

The Victorian  
Seekers Club

MAR/APR  
2026

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# FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 47 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Farewell to Jimmy Cole.  
CFA volunteer for 80  
years and Seekers  
Honorary member since  
1986

See Vale on page 13



Havelock Camp



Moonambel Camp

## Your Committee of Management 2025-2026

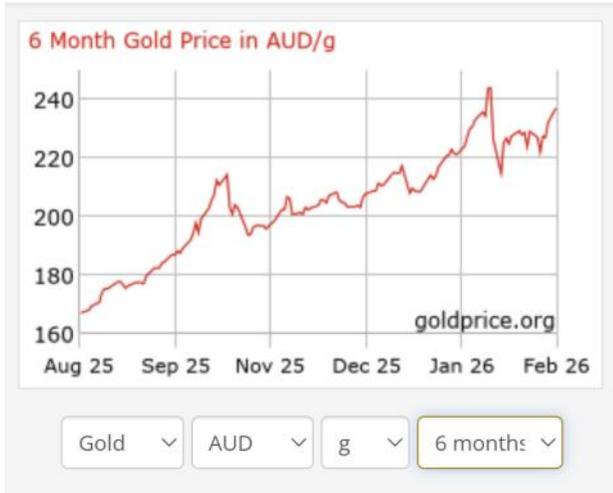
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
<b>President:</b>	<b>Club management and representation, Chairperson</b>	<b>John Wingham</b>	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Mike Oldfield	
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Paul Bakx	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration (Joint role)	Gavin Bell 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 Camps and Special functions	Steve Iorlano 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**



### MARCH 2026

General Meeting 4th March

Clydesdale 13th-18th March

Note changed camp ground (previously Mt Franklin)

### APRIL 2026

General meeting 1st April

Fryerstown 2nd-7th April

### MAY 2026

General meeting 6th May

Talbot Camp 15th-20th May

The Paul Bakx organized WA camp for June is full. If you would like to go on the waiting list contact Paul on email [paulbakx@hotmail.com](mailto:paulbakx@hotmail.com) or 0419368801

**FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times. Respect Historical features such as Heritage Puddlers and Monuments . Regulations prohibit removing, defacing, or disturbing these sites.**

Under current Government requirements fossickers should be trained in first aid, carry water, a mobile phone, a list of contacts in case of emergency and a basic first aid kit.

**Members are reminded 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](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



President John Wingham

We've had some great finds since the new year. From some members finding their first nuggets to others picking up 16g chunks. So it shows it's still out there, put in the work and the rewards follow.

Unfortunately the Amherst camp was cancelled, due to fire risk, but the Havelock one went well with, again, some good gold found. Some members went to the Australian panning competition and had a great day out and did very well in their classes. So well done to Eric, Mel and Jared. Please note that we have had to relocate the next camp from Daylesford to Clydesdale, details of which are covered later in this edition. Secondly, we have a vacancy for a club Secretary, so if anyone wants to get more involved in the running of the club, then let me or any committee member know.

## The unlucky prospector

### THE MYTH OF "NO GOLD LEFT IN VICTORIA" — AND WHY IT'S ONE OF THE BIGGEST LIES EVER TOLD

If you've been detecting in Victoria for more than five minutes, you've heard that line:

"All the gold was taken in the 1850s."

"There's no gold left — not enough for anyone to find."

"It's all been flogged."

But here's the truth no one talks about:

More gold has been found in Victoria in the last 20 years by hobby prospectors than most people realise.

The technology today is more advanced than anything the old-timers could even imagine.

the biggest advantage we have?

We're detecting in areas the early miners never even touched — or never could touch.

This is where the myth falls apart... and where your next nugget begins.

### WHY THE MYTH EVEN EXISTS

The idea that "Victoria is worked out" comes from two places:

People who don't detect

They repeat what they've been told.

They assume the gold rush cleaned the place bare.

They assume millions of miners = complete removal.

They forget one tiny detail:

The old-timers didn't have metal detectors.

