

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JULY/AUG
2025

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Camp Reports

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-Redcastle

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

**Gem's cheese
toasties**



Great Redcastle find



Your Committee of Management 2024-2025

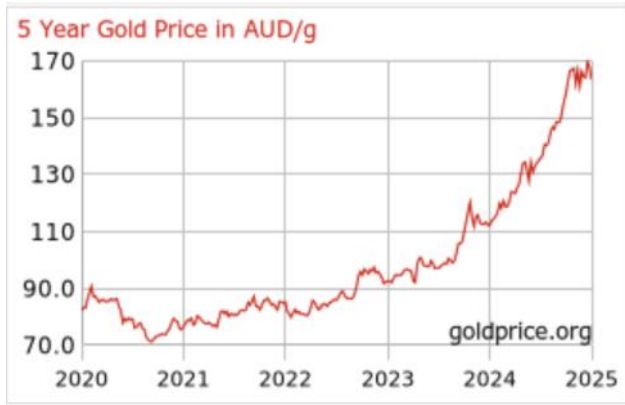
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Tony Pappas	
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, 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 McKnight	
		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	John Wingham	
		Robert Hatvani	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Tye Sweeney	
		Brian McGough	



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.**



Gold price as at 28/6/2025

JULY 2025

General meeting 2nd July
Tarnagulla 11th –16th July
(Poseidon Road Camp Site)

AUGUST 2025

General meeting 6th August
Harvest Home 8th–13th August

SEPTEMBER 2025

General meeting 3rd September
Homebush 12th–17th Sep



**WATCH OUT FOR
OUR NEW CAMP
DIRECTIONAL
SIGNS**

**Members are remind-
ed that dogs at camps
are to be kept on
leash at all times.**



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

Postal:

PO Box 15
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:

- 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



(The President and his wonderful "First lady")

Hi Everyone, A short mention from me this month. Well winter hit pretty hard for a while there.

Quite a few of our members have escaped to warmer/drier parts of this lovely country. I hope you are all enjoying the better weather and for those chasing gold, I hope you are having success.

This year's AGM will be held on the first Wednesday of October at our club room venue in Monash Halls. Many committee members are standing down this year, including myself as President after my three year stint. So it's time to think and ask about who will take up that position. I am more than willing to assist through the first year milestones for whoever takes up that position.

As I write this, I believe we will also require a treasurer and a research officer. Maybe other positions as well. I had a brief discussion with a member about the research officer position and will follow up on that privately but if that does not come to fruition we are still looking for that role to be filled. In early September I will send out a general email including a nomination form and official notification of the AGM.

On a side note, I have recently found my PB nugget of my short prospecting career - a nice looking (to me!) 3.61 gram nugget. Not big by most people's standards but it certainly made my day

By Steve H

along with other smaller bits for a total of 6.5 grams for the day. A good day!

Good luck to everyone at the club camps and I hope you all find your PB's. We do have some members recently having important surgery and others suffering illness. My First Lady and I wish those members well for a full and speedy recovery.

Well that's it from me. Take care everyone.

Regards, Your Club President Steve H



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Prospecting in New South Wales

So you would like to prospect in NSW, well first of all you need to download a copy of their fossicking guide from the NSW Resources dept. to familiarize yourself with their regulations. The areas available can be downloaded from their website;

minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au , and applying the fossicking districts layer.

Fossicking activities in NSW are primarily regulated under the Mining Act 1992 and the Mining regulation 2016, these activities are also impacted by the following legislations; Forestry Act 2012 (NSW), National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, Fisheries Management Act 1994, Water Management Act 2000 (NSW), Native Title Act 1993, Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 2016, and the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (NSW). Fossickers should familiarize themselves with the requirements under the above legislations and associated regulations.

Restrictions on the use of equipment are basically the same as Victoria, except no high banker sluices and mechanical pumps. Allowable gold taken in any single 48 hour period is limited to 5 nuggets 10 gm or greater (put back the 6th one), 50 gms. of gold (except where found as nuggets 10gm or greater) and 10kg of gold bearing rock.

Anyone wishing to fossick in a State Forest (most areas) will need a permit from the Forestry Corporation costing \$27.50 for 12 months. It can take up to 8 weeks for the dept. to approve. Conducting fossicking within a forest area without a permit can result in a maximum fine of \$2200 (as per Section 67 Forestry Act 2012). Crown

Land access may be permitted with appropriate authorization from the Crown Lands (cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au) . Tibooburra comes under crown land, and we have access due to the approval from the leaseholders and land managers. Access to Native Title land for fossicking is only allowed with consent from the relevant native title body corp. Fossickers should contact ntscorp.com.au to clarify whether the area they are considering is subject to native title. Any National Park is not available for our activity.

