

The Victorian
Seekers Club

MAY/JUNE
2026

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 47 ISSUE 3

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Members Stamford get together



Fryerstown Camp



Transport
options



Your Committee of Management 2025-2026

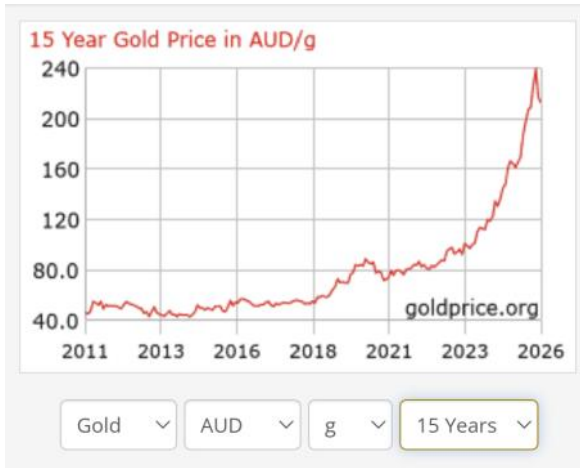
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	John Wingham	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Mike Oldfield	
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Paul Bakx	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, 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 Wellington Road, Mulgrave. All welcome.**



MAY 2026

General meeting	6th May
Talbot Camp	15th-20th May

JUNE 2026

General Meeting	3rd June
Chute	5th-10th June

JULY 2026

General meeting	1st July
Avoca	10th-15th July

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)

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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"

President's Report



President John Wingham

So, following on from the last camp at Clydesdale , we were all looking forward to the Easter camp.

Regrettably, a certain Mr Trump , decided to cause havoc with the world's oil supplies. This had caused untold uncertainty within the club and made a considerable difference to the Easter camp. Unfortunately we had to cancel the food truck together with the musicians, however a good number of members did attend and enjoyed a great Easter weekend with a good amount of the yellow stuff found. Also, the new Monster 2000 had arrived, so thanks go to Lachie for his tireless endeavours in helping the club acquire that and a big shout out to Lucky Strike Gold in Geelong ,also for striking the deal. Looking ahead , the next camp is at Talbot and coincides with the monthly market, which is always a worthwhile look around and it's good to help out local businesses. Until next time, happy hunting.

John



The Prospector's 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://>

Stamford Lunch Get Together

We had such a fantastic day at the Stamford Hotel in Rowville recently for our senior members' lunch. It was really important to us to get everyone together, especially for those who find it a bit tough to make it out to the camps these days.

The afternoon was filled with plenty of laughs and it was just wonderful to see so many old friends catching up over a meal. A huge highlight was seeing Peter Maffey out and about and in great spirits—it really made the day.

We also want to give a massive shout-out to the members who put in the miles to be there. A special thanks to Ken and Graeme and others for making such a long drive; we truly appreciate you making the effort to join us.

The whole day ran so smoothly thanks to Eric's hard work in getting it all organised, so a big thank you to him for putting it all together. It's days like this that remind us what a great community we have here at the Seekers Club.

Lets do it again later in the year



The Clubs new new Gold Monster 2000 with some very small nuggets to show that it works.

Thanks to the team at Lucky Strike Gold for helping make it happen.

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Clydesdale Camp Report

By Gary H and AI

We all had a really nice time at Clydesdale despite the gold being a bit shy. Even with the overcast weather and those few spots of rain on Sunday.

About 20 of us showing up was a solid effort, especially with those new faces joining the mix. The ground was a bit too deep for us around the camp area so we headed out to other areas to try our luck. Certainly one of the prettier campgrounds we have had with

