

The Victorian
Seekers Club

NOV/DEC
2025

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Presidents Report
- New committee appointments

Camp Reports

- Homebush
- Ararat

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Homebush



Lachie trying out
Ararat Lunatic
Asylum morgue
cabinets

Ararat



Asylum escapees

Your Committee of Management 2025-2026

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	John Wingham	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Mike Oldfield	
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Paul Bakx	
		Gavin Bell	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration (Joint role)	Susan Moore	
		Robert Hatvani	
Treasurer:	Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking	Steve Hillman	
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	Steve Iorlano	
	Camps and Special functions	Marj Hillman	
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	
Field Officers:	Assist new members at outings, manage campfires, camp signage and any other campsite set-up/clean up duties	Eric Grummett	
		Paul Gower	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Tye Sweeney	
		Brian McGough	
		Mujeeb Afzal	



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 per Gram as at 22/10/2025

NOVEMBER 2025

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

DECEMBER 2025

General meeting 3rd December
Christmas Picnic 7th December

See details below

Moonambel 26th Dec–1st Jan

JANUARY 2025

General Meeting No meeting

Amherst 23rd–28th Jan

Note Amherst camp site is new as previous location is no longer accessible. Refer Map.



WATCH OUT
FOR OUR NEW
CAMP DIREC-
TIONAL SIGNS

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



Christmas
is coming!

Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 7th December!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 7th December from 11am onwards at Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Melways ref 65 D8).

Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin-Olinda road, turn right into the Reserve.

* Drawing of the Christmas Raffle: 3 HAMPERS TO BE WON!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

* Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)

* Door prizes

* Bring your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket on arrival.

Electric BBQs and water on premises. BYO table, chairs, food and drink. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Come along to this break up party and support the club. You're sure to have a great time !

President's Report



President John Wingham

As some of you know, I put my name forward for El Presidente at the recent AGM and was accepted. So thank you for your belief in me. I'm not going to pretend that this was my first choice, but will make every effort to do the best I can for the club.

Please bear with me whilst I settle in and with the help of Steve Hillman, things should run relatively smoothly (time will tell). On that note I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Steve (and Marj) for all their hard work over the past three years and look forward to working with them both in their new roles.

So with all the committee members, both new and old let's look forward to an exciting year ahead of us.



BUNNINGS FAMILY NIGHT

Had a good night at Bunnings showcasing our club and again they gave us something to the club for our efforts.

Thank you to the ever reliable Eric G, Steve I, Mike O, Rob H, Katherine L, and of course my lovely wife for helping me out for 2-1/2 hours. Steve H



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Find of the year went to

Anja McKnight for her 38g nugget-found in W.A



Find of the Month for September went to Rob Shannon 2.8 gram approx. gold nugget. Rob reported he used the "Detector Maps app" to find this in conjunction the google maps to show diggings under the trees.

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0490500086

Homebush Camp Report

By Paul H

I arrived on Thursday about lunchtime and the usual 10 or so "early birds" were already setup and out detecting. By the end of the camp we had 29 full time attendees with 21 separate camps, plus 4 x day visitors plus 1 x two-night stay by Jarrod's guest.

The weather was mainly sunny or over-cast throughout the camp with occasional very light showers. It was cool overnight and high teens during the day which was ideal for detecting. However, a very windy Monday with predicted rain saw many leave.

As usual there was lots of socialising around the fire and Jarrod had kindly supplied a huge pile of timber from a building

that had been demolished. Jarrod later won \$80 in the "swindle" so his kind effort was rewarded. Thanks to others who pitched in and supplied wood.

Saturday night was



the big night and it started with Robert & Katherine setting up a fine dining experience for Maree and Bryan who had helped them with their vehi-



cle at the last camp. Robert and Katherine set up a nice fireside table, they both dressed up and cooked a meal of dumplings, Peking duck and Sesame balls for dessert. See photo (and facebook).