It is with the good work that the NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association (NAPFA) (equivalent to our PMAV) have done lobbying the State Government to ease many of the above access and impediments to our hobby, although they still have a long haul ahead to achieve the results that the PMAV have been able to get in Victoria so that we can have access to most of our goldfields without having to go through NSW's fees and regulations.

I'LL SEE YOU IN VICTORIA

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Mountain Hut Camp Report

By Eric G

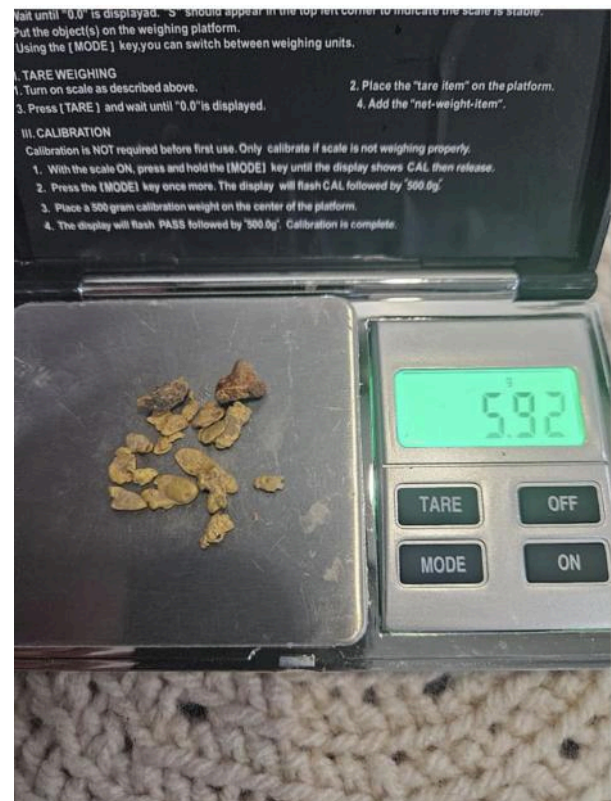
Well we finally made it to one of my favourite camps after cancelling our trip there a couple of years ago due to severe weather. The site was perfect for us, in a lovely bush setting among the diggings. This time the weather was kind to us with sunny days but very cold nights, which was negated by a roaring fire with wood supplied by tye S and Robert H. Considering many members are away in the West and the NT, we still had a good turnout of 32 members.

Due to the popularity of this area, the obvious search areas have had a flogging by many prospectors over the years, and finding anything of any size proved difficult, not like it was 25 years ago when we had a ball regularly find-

ing 1-3 grammers all over the place. However quite a few sub- grammers were extracted by some members. Rob S was lucky to obtain exclusive permission to detect on a local property by sweet talking the farmer,



managing 6 gram in many small nuggets. Jarrod brought along his trailer mounted sluice complete with a 1000 ltr water tank and spent a



day processing gravels from the creek with little success. We have to hand it to him for his enthusiasm and hard work, he will hit the jackpot one day and leave us detectorists for dead.

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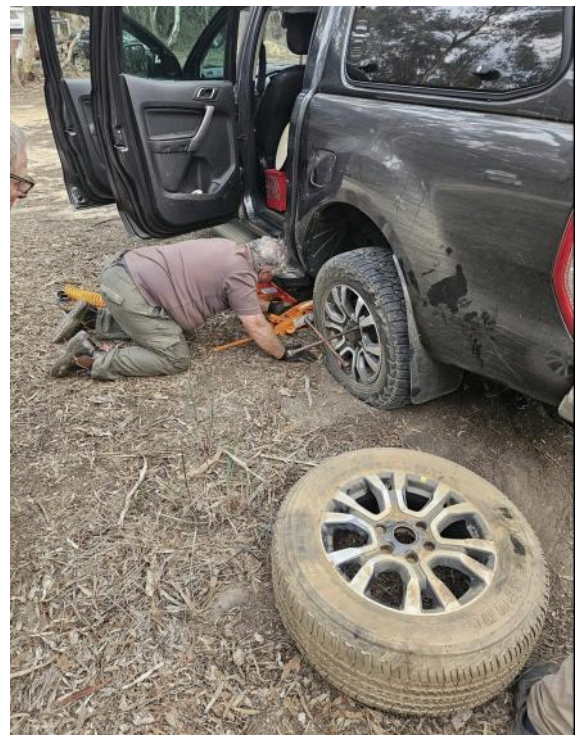
Mario decided to look for artifacts around the camp site and was lucky to find a snake buckle complete, which is quite rare as most are located separately. He also found a 1928 penny in excellent condition, and a 1966 2 cent (the first year of decimal).