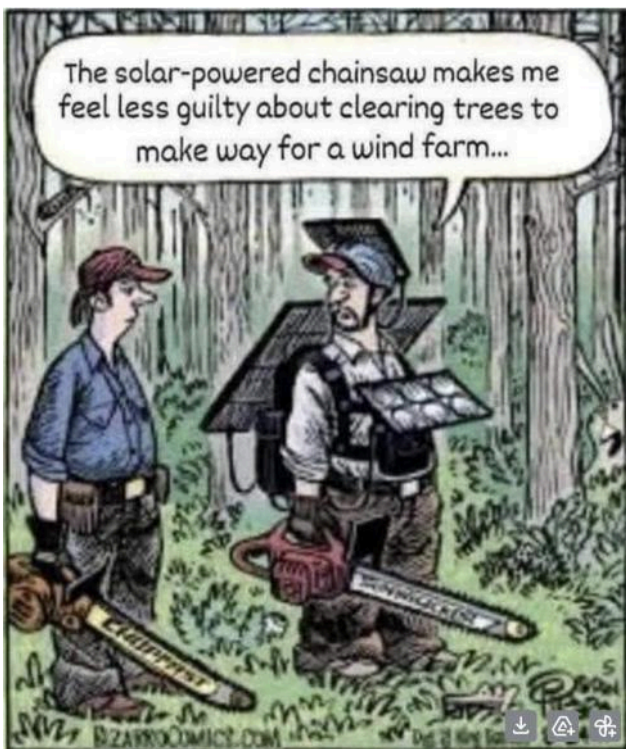


twice about the long hauls. Even if our bags weren't heavy coming home, it was just a classic, relaxed weekend in the scrub with a good crew.

lots of nice bush walking tracks around. Heading over to the Newstead Pub for Gary's birthday was the perfect way to make up for the scarce gold.

It's totally understandable that our numbers were a bit lower than usual given the headache fuel costs and supplies have been lately—it's definitely making everyone think





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.

FIRE DANGER RATING

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://pmap.org.au/>

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.

Fryerstown Camp report

By Nola P

Fryerstown Easter 2026

We weren't the first ones to arrive at camp early, but didn't have to wait long till Lars came along with the key to the gate. We had our pick of where to park the van, so you'd think we'd chose a perfect spot, right? Well, after a day of dwindling power, we decided it was too shady and relocated to the other side of the oval. Problem solved? Nope. 2 meters further over would have been much better... we were still not getting enough sun, and not much coming in off the extra solar blanket either, which was puzzling when we had just replaced our DC to DC charger. A few days of pondering, with plenty of both moral and practical support from fellow campers (thanks particularly to Alistair and John), Tony finally discovered the root of the problem - a melted connection! Presumably caused by the original faulty DC charger, and very thankful that it hadn't started a fire. Replaced that, hooked up both our own and Alistair's solar blanket, and put our troubles behind us to enjoy the rest of the camp. (We weren't the only ones with dramas though - ask Marius about his roof rack, and John and Debby about their unfortunate exit.)

Good Friday's bright-and-early breakfast of hot cross buns and pancakes was laid on by Paul and Lisa B and Sue. Calm and organised, they made it look so easy. Well done team. Then in drove the Firies - CFA trucks, complete with sirens blazing to wake up any late sleepers. The usual collection for the Royal Children's



Hospital Good Friday Appeal, and CFA members took a photo of the club to accompany this year's donation - though with numbers down from last year, it's unlikely to match the huge amount raised last year. In appreciation for the club's support, the CFA hoses out the pavilion before Easter each year for us, and as a reciprocal act of service, a small working bee dug out a drain next to the pavilion on Sunday morning to help keep the mud out. In addition, club members' picks were flying to eradicate the oval of baby trees sprouting willy-nilly. It's so good when the club pitches in together to get things done.

Although Jimmy Cole sadly passed away earlier this year, the Cole family granted the club permission to detect on their property over this holiday camp weekend, and while gold finds were scarce to start with, a number of members started showing off their bits of gold from both Cole properties and elsewhere around the area - only small pieces it's true, but in varying quantities (I did hear of a 20-piece "honey hole") and in increasing numbers as the camp progressed, once hopes escalated and motivation rose. Gold fever is definitely contagious. Rob S was undoubtedly the winner, with his hard work paying fabulous dividends.