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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, Australia <https://>

People who fail to detect properly

They dig four holes, get a rusty tin, get tired, and then decide:  
"See? No gold."

Meanwhile someone 20 metres away pulls a .7 grammer out of a signal they said was "ground noise."

Most of the people who say "there's no gold left"... never found any because they didn't put the time in.

Which is EXACTLY why this myth keeps spreading.

**THE OLD-TIMERS NEVER EVEN SCRATCHED 60% OF THE GOLDFIELDS**

This is the part most beginners struggle to believe — until they see it for themselves.

The early miners were not magical gold-finding machines.

They were limited by:

- ✓ No metal detectors
- ✓ No geophysics
- ✓ No aerial mapping
- ✓ No deep-seeking tech



No accurate maps

Hard ground they simply walked away from

They chased:

- shallow, rich patches
- visible quartz
- easy diggings
- gullies with water
- places where rumours were strong

But Victoria's gold is massive, spread out, hidden and complex.

The old diggers dug what was easiest, not what was richest.

And that's why places like:

- untouched hill slopes
- ironstone flats
- deep lead fringes
- quartz blowouts
- fault lines
- washed-over old timers piles
- bench edges
- pipeclay rises
- untouched ironstone ridges

...are still loaded with gold today.

Not thousands of ounces — but plenty of 1–5 g pieces and a steady sprinkle of sub-gram bits the old timers walked straight past.

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## THE GOLD THEY MISSED... WE CAN NOW FIND

Let's get real:

The GPX 6000, 7000, SDC...  
They don't see gold...  
They see what the human eye couldn't in 1855.

You're detecting gold that:

is too small to pan  
is too deep for a cradle  
is in ground too noisy for old tools  
sits in pockets they never dug  
is on slopes too hard to work

There are entire regions where:

The old miners walked around a hill because it was "too scrubby."  
That same hill has produced kilos in modern times.

There are gullies where:

The old timers only worked the centre.  
Modern detectors hammer the edges and the rises — and they still give up gold 170 years later.

There are quartz reefs where:

They worked one face and missed the parallel spur reef 20 metres away.

There are deep leads where:

They stopped following the line because the clay turned hard.  
Modern geology shows the lead turned left — and no one followed it.

The gold isn't gone.  
The gold is just not where they looked hardest.

### THE GOLD ISN'T "GONE"... IT'S JUST "DIFFICULT"

The biggest lie is that it's "gone."

Here's the reality:

Gold in Victoria is:

-  scattered
-  patchy
-  variable
-  hidden under decades of leaf litter

-  in spots no one ever bothered to check
-  in deeper layers new detectors now hit easily
-  in ironstone pockets the old miners avoided
-  in terrain too steep or too scrubby for buckets, horses, and cradles

Gold is where gold has ALWAYS been...  
But the people saying "Victoria is worked out" have never gone far enough, long enough, or smart enough.

Gold doesn't disappear.  
It doesn't rot.  
It doesn't evaporate.

It sits where geology put it.

### WHERE MODERN PROSPECTORS ARE STILL FINDING GOLD

This is the part that blows up on social media — because it goes against everything people assume.

Today's biggest finds are coming from:

-  flanks of old diggings
-  hilltops the old miners ignored
-  washed-over mullock heaps
-  thin layers above deep leads
-  ironstone patches missed by the early workers
-  benches above gullies
-  flood-reworked channels
-  fault-line intersections
-  slopes too steep for 1850s tools

Ironically:

The "dead" ground is often the richest -because

nobody ever worked it.

**THE PROOF**

Every week, someone posts:

- “Found my first nugget today!”
- “Didn’t expect this little beauty!”
- “Nearly walked past this signal!”
- “Can’t believe gold is still turning up!”
- “This place has been flogged for 150 years... but look at this!”

And that’s just the public stuff.

The private finds?  
The ones nobody shows on social media?

Let’s just say this:

You’d be shocked how much gold is still coming out of the Victorian bush every weekend.

**THE REAL REASON THE MYTH EXISTS**

Here’s the truth:

People who say Victoria is “worked out”...

