't wait!



Wicks Reserve Xmas Break Up

Seekers Christmas breakup BBQ at Wicks Reserve, 10th December.

The day started off looking dismal. We left home at 07:55 driving in very thick misty conditions, wondering if anyone would turn up after all of our preparations. Arrived at Wicks at 08:30 to find the ever-reliable Eric G. already there starting to set up. And it was brighter and not raining!

Soon, Tina, Tony and Nola and Les and Sue arrived to help with the setting up for the day. Then other members arrived and jumped straight in to assist.

Not too many starters early on. I think people were waiting to see what the weather did before venturing out. So we decided it wasn't worth holding the "Stake Your Claim" event this year and the prizes of gold nuggets will be held over for the Easter camp at



Fryerstown.

After lunch we had a few more members arrive, with about 32 people attending all together in the end.

It was great to see Susan M back on her feet again too, and to hear the news that their long-awaited new caravan had finally been delivered. Good times ahead!

Much fun was had with the token hunt with all keys and most of the tokens found. Ladies had a few minutes head start on the guys and then the men were unleashed onto the playing area. Steve and Les patrolled the area to ensure no shenanigans occurred. Then





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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,

Wicks Reserve Xmas Break Up

there were anxious people milling around to see if they had won a prize.

Prize winners were:

Sue K with lucky token number 100

Tracey H with lucky padlock key

Paul H with lucky token number 1 and, most tokens found

Drawing of the door prizes then took place with 13 prizes won and taken

The grand finale was the drawing of the big hampers. Winners were:

First prize won by Ivan A

Then it was time to start packing up and head home.

Thank you to EVERYONE who assisted with the preparation for the day, setting up and packing up on the day, and those members who attended and helped make the day that much better. Special mention to Eric and Tina for all of the preparation work, assisting with prizes and carting materials to and from the reserve on the day.

I hope all who attended had a good day out. I know Marj and I did.

See some of you at Moonambel. Meantime, Merry Christmas to all.

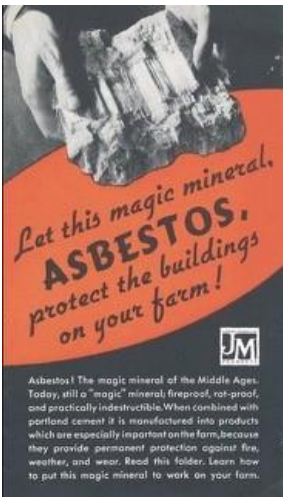


Tracey Wins the locked box competition

Eric Tallying the winners



FOSSICKIN' ROUND





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; highwaytraveller.com.au

