The Victorian Seekers Club

March/April 2024

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 45 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter







New Years Eve dress up

Amherst Camp



Amherst Camp

Lauries 12 Grammer found a Moora Camp

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 d uties	Bob Lake	
		Tony Pappas	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Alistair M	
		Brian McGough	
		Paul Griffin	
		Pam Griffin	

<u>CLUB CALENDAR</u>

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.



MINERS' RIGHT EXPIRY

A reminder to check that your miners' right is current. They are valid for 10 years.

MARCH 2024

General meeting	6th March		
Fryerstown	28th March		
	to 2nd April		
APRIL 2024			
General meeting	3rd April		
Harvest Home	25th April (Anzac Day)		
	to 30th April		
MAY 2024			
General meeting	1st May		
Talbot Camp	17th –22st May		
	MELBOURNE MINERS: DEN		
Special thank you to Bunnings and Miners Den Mitcham for contributing to our easter camp raffle.			





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

Postal: PO Box 15 Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149 Email:

- vicseekersclub@gmail.com
- Website:

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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"

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President's Report



Hello All,

Well Christmas has been and gone and we are already into February 2024! As my dear old Dad says: "Life is like a toilet roll son – the closer we get to the end, the quicker it seems to go".

Those members who travelled to Moonambel for the Christmas/New Year camp had a great time. Lots of fun and games, the New Year's Eve shenanigans and even some gold finds.

Amherst camp has also been and gone. We were unable to attend that camp due to some issues we were dealing with at the time. I have been told that the weather was not the best for the first couple of days and not much gold was found. It's certainly getting harder to find, that's for sure. But there are still some big chunks out there, as evidenced by the 4.1 kg find by some lucky prospector in the golden triangle recently. So we live in perpetual hope that one day, it will be one of us "Seekers" that finds something like this.

As you read this, the February camp Harvest Home will have been and gone also. Look forward to a camp report in this issue. On that note, a big thank you to Lachie R and Imi A for their camp reports of Moonambel and Amherst, which should appear in this issue. It's always hard to find people willing to write a camp report, even though its not a hard thing to do. Louise has had a great idea which is: If no-one at camp wants to offer to do a report, everyone gets a raffle ticket and one is drawn By Steve H

which becomes the "winner". They get a prize and they also get to write the camp report. Of course, if you have written a report in the last 2-3 months you can be excused from the process. I will put this idea to the committee for review. Meantime, the committee would appreciate any positive feedback on this idea.

The proposed beach camp for February unfortunately did not go ahead as we could not get the numbers required to get the pricing offered. So the Harvest Home camp was the official camp for February.

The committee continues to give funds back to the club members. In place of a raffle at general meetings we now give everyone a free raffle ticket when they sign in. The "raffle" has three prizes of approximately \$50/30/20 value. This to try and encourage members to attend GM's. We still have the swindle. For special camps we are spending more on supplied food, and raffle prizes for camps are generally of greater value. I have been trying to get prizes that are more relating to our hobby, such as caravan/camping or detecting/panning equipment.

If you have any ideas about what more the club could do to give more funds back to members you are welcome to put these to committee for consideration.

At the last GM we had a lady from the Stroke Foundation/Strokesafe attend and give us a talk about recognizing/ preventing/first aid for stroke. The session was very informative and we were left with a number of leaflets, many of which were taken by members. I will bring the remaining leaflets and cue cards to the next camp. If anyone wants copies, please see me at the next GM or just ask and we can arrange for you to

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get the info. The club will be making a donation to the Stroke Foundation as a thank you for the presentation they provided. Thank you Ivan A for arranging the presentation.

For next month's GM I hope to have one of our newer members who is a paramedic come to demonstrate the use of our AED (defibrillator) and to talk about bush first aid. His attendance will depend upon his work shifts, which seem to be long and arduous due to lack of ambo's. so, fingers crossed he can make it.

The Fryerstown camp is always a great one. This year the dates are March 28th to April 2nd. Meat has been ordered along with the large oven the same as last year. We are working on raffle prizes and will of course have the usual fun and games. We hope to see many of you there.

Some of us will no doubt be travelling again during the year. Either to the West, or maybe up North to Northern NSW or QLD, or even overseas if you are lucky enough. We look forward to hearing about your travels and adventures.

Until next time, "happy hunting", keep safe and well.