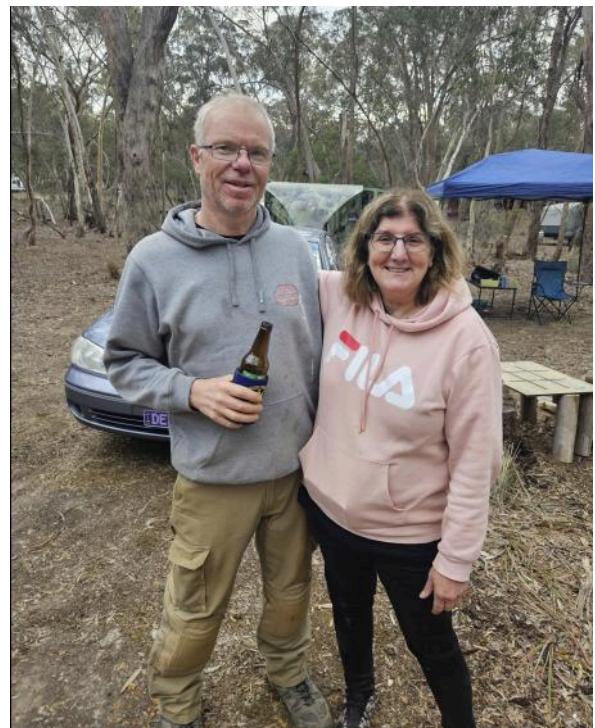
THE Saturday night raffle major prize of a \$50 Bunnings voucher was won by a delighted Joyce.

Mujeep lost his new transmitter on his last day, and was sure that he wouldn't find it again, however Mike Oldfield came to the rescue by returning to the area, and by calling it up on his radio found it by listening to the still switched on unit. Result one happy Mujeep.

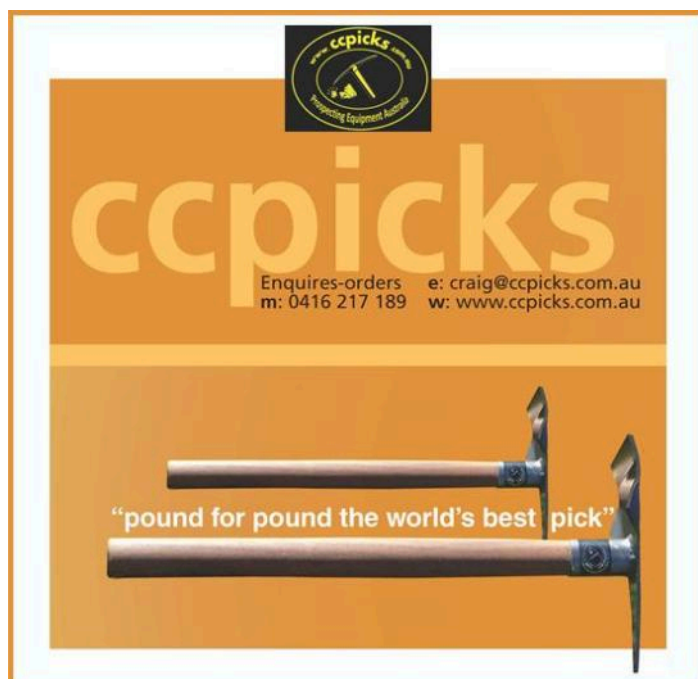
It was good to see Brian back in the bush after his broken leg episode, and also finding a small nugget. Nigel was another happy- chappy finding his largest so far (0.5 gm).



Paul H with running repairs



It was a most enjoyable camp with great company and weather, and so look forward to returning again before this declared National Park introduces it's proposed restrictions including no prospecting.



Redcastle Camp Report

By Gemma D

You might have been thinking it would be a cold and wet camp given the forecast, but it was as always loads of fun with toasty fires, damper, a Swedish Glögg thanks to Lars (which is like a sensational hot mulled red wine), with many warm welcomes and some sunny days.



