

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

JULY/AUG  
2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

-Presidents Report

Camp Reports

-Tarnagulla

-Harvest Home

# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 5

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Harvest Home Camp Photos



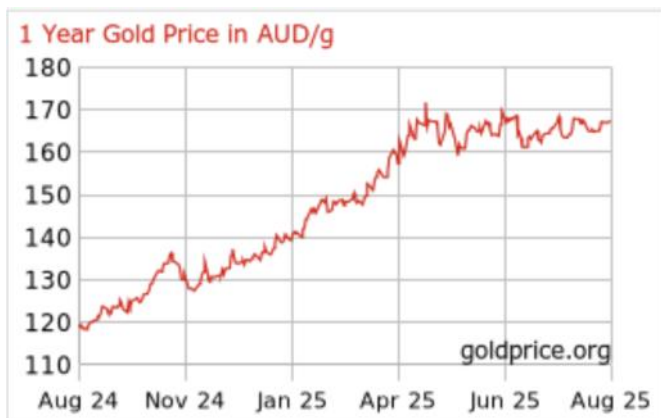
## Your Committee of Management 2024-2025

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
<b>President:</b>	<b>Club management and representation, Chairperson</b>	<b>Steve Hillman</b>	
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.**



Gold price as at 27/8/2025

### **SEPTEMBER 2025**

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

### **OCTOBER 2025**

Annual General      1st October  
meeting (Committee elections)  
Ararat                  10th –15th October

### **November 2025**

General meeting      5th November  
Heathcote              31st Oct–5th Nov



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:

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Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

Email:

[vicseekersclub@gmail.com](mailto: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

By Steve H



(The President and his wonderful "First lady")

Hello fellow members,

Some of our intrepid travelling members have returned home. A few are still out there, probably enjoying warmer conditions those lucky buggers! I would have to say that I am not enjoying the tail end of Melbourne Winter at all. I am sure we are all looking forward to warmer weather conditions.

With great sadness I had to recently report the sudden and unexpected death of our Club Secretary, Ken Barlow. He leaves his wife on her own with many issues to try and sort out. Being an ex-military man, I am told that his computer and other devices have everything protected by many passwords, which nobody knows. I know we all offer our condolences to Ken's wife Linda. Thank you to Sue Moore for stepping in and offering assistance, plus doing welfare checks for Linda whilst I have been away.

At the most recent club camp, one of our members had an issue where their car refused to proceed. Their heroes were Bryan and Maree Blease. Bryan went to Maryborough and hired a car trailer, picked up the offending vehicle, drove it and the two occupants (plus all their gear) back to Melbourne's South-Eastern suburbs, returned to Maryborough to drop off the trailer, then back to camp to pick up his caravan (and wife!) and return home to Ballarat. I do know that the members have

thanked Bryan profusely and recompensed him for fuel, freeway tolls and trailer hire. I would like to thank him personally and on behalf of our Club for his very kind assistance. This is the stuff that our members do for each other. And yes, it is a great club.

The \$100 gift voucher draw for paying club fees on time will again be available this year. The draw will be conducted at our GM/AGM on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October. Thank you to all who paid their fees on time as it really does make the jobs of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary easier if fees are paid in a timely manner. Who will be the lucky winner?

Regarding the AGM, you should have received an email from me advising of the impending club AGM and including a nomination form for committee positions. All committee positions will be declared vacant and, as we have several committee members standing down from their current roles, I urge you all to consider nominating for any of the committee positions. Without a committee, we don't have a club.

At our club GM on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, we

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have Ian the Victorian State Sales Manager of **REDARC** coming to talk to us about their products for all things 12 volt for car and caravan power. He may also have his vehicle there which I am told is fully set up with many of their products. I for one am very keen to see and hear this as I need to set up a new vehicle later this year. Please make an effort to attend as it looks better for our club since he has made the effort to do this presentation for us.

That's it from me. I wish everyone good luck on the gold and good health and happiness.

Regards,  
Your Club President  
Steve H

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For more details;

Contact Steve Hillman on 0418 171 968

## Tarnagulla Camp Report

By Eric G

It was will we or wont we, as according to forecasts, heavy rain was predicted, and as usual the bureau got it wrong again. After Wednesday conditions were cool and sunny making it perfect for detecting. A good supply of firewood kept everyone nice and warm back at camp. A good turnout of 26 members were glad they decided to attend., although Brian

and Louise almost didn't when they had a major tyre destruction on their van requiring RACV assistance to get them going again.