Your Club President, Steve H

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Beware modern motors

After 10 years and only travelled 115.000k of trouble free motoring in my Ford Ranger I was oblivious to any possible major breakdowns until, while coming home from our Xmas camp with my van in tow on New Years Day on the Western Freeway at Bacchus Marsh. and with no warning lights all hell broke loose. The motor went into limp mode, and as there was nowhere to safely to pull over I struggled on up the hills to the large truck stop at Melton just as the motor died.



As I opened the bonnet I was greeted with the last remnants of my water as steam and a very hot motor. As luck happened I was a member of RACV

Total Care who promptly called out to assess the situation. After the motor cooled down we added some water, but it was a no go, so it was now a tow job. Meanwhile, Steve and Marj who were travelling behind arrived to give me some sympathy, but that didn't work either, so it now up to the RACV to load up my truck, hook up my van and transport me to my place the other side of Melbourne leaving it in the street as my mechanic wasn't due back from holidays until the next week. Kevin Hubbard graciously came the next day and took the van to my storage. The next week RACV then delivered the truck to the workshop for an evaluation, and as I suspected the motor was



cooked (a buggered head and scored cylinders). That's what happens when you run a motor without water.

After pulling out the engine they discovered the cause of the fluid loss was a small

crack in the cooling fins of the EGR (exhaust gas recirculating) cooler (see photo) which allowed water to escape into the exhaust system without me knowing with dire results. It could have taken days and many kilometers to drain the system, unfortunately I had no warning of this occurring ,apart from maybe a very high temperature gauge reading, but who watches the gauge unless there is a warning light. My mechanic tells me that the temp gauge only works if there is water in the system, which seems to be useless if the motor is cooking when the water is drained. The estimated cost of repairs was only 3 grand less than a new motor so a new motor it was.

The EGR pipe recirculates exhaust gases from the turbo back into the air intake as



part of the compulsory pollution controls. Now I am relating this story as a warning to anyone who has a turbo diesel motor to be aware of these EGR coolers which all models have, and are notoriously known to

fail causing them to overheat. Make sure from your mechanic that your car has an adequate heat waning system other than just a gauge. For \$150 on Ebay I have obtained a dual heat sensor to monitor the temperature of both the motor and the transmission which will give a warning buzzer if the temperature exceeds 5 degrees above normal.

Eric





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.



DETECTORS FOR SALE

MINELAB S.D.C 2300

Almost New- \$ 3500 ONO

MINELAB G.P.X. 5000

With second Battery pack and additional coils. \$ 4000

See Francine or Ring







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.

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Moonambel Camp Report

With a good weather forecast, and showing not too many days of high temperatures, 21 camps in total with 37 members, made the pilgrimage to the Moonambel Recreation Reserve for the annual New Years Camp. We also welcomed 2 visitors who were guests of members and also 2 prospective members who were able to see some of the antics that may happen camp.

Whilst some members arrived early, most arrived on Boxing Day to set up and chase the elusive Pyrenees gold. The skies opened up for about 30 minutes and was quite wet for a bit on Boxing Day however blue skies and warmer weather followed for the rest of the camp.

International night saw members bring foods to share from different countries. Jenny made profitjes, Lars made some traditional warm mead wine and Katherine some homemade dumplings. Other items brought along to share were apple slice, pork sausages, dim sims and a traditional 'Latvian' Sara Lee Strawberry Cheesecake.

After much searching, there were some members who were very lucky to find several bits of gold each however it was tough going overall.

Kicking off the New Years Eve celebrations saw a BBQ complete with nibble platters, and dessert. Thank you to all those who assisted in cooking, serving, chopping, washing, setting up, packing up and cleaning.

One of the great traditions of the New Years camp at Moonambel is the many fun games and competitions held in the lead up to ring in the new year.

The theme this year was 'Something Green'. That being said, there was some very creative and outrageous outfits worn, some may even say inspiring. Eric and Robert put on quite the performance however after a quick vote by members, it was Marj and Eric who took out 1st and 2nd best dressed for the evening.

The games started off with silly sayings and each who recited a silly saying won a small prize for participation. This continued on with a game of stand up/sit down and after many questions saw Katherine declared the victor. The coin toss had a bottle of Johhny Walker as the prize and once Eric set his sights on the bottle, there was no stopping him and after many who tried to beat him, eventually he was declared the winner.

As the night progressed, the main event of trivia saw members into teams of 3 and attempt to answer/guess as many questions correctly as possible. Under the strict control of Mistress Anna, there were great laughs and creative answers to a broad range of questions. Many unique team names saw The Sex Pistols compromising of Steve, Imi and Graham declared the winners. As there is winners there is also Wooden Spooners which was the team `Dumb, Dumber and Dumbest' (no need to name who was part of the team). Many Thanks to Anna for her efforts and creative





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Peter G Finds

topics for the trivia night, many laughs were had.