Sure, late Saturday and early on Sunday we had some rain, but everyone managed to still go out detecting or sit by the fire with an umbrella.



Some exciting finds include John's brass horse head which might have been from an old walking stick,

with a load of metal bits including an axe head, Eric's Geological Pick, Tony's 2x cold chisels, lots of bullet casings and the occasional gold found locally by Peter Gisler and further afield by Tye.



A few of us arrived on Wednesday afternoon and began the fireside party with chats and later on with Gem's toasted cheese sandwiches that were a little bit of a challenge in a jaffle iron on the fire. We saw Jared and James for one night, and a total of ten caravans with 17 club members braved and defied the forecast.



Shane made us all a scrumptious damper one afternoon, I had a go the next day with a savoury

cheese and pesto pull-apart bread, we enjoyed Louise's cheese platters, and of course Lars's Glögg that warmed us so brilliantly.

We grabbed some group photos with our umbrellas by the camp sign, which we thought a little hilarious being called Alien Camp, which was pretty handy with a good pebbled surface, was an easy 15minute drive from Heathcote for the girls coffees and opp shopping and the occasional restocking.

Tye was as always reliable and resourceful with his hauls of firewood, so thanks so much for that. Gisla and Peter, Gunilla and Lars, John, Shane and



Puddler at Curly Dog Gully

Tye all stayed until Tuesday, with Eric restocking the firewood on Tuesday evening, and he, Louise and Brian and Gem & Tony braved it until Wednesday morning.

We missed a few of our regular crews due to ill health, so you are each in our thoughts. To those that chickened out because of the forecast for camping, maybe you did better at home, but if you were in Melbourne, you saw a stack more rain than us!



Eric's Cricket buckle



The Sun trying to shine



How gold nuggets form is a mystery.

Could electricity from earthquakes hold the answer?

By environment reporter Peter de Kruijff at the ABC

Gold nuggets are sought after by many but just how they form in the first place has been subject to many geological debates. (ABC Goldfields-Esperance: Jarrod Lucas)

In short:

Findings suggest gold nuggets can form in quartz veins as a result of electricity produced by the pressure of earthquakes. The gold is carried in super-hot liquids from the Earth's core to its crust, where the electricity causes it to be deposited onto the quartz. Deposited gold then acts like a lightning rod, attracting more gold with subsequent earthquakes. Most of the world's great gold deposits can be found in underground veins of quartz. But how exactly concentrated nuggets of gold may have formed here has been a mystery and source of debate among geologists.

Sometimes it seems like nuggets float in the middle of a quartz vein without any apparent chemical or physical explanation as to why they had accumulated there, says Chris Voisey, a geologist at Monash University. Much of the world's gold deposits are found in rocky veins of quartz.

Now, research by Dr Voisey and his colleagues suggests the formation of these nuggets may be due to electricity generated by the pressure of earthquakes — a phenomenon known as piezoelectricity.

Their experiments, published today in Nature Geoscience, showed seismic activity led to an accumulation of gold particles in quartz. "We found that once gold was on the quartz's surface, it would actually become the the main focus for further gold to deposit," Dr Voisey said.

How does piezoelectricity work?

Physical stress on a solid material produces an electric voltage. Quartz, which is made up of the elements silicon and oxygen, is the

most abundant piezoelectric mineral on the planet.

Tools like barbecue lighters contain quartz crystals that generate a high voltage spark when pressure is applied, for example.

Gold which has deposited in a vein of quartz in a hydrothermal setting. Dr Voisey was intrigued by the fact that so much of the world's gold happened to have accumulated in quartz. "It all kind of sounds a bit too convenient that one of the only abundant piezoelectric minerals on Earth [quartz] is also the thing that hosts large gold nuggets," he said. To explore the relationship between gold and quartz Dr Voisey and his colleagues set up an experiment to replicate what they thought was happening deep underground.