Jarrood set himself up on Billy Goat Dam with his high banker and enjoyed his stay feeding half of Chisholm Lead through his contraption, resulting in some nice colour. Honestly, the effort he puts in amazes us all.

Saturday happy hour was complimented with scrumptious dampers supplied by Louise and Shane., how wonderful.

Our new member Robbie surprised us all with his guitar around the fire playing some melodious tunes, which was a break from the usual banter of lies and bad jokes.

Gold finds were again proving difficult, exception being Tye finding a patch of a dozen small nuggets, Paul H had a 6 patch including a 1 gram and Robert S a nice 2 grammer. A few small odd bits were found by others.

On a visit to Tarnugulla Recreation Reserve, I was pleasantly surprised to find a new dump point and re fur-

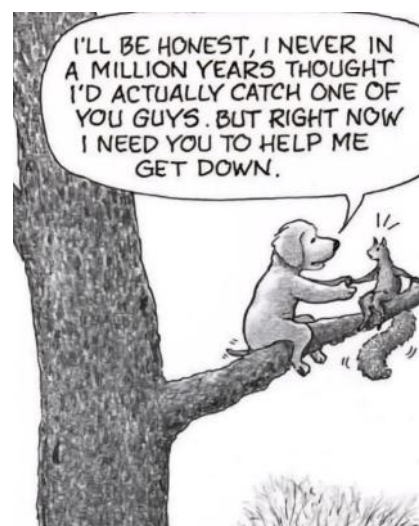


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bished shower and toilet blocks, which will make a stay there in the future more pleasant.

A memorable week for us and look forward to the next one.




## Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Members, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Victorian Seekers Club Inc, will be held following the October 1st 2025 general meeting.


All Committee positions will be declared vacant. Nomination forms for committee positions will be emailed to members during August 2025. Return nominations to Secretary up to 7 days before AGM.

Please consider supporting your club and have a say in what happens. Whatever role you feel comfortable have a with talk with Steve Hillman



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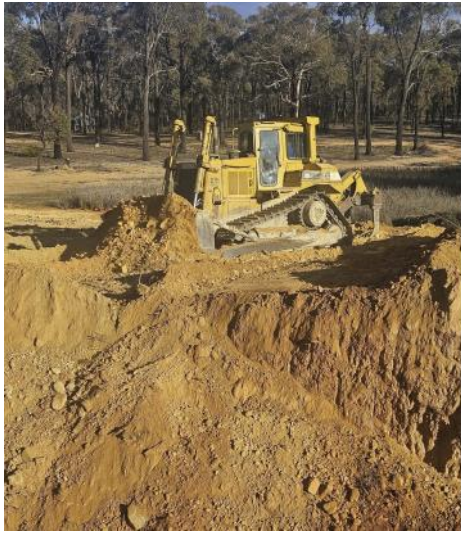
Free for members and \$20/day to non members (accompanied by a member) and also comes with limits on frequency of use. To book, contact Eric 0488972922



# Harvest Home Camp Report

By Rob H

Harvest Home was well attended with 19 campsites, 27 members, 4 dogs and a Kat. Gold was sparse at first so all the action was within camp and nearby towns. Wait... the biggest action was the machinery operating next to the dam. Members might recall the large hole dug by a mining company years ago – apparently it was not viable hence the site was being restored. Those staying at



camp during the day couldn't hear themselves screaming for silence from the excavator, bulldozer and haulage truck. Luckily they allowed us to sleep in until 8:00am and

it was all over by Friday arvo. Some members attempted to detect there during and after but again heard only unbearable noise from the leftover junk. Detecting was futile. Friday night Gemma made a gorgeous apple crumble for everyone to have around the campfire. Each night was softened by the



chorus of frogs in the dam. Occasional loud snoring broke that tranquillity, as did the odd kicking in of diesel heaters to defend against the chilly nights.