...are people who quit early.

They don’t want to believe someone with:

- a cheaper detector
- less experience
- less time
- less fitness
- less access

...could walk into the bush and find something they couldn’t.

So they blame the land.  
Not themselves.  
Not their methods.  
Not their inconsistency.  
Not their lack of research.

It’s easier to say:

“There’s no gold left.”

Than to say:

“I didn’t look hard enough.”

**THE REALITY YOU NEED TO HEAR**

There is still gold in Victoria.  
Not in endless rivers.  
Not in thousand-ounce nuggets lying on the surface.

But absolutely:

Enough to find pieces regularly  
Enough to keep the hobby alive forever  
Enough to make your next hunt “the one”  
Enough that every single prospector you meet has a story of a day they’ll never forget  
Enough that beginners still strike it rich by accident  
Enough that the ground still whispers to anyone willing to listen

Victoria isn’t worked out.  
Victoria is waiting.

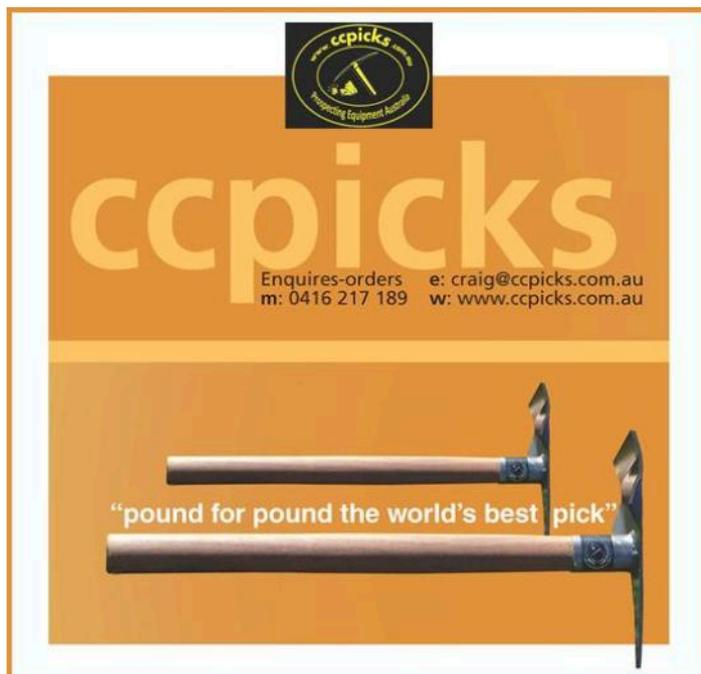
If you take anything from this post, let it be this:

\*\*The old-timers didn’t get it all.

They didn’t even get half.  
They got the easy stuff.  
You’re hunting the rest.\*\*

There is gold under your feet right now —  
You just have to swing long enough, slow enough, and smart enough...  
to hear it.

Because luck isn’t random out here.  
Luck belongs to the ones who show up.  
#gold #goldrush #prospecting





**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.*

## Moonambel Camp report

By Paul G

A fairly good turn out with about 16 vans and some tents & swags.

The weather was kind to us being mostly hot and dry, although it did get chilly on a few nights.

The camp ground had everything we needed, powered sites, large kitchen great bathrooms and community room with aircon. At a time when its not the safest camping in the bush the site selected was perfect.



International food night went down well, with food from countries of origin such as Sweden, Mexico, Australia and the UK being humble pie just to name a few.

Ivan hope you



got your car back quickly, not the best having a break down far from home.

Now to the important stuff (no not Rob Shannons dress up) but the gold found.

There were many small bits found on most days and a couple of larger multi grammers found by two of our members. Also a couple of members found their first pieces of gold.

So well done to Lou Petrovic and John Wingham.

New Years Eve, was a great night and some good laughs with many members in fancy dress or cross dress. Some good raffle prizes, toss the bottle and a trivia quiz all added to the fun of the night.

Thank you to our members who gave up their time to make visitors and new members feel welcome.