The experiment

Most of the world's gold is believed to in the planetary core, where there is enough of the metal to gild Earth's surface in a layer 0.5m thick. Over billions of years some of this gold has made it closer to the surface, catching a ride in super-hot water-rich fluids, which moved through fractures and cracks to the rocky outer crust of the planet. Until now, scientists thought gold precipitated out of the fluids and accumulated as it cooled or underwent a chemical change. But

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Dr Voisey and his colleagues were not convinced by that argument. One problem is that quartz is chemically inert, meaning it doesn't react with other substances, DrVoisey said. His team wanted to test a hypothesis that piezoelectricity generated during repeated earthquakes and seismic activity over billions of years may be at play in how the gold could come together in one place as a nugget. Gold-quartz specimens like the one named after Bernhardt Otto Holtermann in 1872 at Hill End, New South Wales, may have formed deep underground. To replicate what may be happening deep below the surface they took six slabs of quartz crystals that were suspended into two different solutions containing gold. The solutions were similar in composition to what would be found in super-hot fluids underground. One solution had 75 parts per million of dissolved gold while the other had 95 ppm of gold nanoparticles, known as colloidal gold. They shook the quartz slabs with a motor at a frequency of 20 hertz to replicate seismic waves.

Victoria has been home to some of the largest complete nuggets ever found in the world. The gold started to deposit onto the quartz in both solutions. But as the experiment continued Dr Voisey saw something else start to happen. Instead of new grains attaching elsewhere on the quartz, it was attracted to, and accumulated on, the previously deposited gold. Once gold does stick to

the quartz surface, it becomes like a lightning rod for further reactions, Dr Voisey said. Scanning electron microscope image of gold [red] deposited onto quartz [yellow and green] via piezoelectric reactions during experiments. (Supplied: Chris Voisey) Over time the process could explain how large gold nuggets formed as more and more particles accumulate, according to Dr Voisey. Findings could be useful for exploration Rob Hough, mineral resources director at CSIRO, which was involved in the study, said the research established there was some sort of electric force involved in gold accumulation. These things are super-useful, ultimately, to help the industry understand how to explore more efficiently," he said. Jim and Jimmy Larcombe with the golden eagle nugget found at Larkinvile, Western Australia, in 1931. University of Otago emeritus professor of geology Dave Craw, who was not involved in the study, has mixed views on the study. He said the research provided a new mechanism for understanding gold deposition in quartz veins. Earthquakes are ubiquitous in orogenic gold-forming environments, and this novel mechanism is a good one to explain the link between gold and quartz in a lot of these deposits," Dr Craw said. I especially like their suggestion that this mechanism can form networks of gold in veins. I have seen networks like that with gold along microfractures, and this is an entirely plausible process for making that hap-



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How gold nuggets form is a mystery....cont

pen. But, Dr Craw said, whether this process could actually lead to the formation of large nuggets was another issue. The experiments only produced very small particles of gold, and they haven't demonstrated this could scale up to make large nuggets, although I suspect they could be right for some situations," he said.

Monash University geologist Dr Chris Voisey ran experiments exploring the relationship between gold and quartz with piezoelectricity. (Supplied: Chris Voisey) Dr Voisey is still excited to see where the research may go. While new insights into gold formation can help exploration and mining geologists, he also hopes the finding can give insights useful for chemical engineering. Something I think would be interesting is if someone used piezoelectricity for the mineral processing of the gold ore, he said. Processing gold ore right now can be fairly expensive. I would like to see if this research would sort of help clean that up or even just reduce the cost.



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, Australia <https://pma.vic.org.au/>

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.