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

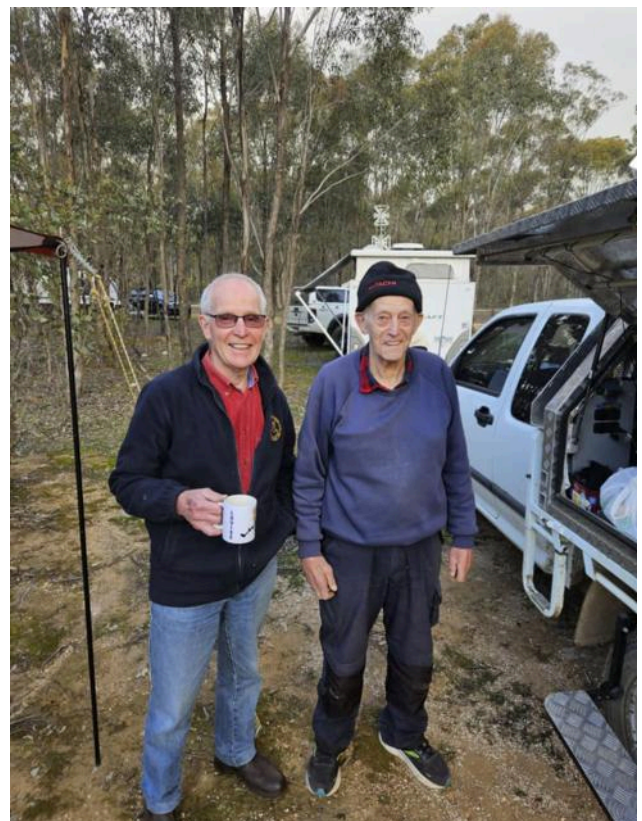
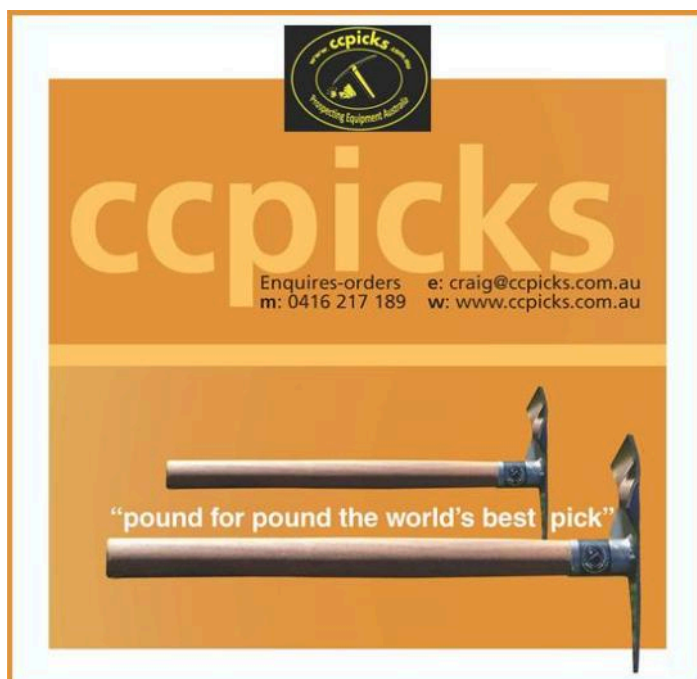
President Steve gave everyone an update from our last General meeting and then we had a swindle and "door" prizes as well as a draw for a nice warm jacket donated by Gemma. Swindle winners included Jarrod, Lars and Alan. Paul G won the jacket. After this we all got to tuck into dessert with apple crumble & cream supplied and cooked by Gemma & Gisela



and scones, cream and jam supplied and cooked by Marj.

On a sad note, both Eric and Tony P both had brothers pass away and our thoughts went out to them and their families.

On a brighter note a few of us were



Homebush Home Camp Report cont....

quite chuffed to watch the Lions beat the Suns and then the Bronco's beat the Raiders in one of the NRL games of the year.

Finally, to the important issue of Gold which at the time of writing has reached about \$170 / g. Not long after I arrived I headed up Specimen track only about 400 m from camp. I found someone else's old small patch that had been raked and timber piled up. On Saturday I took John, Paul and Ringo (sorry I mean Craig W) to the patch because it was a great example of gold coming off a small reef and small bits fanning out down the slope. There were still lots of pellets but I ended up with 4 nuggets (for 1 g) near the reef and Craig got a specie.