Most members were able to stay awake until midnight where they all rang in the new year and wishing each other all the best for 2024.

After much success at this camp and the excellent amenities, it was decided to re-book again for next year.

I have always avoided writing a camp report for fear of not knowing what to write, will I be judged or if it will be good enough. For those that have not given it a go yet, I challenge you to give it a go as I found it has taken only a small amount of time and once started, it ended up being quite an easy task.



Katherines Finds







Roberts gold









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Amherst Camp Report

I was the first to arrive. Early, on the Tuesday before camp. I had barely set-up when Kev arrived just after midday Tuesday.

The two of us spent a quiet, quite warm evening feeding the mosquitoes.

Wednesday started off as a nice comfortable although cloudy morning. We both detected near the camp. Approaching lunch time, the clouds parted and the sun bore down on us, letting us know it was summer.

I found a minuscule piece of gold. The scales were playing up, so it wasn't weighed.

The temperature climbed so we didn't detect in the afternoon. It was 37 degrees in the van. We both laughed at the thought of no one else even turning up for the camp!

Thursday we drove a bit to a detecting spot nearby and I scored a small specie and a tiny nugget. (Yes, we realised the official camp start date was not until Friday!)

The clouds started to drop some rain and it was time to head back to camp. Lars and Gunilla were first to arrive with some rain, then Rob Shannon and then Sue and Les. After an hour or so it started raining again. Noah didn't warn them of the impending deluge. Soon the camp-site was awash with water. Trenches were dug but the defences were broached. Everyone accepted the defeat at the hands of nature. Then Dennis G arrived



after the flood had subsided.

Finally, the rain stopped and a few die-hards splashed their way out for a detecting session. The rain held off for nearly two hours and then the rain God decided that it was too long, time to punish these people that think they can predict the weathBy Imi A.

er. Slowly at first. Just a few drops. Enough to let people know it was about to rain. The die-hards were back at camp and the rain came down heavier. Then heavier and it was pelting down.

The run-off from the road pours straight through the middle of the camp-site. A wall of water came flooding down the gutter through the camp, just like some parched creek bed with a thunderstorm upstream.

The three vans on the bottom end of the campsite were surrounded by floodwaters. Les and Sue started digging ditches and levy banks to divert the water away from their caravan. The other two vans attempted the same, but the rain continued unabated and the defences were broached. It was time to admit defeat, we can't beat mother nature.

The best one could do was to sit under the awning and keep ones feet in the air avoiding the torrent underfoot. The torrential rain only lasted about one hour and it soon reduced to steady rain with the flood levels slowly subsiding.

It rained for most of the evening so no happy hour no campfire no fun. Every one huddled in their vans waiting for the rain to stop but it wouldn't.

Friday morning looked damp, trees still dripping, puddles slowly drying. The thought of detecting in mud put most people off.

Then the hoards descended on us. Genghis Khan was first in the black shiny Prado. No wait, I don't recognise this vehicle, its Craig Webb. New vehicle, eh? What did you do to the other one? Oh, you broke the motor? Well who would have thought of that.?? It's hard to believe some people break their motors, must be covid or maybe the war in Ukraine or Gaza. Obviously there is some bad karma floating around as blowing motors seems to be a common theme at the moment.

Next in was Paul Hart, nice weather for him sun shining and everything. Lucky he



wasn't here yesterday in the great flood because Paul was swagging it. Perfect timing mate.

Tony and Nola Pappas breezed in next and set up camp. No

dramas for them , setting up camp with no worries in the world.

Next in was Ricky Pitts. Nothing upsets this bloke, just quietly goes about his business and gets things done.

Next was Kay and Andy Mitchell who parked up off to the side in a nice shady spot.

Then we had Al and Anja rock up to set up camp where neither agreed to a suitable spot. They finally settled on a location central to all.

Then a car snuck up behind them and it was Jim, Gary's son-in-law and Charlie and Tyler the grandies.

Several groups went out detecting. Nothing large was found. Paul probably did the best with his huge specie that must have been in the multiple grams.

On arriving back from detecting we noticed



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Gary and Jenny had set-up camp near Al and Anja and a tent for Jim and the kids.