Tourists with gold fever fossick in central Queensland as metal price climbs

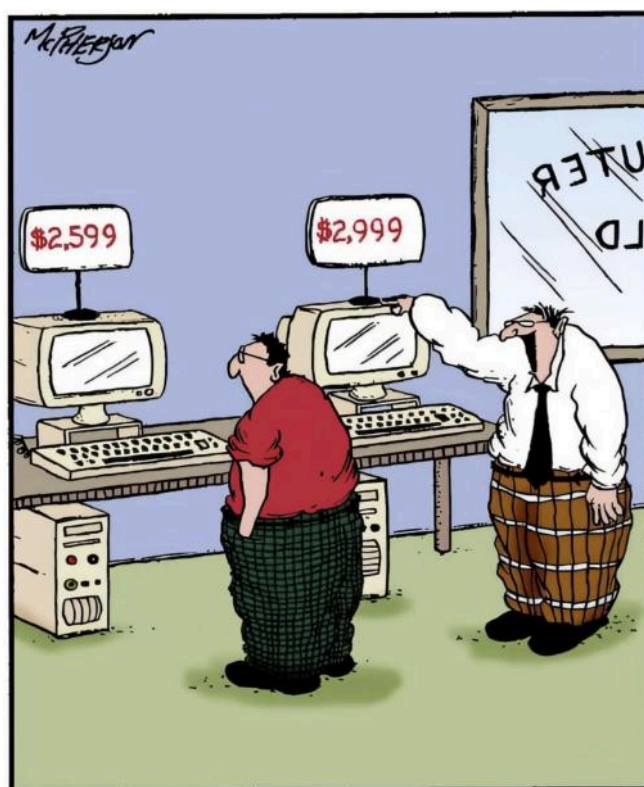
Mal Riley has caught the fever as gold tourism surges in central Queensland. Leigh McGrath's metal detector hums away as he rifles through the bush in search of gold. It's addictive once you find that bit of gold," he said. "Gold fever, it's dead set real. Leigh McGrath runs gold prospecting tours. The 54-year-old has turned his love for fossicking into a job running prospecting tours in central Queensland's gold heartland, Clermont. And with the price of gold skyrocketing, Mr McGrath said interest in searching for nuggets had also increased Leigh McGrath says there is plenty of gold if you know where to look. (ABC News: Jasmine Hines Gold has almost doubled in value in the past five years from \$US1,279 an ounce in January 2019 to a more than \$US2,700 this week. Leigh McGrath holds a small nugget in his palm. Mackay Isaac Tourism development officer Brianna Baggow said there were about 2,500 long-term prospectors visiting Clermont annually. "Compare that to Clermont's residential population — it's about the same," she said. "It's almost double the town during



that peak season." Ms Baggow said, on average, tourists stayed for about five months. The town of Clermont attracts gold fossickers. The small town's golden history began in 1861 when alluvial gold was first discovered in the area. Mr McGrath said the recent surge in visitors was a boon for the Clermont community. And it's not just Clermont, it's the towns on the way — it's your fuel, it's your food, it's your accommodation ... it helps everyone, he said. Gold hunters 'over the moon' with finds Judy Irwin uses her metal detector in Clermont. (ABC News: Jasmine Hines) Brisbane resident Judy Irwin set off in her caravan at the end of April for her second prospecting trip in the town. Although her first expedition didn't retrieve the loot she was after, this year's story has been different. The first couple of weeks out here I did pretty well, [I'm] delighted," Ms Irwin said. I've smiled, I've cried — it's just that feeling, you can't explain it. Judy Irwin has found several nuggets of gold during her trip to the town. (ABC News: Jasmine Hines) Mal Riley moved to Clermont two years ago and prospects for one day every week. The largest piece he had found so far was 126 grams. Mal Riley's large gold find. I was over the moon ... just a dirty great chunk ... I couldn't believe it at the time because I've never held a nugget that big," he said. Learn how to read the ground' Mr McGrath — whose Jack Russell is aptly named Nugget — said it could be difficult for first timers to strike it rich. He advised people to do some research before heading out and "learn how to read the ground". Leigh McGrath's dog Nugget comes with him on his gold expeditions. (ABC News: Jasmine Hines) For example, he said up-ended trees could be a good place to look, because gold could be found under the roots. You can't just spend \$10,000 on a machine and walk in the bush," Mr McGrath said. The gold doesn't come to the machine; you've got to go to the gold. Mr McGrath said some tourism operators put gold in the ground for people to find, but he preferred leaving it to nature. Gold prospectors Allan Holdsworth and Mal Riley on the hunt for the precious metal. In June, a new 507-hectare fossicking area opened in the Blair Athol State Forest near Clermont, bringing the total number of Gen-

eral Prospecting Areas (GPAs) in the region to 12.

All fossickers must hold a valid licence, which can be purchased on the Queensland government's website.



"The main difference is that that system will be obsolete in eight months, whereas, for only \$400 more, you can have a system that's guaranteed not to be obsolete for a full year."

Membership Report

Membership Report as at the end of

June 2025

We currently have a total of 188 members:

128 Family members

61 Singles

Including 12 life members

Please welcome new members



Club Apparel



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Brushed Cotton Cap - 4199

\$20.00

Ex. GST

The new club clothing supplier (Fully Promoted) is now up and running. This is an on-line ordering system. You can pay them directly and the order sent to your nominated delivery address at extra cost, or if you can wait a little while then another member may be able to pick your order up and give it to you at the next camp or meeting.

Pick up is also available (Glen Waverley)

<https://shop.fullypromoted.com.au/TheVictorianSeekersClubInc>



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
- Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve, Tarnagulla.
Gold Coin Donation.

Refer: toiletmap.gov.au; highwaytraveller.com.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.