Craig only did a day trip but at one of his old spots in a couple of hours he picked up about 5 small nuggets for over a gram (and I got 2 more very small ones near-



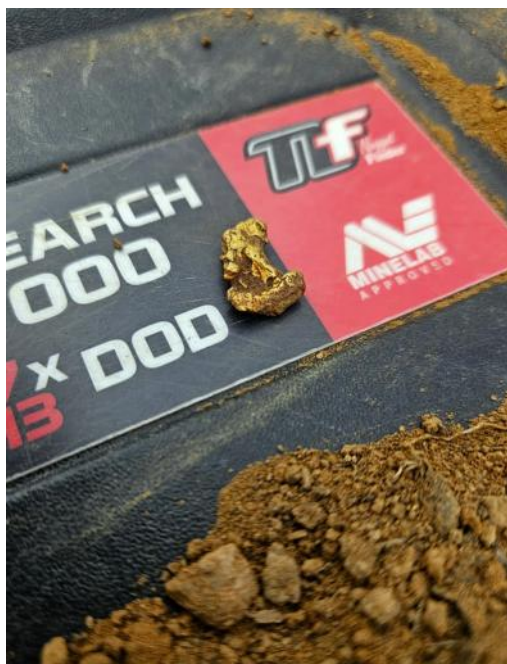
by). Ricky P went home with 12 small nuggets. Robert and Katherine had five small nuggets between them. Marj had 2 small nuggets. Jarrod was busy all camp running his sluice and a number of us saw the colour in his pan. We were not sure about Lars or Peter G but they usually have a small handful between them. Brian got a nice piece on Monday.

As usual Robert S pulled a couple of nice nuggets and apparently, he was so happy that he reportedly said that he would not mind at all if the Lions beat Collingwood in the preliminary final and then go on to win the Granny.....

Tony probably found the most talked about find and he took a photo but this respected Newsletter could not publish the photo. Clue think "toy" and my find of the month from Tarnagulla.



Always working Jarrod



Rob S Nugget



Chinese Garden

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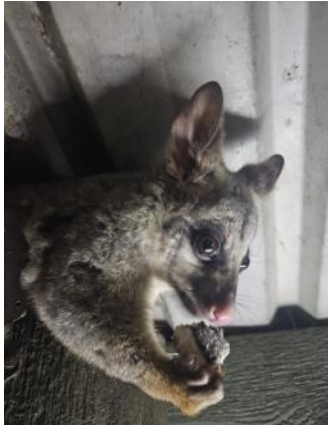


Ararat Camp Report.

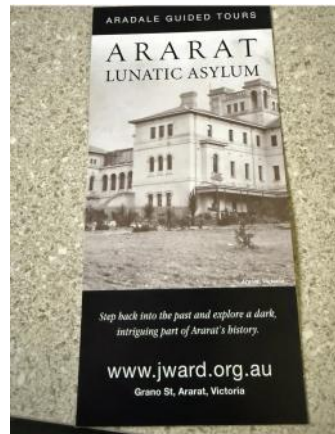
By Melissa

It was wild and windy weather for this start of the camp with very strong winds blowing over the lake each afternoon until early evening which made socialising around the campfire difficult. The weather Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday were reported to be gorgeous though and was quite warm Wednesday.

There was a cute little possum hanging around and some cheeky camp members thought they'd see just how Australian the possum was by feeding it lamingtons. Apparently it did enjoy them and came back other nights to see what else it would be offered. *Someone* also put a fake possum tail up in the eave of the rotunda roof and gleefully tricked newcomers into believing that there was a possum sleeping up there (looking at you Eric...).



Other activities enjoyed on camp included fishing and going to the Ararat market (note to remember, there are stalls inside the hall up on the hill), one member named Eric declined to go detecting in preference of watching the Bathurst car racing which he thoroughly enjoyed. A night tour of the Aradale Asylum was organised by Rob S which 8 brave members



attended, which proved to be a very interesting evening. Lachie showed the true size of his cojones by climbing onto the metal tray in the morgue to be pushed into the body storage cool room and had the door closed behind him.... The guide was happy to let him out only

after the group correctly answered a trivia question about Aradale..... no thank you!!!!

Meanwhile John and Paul went on a tour of Jward where they did a ghost tour using divining rods which John reported moving himself to scare Paul.



Gold finds: Robert found 51 very small pieces for a total of 4.32gm, Katherine found 11 pieces for a total of 0.8gm, Lars 6 pieces for

0.5gm, Laurie one big piece at 4.55gm, and Brian found a little 0.8gm piece. I was lucky enough to go out detecting with John and Paul this trip and got to use John's relic detector where I found alot more junk and thoroughly enjoyed John and Paul's cheeky banter. Eric broke the handle off his pick and Jarrod was kind enough to offer to repair it.