Laurie's gold



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Paul H's gold  
And relic

# Havelock Camp Report

By Jenny H

We arrived at Havelock camp on a beautiful Wednesday afternoon and there were four campers set up enjoying the peaceful surrounds. It was a lovely balmy evening with very few bugs considering the nearby dam. It has been 5 years since the Club has



camped at Havelock. A good camp site with its close proximity to Maryborough which has at least four supermarkets and stores for anything else you might need. There are many restaurants and cafes and the Golf club is a great place for a meal.



Mel's first detector gold

Three more campers arrived Thursday. The weather was perfect although a little warm in the afternoon with the wind picking up a little. No reports of gold but plenty of reminiscing of years gone by when lots of gold was found. Laurie was the first to find a nice chunky nugget of gold which weighed approx 1/2 g Jarrad's sluicing produced a few specs of gold in the dam and a nice little nugget.

Eric, Melissa and Jarrad left in the wee hours to travel to Blackwood to participate in several competitions and Eric has written the following to explain: 'On Saturday Melissa, Jarrad and I travelled down to Blackwood to compete in

the Australian Gold Pan Championships and also to escape the heat at the camp (35°C) to a very pleasant 27°.

It was the first time Mel and Jarrod have ever competed in a panning competition and so they entered in the novice category. Low and behold, they came 1st (Mel) and 2nd (Jarrod) in their heat, finding all the gold targets (10 out of 10) just missing out in reaching the final. I also had a very successful day by reaching the finals in the skilled (2 1/2



minutes using a speed pan locating 7 out of 7 targets) and in the Eureka event using the traditional pan 7 out of 7 in the time of 3 1/2 minutes. Unfortunately not quite good enough in the finals for a trophy.'

Congratulations to Eric, Mel and Jarrod for their achievements and bravely putting themselves out there.

Detecting was best done in the morning as it was a little cooler. On Saturday, after digging several unfruitful holes, it certainly was very steamy. When walking back to camp, Gary called me over the radio to get the pin spotter. Always a good sign! Sweating my little heart out, he de-



Mel & Jarrod Panning

cided to walk to the caravan, a mere 50m away, while I guarded the spot. He retrieved the spotter and some well needed drinks. Anja joined me and Alistair was walking by. The gathering mob peeked Rob's interest and before long phones were out to record whatever lay beneath the surface. At this point Gary's hole was on the small side but with encouragement and the final dig by Rob, a lovely looking 1.80g nugget appeared. Thank heavens the moment was recorded as Gary was shaking with relief and a smile as wide as Luna Park. With an audience that big, a shottie would have been an embarrassment! Nola and Tony arrived Saturday after 3



months of touring Tassie to visit family. Nice to see them back at camps. The raffle was well run by President John and amongst our small group, vouchers and cash were gratefully accepted by all winners.

The much anticipated rain started very slowly in the morning on Sunday but took hold after lunch. The drop in temperature was a welcome relief to the past several days which were 35 plus. Melissa had her first gold find with a detector before the rains, so congratulations to her, well done!

The rain continued most of the afternoon but we awoke on Monday to a gorgeous sunny day. Anja found a lovely chunky little nugget weighing in at a half gram. Ricky also revealed a nice little stash of about 20 small nuggets collected over the camp days.

The extreme heat made it difficult to find some shade to gather in our usual circle and dinner was sometimes later because it was too hot to cook and eat but we

Continued page 12



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# Havelock Camp Report continued.....

came together most nights, although a little later. We had some welcome camp visitors over the week including Barry Skinner, who lives near by, Jeff and Kay and Lachie and kerri-ann. For the lucky ones who found gold, good on you, for everyone else, there is always next time.