Saturday saw the usual ritual of feasting around the campfire, lit up by a full moon. Thanks to Tye, Bryan and Alan for the firewood. "Mummy" revealed to "Shaun the Sheep" her recipe secrets and together they made two scrumptious dampers for everyone to enjoy. Hopefully from



now on we'll have double the yumminess each camp. Please!? And despite many leaving in disappointment or tears everyone still loves the swindle and raffle. Ian and Paul took out first and second prizes of \$55 and \$35 in the swindle and winners in the raffle were Gemma, Tony, Maree, Marius, Ivan and Ghisela. The rest of us threw our useless tickets into the fire in disgust and immediately craved the next raffle. Oh the self-induced torture! Our friendly local police swung by that night ready to protect and serve. Apparently "hoons" tear along the bush tracks at night. Yet who knows, there may have been a "dangerous fugitive" (Alina?) who slipped under their radar while they were distracted with gold seeking campers. But thanks to them we feel safer. At least I do! /endsarc

For non-detecting members there's always something interesting. Local bakeries, cafes and op shops are a must. Mmmmm, enjoying a hot coffee/tea and cake or a meal while watching the trees grow and roos hop by. Some of the die-hard detectorists should give it a go, try something different. A bit of indulgence and shopping therapy does wonders. Chewton market is always a favourite. Sunday morning, heading off to Maryborough down a track just near camp, Katherine's car sputtered a bit and wouldn't restart. Shayne walked back for his car for a tow. Several people investigated the problem and a previous OBD fault code hinted at a failed knock sensor. The part had already been purchased but was back in Melbourne. Sigh. No nearby auto store had the part so the safest option was to



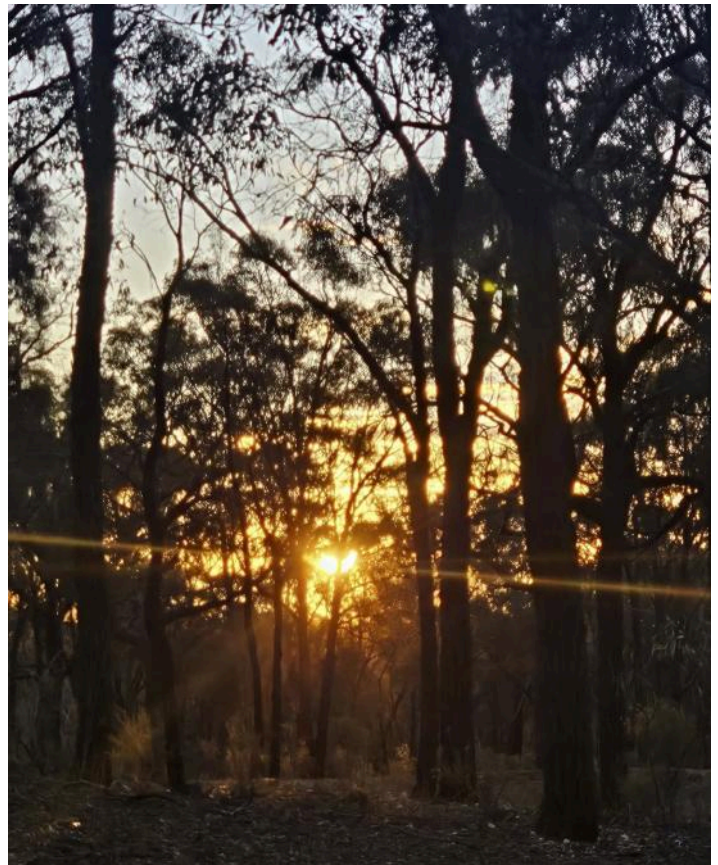
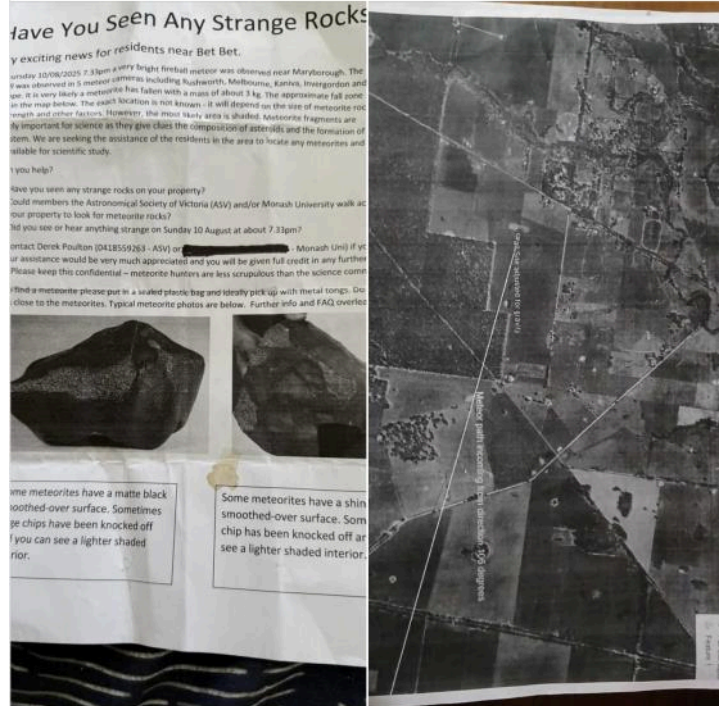