Sunday night our new President put on a bbq which many members helped to prepare and cook on the portable club bbq's which work a treat! The feast was enjoyed under the rotunda which Robert encased in tarps to keep the wind and rain out. After some rainfall a big creek was running through the rotunda which kept some people off their feet. The camp raffle was drawn after dinner and the lucky winners were Brian, Jennifer, Lars and Theo.

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All in all it was a great camp and it will be great to see you all at the next one.

Raffle winner

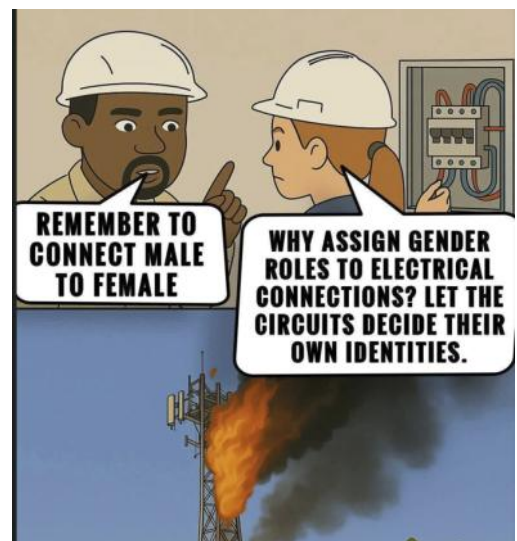
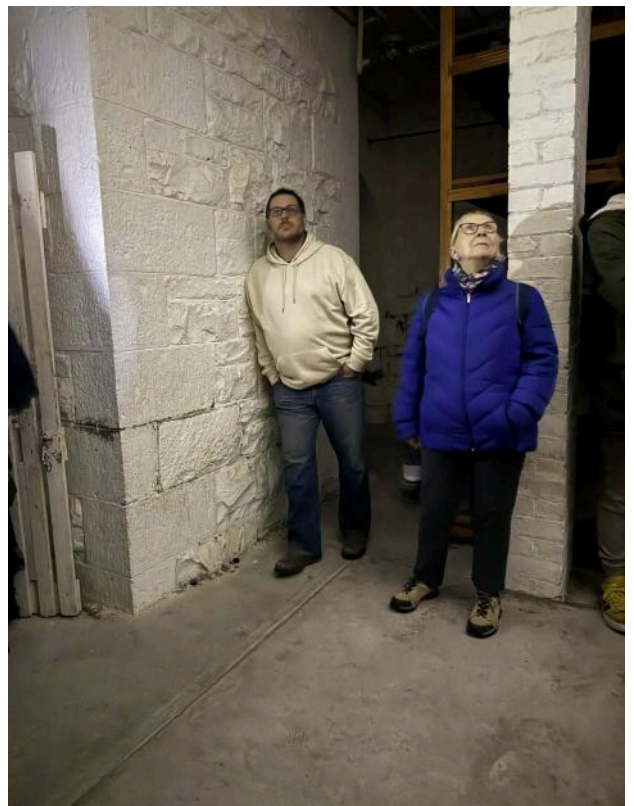
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Ararat Camp Report..... Continued





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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"

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.



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/>

Past Committee Members



Peter Muller

Peter Muller died a few weeks ago after a long illness. Peter joined our club in 1998, and was on our committee for 6 years and was the President 2004/5.

Elizabeth Forster passed away in September, joined us in 1992 until 2020 (28 years). She gave us 10 years on the committee along side her partner John Billings who was also our secretary and newsletter editor for some time.

John passed away in 2020. Condolences to the families of the above, fondly remembered by all of us who enjoyed their company.



Elizabeth Forster and John Billings

*Almoner's report**By Susan Moore*

Please contact me on 0412 428 479 or suziem99@hotmail.com if you think a card should be sent to a member regarding a health matter, a significant event such as big birthday, birth, death etc. Please advise if the member would prefer the matter not publicised.

Club Apparel



Acrylic Beanie - Toque - 4243

\$20.00
Ex. GST



Brushed Cotton Cap - 4199

\$20.00
Ex. GST



EUREKA MENS POLOS - 1304

\$38.50
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.



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.