It was quite warm, so no campfire and we all settled in the shade of a large central tree. Kay bought out lots of delicious snacks and the conversation flowed lubricated with "cold beverages". The mozzies and bugs had a feast on the new blood at the camp.

Geoff and Kay visited on sat morning, it was nice to see them again and have a chat. A subsequent group detect failed to find gold of value.

Dean and Briony were also day visitors, I could be mean and say Ruby is getting a bit long in the tooth. (she only has one) but I won't mention it. Ruby is a sweety.

Later in the afternoon we had a visit from Paul and Lisa who were staying nearby.

After we had settled down for snacks and drinks Charlie and Tyler organised a free raffle. Everyone chose a number that was written on a piece of paper and placed in a



Amherst Camp Report ...cont

hat. The raffle was drawn with due ceremony and Alistair won a rock! Anja and Paul won a chocolate each and Gary won a beer (which looked just like the one he brought out from the fridge a minute earlier).

Alistair looked like he was carrying a bit extra weight but he was adamant that the swelling was from a couple of bull ant bites on the stomach. I believe him.

Some of the non detecting ladies went on several hikes to fill in the time. Not much gold was found, but that's how it is these days. Everyone had a great time anyway and enjoyed each other's company. Prospectors are eternal optimists, we will find more next time!





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.

Harvest Home Camp Report By Jen H

The Harvest home camp was quite big in respect of places



to set up camp, so we all spread out and some had a lovely waterside view as there was a large dam nearby. We arrived Thursday afternoon and there were eight campers already set up. Early reports were the temperatures would be in the early 20s but as the time grew closer the predictions were in the 30s.

Graeme M after his tumble

Couple of late arrivals for the day were Ian

and our President Steve and Mari, who arrived at dusk. Steve had been helping neighbors deal with the damage they were left with after the horrendous storm which hit Melbourne on Tuesday. Paul found a small piece of gold, so we were all eager to do the same. It was a great day on Friday and the weather was reasonably kind to us. Gold was more forthcoming but only to a few. Steve found his biggest piece yet, so that was a thrill. Other travelers arrived including Jeff, Kay and long time no see, James. Great to catch up with them. A very late arrival had us concerned as they drove around the camp in darkness. Steve went to investigate and soon realized that it was prospective Member Melissa who is a keen panner.

Eric kindly offered his Whisky winnings from New Years Eve at Moonambel which he won for tossing the nearest coin. He had a quaint little shot glass with an Irish ditty Cheers for the golden years which read as follows:

"I cannot see; I cannot pee; I cannot chew; I cannot screw. My hearing stinks; My memory shrinks; no sense of smell; I look like hell. The golden years have come at last; The golden years can kiss my arse; CHEERS!! Graham shocked us all and himself I'm sure, with a nasty fall coming out of his shower. Eric came to his rescue and bandaged his injuries which were considerable. He had some damage to his nose and forehead and a particularly bad injury to his upper arm caused by a tent peg. Marj kindly took great care and tended to Graham and rebandaged his wounds.

The weather heated up and the afternoons were spent trying to keep as cool as possible. Gold was found by a few which encouraged the rest of us to go out in search, often later in the cooler evening.

Injured or not Graham held his tradition of party pies on Sunday night which were enjoyed by everyone.

Only the diehards stayed passed Sunday as the temperatures soared during the day. Luckily it cooled down beautifully in the evenings. More gold was found on Monday with Anja scoring 1.43g. but the prize goes to Steve for the biggest nugget weighing 2.24g plus several other pieces. Once again the Seekers camp had a lot of socializing and a little bit of gold on the side. Great time had by all.





















New suppliers for Club Apparel is nearly finalised. Watch your inbox in coming weeks for details.



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
- Avoca Dump Point.
 Located outside Acoca Caravan Park in Faraday st
- Bendigo Showground Public Dump Point: 42A
 Holmes Rd., North Bendigo, Grid Ref. 36:44:18.3S, 144:16:17.5E
- Beaufort RV Dump Point
 25 Lawrence st, Beaufort. Entry from Havelock st
 Easy access for large rigs
- Clunes Public Dump Point : 70 Bailey St., Clunes, Grid Ref. 37:17:38.1S, 143:46:51.2E
- Dunolly Dump Point
 - Maude st Dunolly. Shared use with privately run Dunolly Caravan Park Enter through gate at Maude st.
- 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
- Newstead Racecourse Dump Point McNabb Rd, Newstead. Open 24 hours
- Maryborough Goldfields Reservoir
 Reservoir rd, Maryborough. Drive through
- 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

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