tow the car out of the bush. Bryan and Maree kindly offered help hire a trailer and tow it to Ballarat. Later they offered to tow it all the way back to Melbourne. What an incredible gesture. It has

been said that the Seekers is like a family... well the proof of that is right there. With no auto club membership it would have been a nightmare to sort this out. We loaded the car and headed off Monday morning. Bryan dropped us home and returned the trailer, then stayed an extra night at camp before heading home. Update: it was a failed fuel pump. We are still literally in tears at the kindness shown to us, and we are already "scheming" to return the kindness on a future camp. You two have a special treat coming! That for sure will be in a future camp report...



Monash uni have sent a team to search for that meteorite that fell close by during camp. When I say close, it's very close only 10km away! If anyone comes across a strange looking rock might be worth some \$\$\$





## Harvest Home Camp Report. Continued

Sunday night was a typical campfire night. It later turned to be anything but typical. At 7:34pm we saw a bright streak of light in the sky. The bush lit up like daylight. Peoples' heads turned instantly and witnessed an event that most will never experience again. A meteorite burned up entering the atmosphere and we were there to witness it. Around 15 seconds later while talking in awe came two sonic booms indicating the rock had split into two. Bruce swore that he saw aliens peering through the windows on their way down but nobody bought into that theory. What a thrilling event it was!

Shayne liked the area where he towed us from so returned there on Tuesday. Karma rewarded him with his second ever nugget, a nice 0.6g! He decided to stay an extra day. Gold finds: Paul H, Peter G, and Rob S all found bits plus Shayne's 0.6g and Lars' 1.7g.

And as luck would have it, Marius' car broke down on his way home and needed towing too. ☹️

Another eventful camp both good and bad but everybody's fine so that's all that counts. Lots of other things happened but as they say "What happens on camp stays on camp." To find out all these little secrets you'll have to attend the camps yourself. ☺️



1





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After fixing my computer, I overheard my grandson chatting with one of his friends saying it was just an ID ten T error. They both laughed. Not wanting to appear dumb, I walked away and wrote down the phrase: ID10T. He never was my favorite grandkid anyway.

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In the vastness of W.A we managed to accidentally cross paths not once but 3 times.

On the road north of Meekatharra travelling in opposite directions.

A few days later we walked in a café in Cue

Later again they wandered into a café in Sandstone.

Finding North when lost can be a life saver.



**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://pmav.org.au/>

### SHADOW-TIP METHOD

**STEP 1:** Put a stick upright on the ground where it can cast a shadow. Mark the tip of the shadow.

①

②

**STEP 2:** Wait 10-15 mins. until the shadow changes position. Mark the tip of the second shadow.

**STEP 3:** Stand in front of the two marks. Place your left foot on the 1st mark and your right foot on the 2nd mark. Congratulations, you're now facing the true north!

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.





# LAANECOORIE GOLD BASH 2025

10TH TO 12TH OCTOBER

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SATURDAY NIGHT MAJOR AUCTION

SUNDAY RAFFLE DRAWS

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Ex. GST



EUREKA MENS POLOS -  
1304

\$38.50  
Ex. GST



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/  
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## 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.



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.