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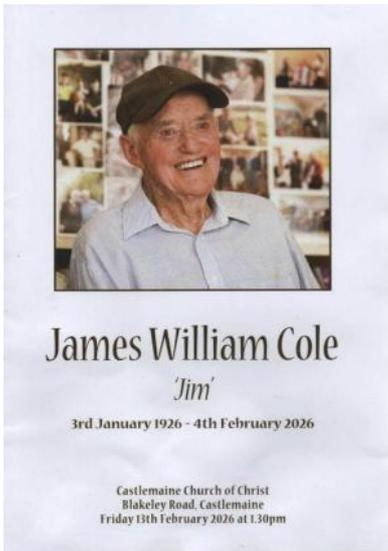


### Clubs 2300 detector for hire.

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# Vale Jimmy Cole

By Eric G

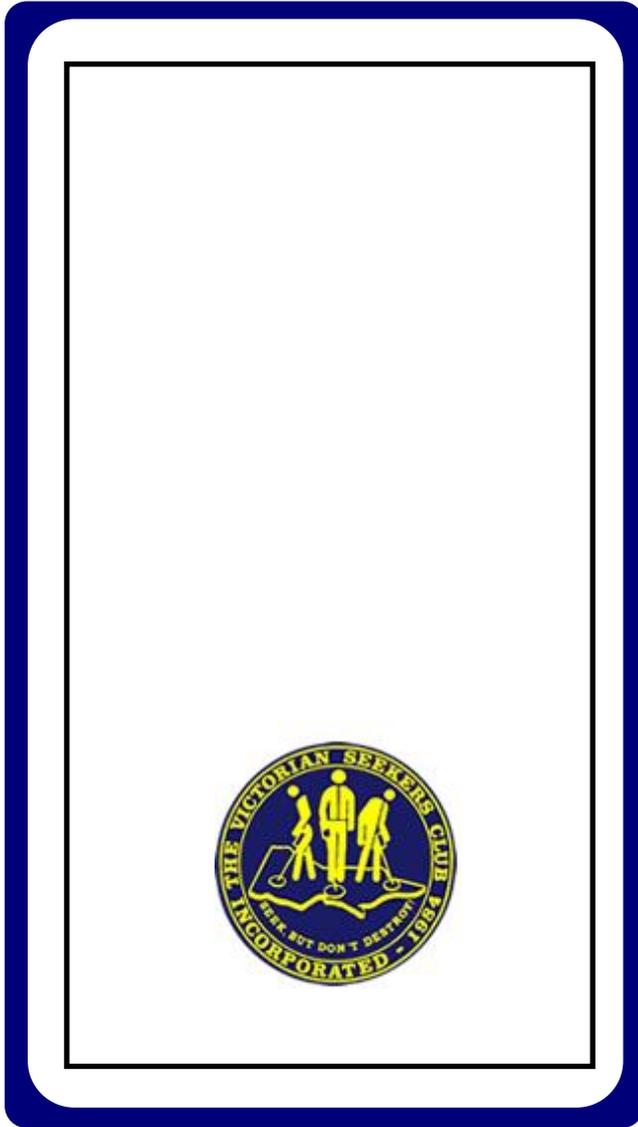


It is with sadness that we have learned of the death of our old mate Jimmy Cole from Fryerstown, who passed away on 4th of February after a brief illness. Jim, who only one month earlier celebrated his 100th birthday must have decided that was a good enough milestone in life to bid farewell. His birthday was shared with many family and friends from the district where he received a congratulations from King Charles on his achievement and a medal from the CFA for his 80 years of service.

His funeral service was a big event in Castlemaine with about 100 in attendance to celebrate his life, and afterwards transferred to the Fryerstown Cemetery by an old CFA truck to be reunited with his wife.

Several members of the VSC attended both of these ceremonies to honour Jim. Jim was a very generous and well loved by all those that new him. Our club was very privileged to have had his permission to detect on his property for over 40 years finding thousands of coins relics and nuggets. His only stipulation was to attend to his old time dances whenever we were in town which we did with much enjoyment right up until a couple of years ago. Jim was the MC, the drummer, mouth organist, and was well known for his ability to play the "klackers" ( a pair of whale bones played like the spoons) He was so much appreciated by our club that we made him an Honorary member in 1986. He will be missed by us all on our visits to Fryerstown.





## 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

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

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Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

**Email:**

vicseekersclub@gmail.com

**Website:**

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