Saturday night's scrumptious roast dinner at camp (again headed by Paul B and team) was preceded by a friendly battle-

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of-the-sexes Bocci competition. We girls did our best - but the men managed to beat us by a narrow margin. Tables arranged loosely in a circle around the fire, we all lined up for our generous serve of



Winner of Prospectors Depot detector



Winner of Prospectors Depot sluice



Big thank you to Phil at The Prospectors Depot in Eaglehawk for his generous prize donations



Thank you Double D Leather for donation.

hot roast chicken, potato, and salads for dinner. A relatively cheap and easy dinner - the solution after caterers pulled out - was well-received by all at camp and could become a tradition. After the door prize of some generously donated items by Prospectors Depot and Double D Leather & Canvas were drawn - with congratulations to Greg: 1st Prize of a Prospectors Depot detector, Lachie: 2nd prize of a Prospectors Depot sluice, and Stefan: 3rd prize of a DD bag - the normal raffle followed... and some people were having an extremely lucky day! Talk of dessert wasn't enough to keep members out in the cold too much longer and the crowd dispersed, eager to warm up inside or get tucked up in bed. Unbeknown to any of us was that Lisa had spent hours pre-cooking the rest of the pancakes.



The Easter Bunny made her rounds early on Sunday morning, a little concerned about spooking some of the excitable dogs at camp, but the tables were literally turned when one ran the other way, taking the table it was tied to with it! The Token Hunt got most out of bed at a decent hour, and although some tokens were never found by the treasure hunters, the girls took away the top prizes for the gold coins Briony and Mel, and the men found the silver coins Tony and Stefan. The popular Stake Your Claim game followed, with all proceeds going straight back into





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Fryerstown Camp Report cont...



prizes for the lucky claims staked out by Mel, Harry, Alistair and Lachie... although Mujeeb staked Lachie's claim so I hope he received finders fees! About 40 of us converged on Five Flags Hotel in Campbells

Creek on Sunday night for a good feed, and were glad that the pub coped much better this time - many members being careful to arrive and order early. We relished the opportunity to catch up with Michael and Kathy over dinner, who visited camp over the weekend now that Michael's health is improving after a seriously rough patch.



The weather was kind to us for the most part, with sunny afternoons after chilly mornings



following mostly cold nights. Thankfully the rain held off until all official activities were over, and tent-dwellers particularly made a quick get-away on Monday morning, though the rain was short-lived in the end. It was only after most had left that the rain really blew in. All in all, a great camp, and fears about low numbers due to escalating fuel prices were unfounded, with about 32 camps with at least 60 campers, peaking over the weekend days, and some of us staying on till Wednesday and beyond.



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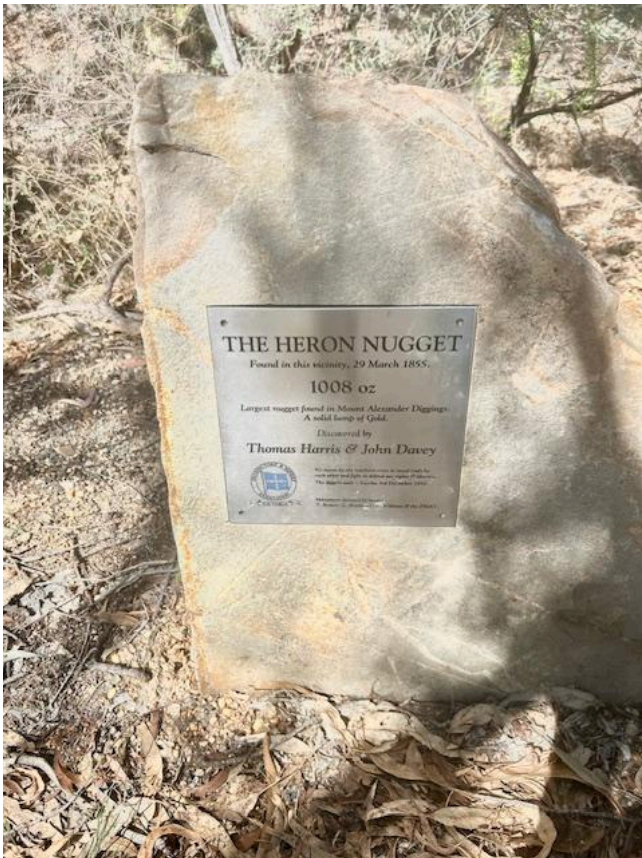
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 Web: www.phasetechnical.com.au



A huge thank you to Eric for pulling everything together, with not many committee members present, and also to all those who joined in to make this Easter camp one to remember.

Disclaimer: This report is entirely by me and therefore likely to contain plenty of errors and omissions

Over and out, Nola P



Monument erected by the PMAV last year to commemorate the discovery of the 1008 oz Heron nugget found in golden Gully, just inside the Cole property in 1855.

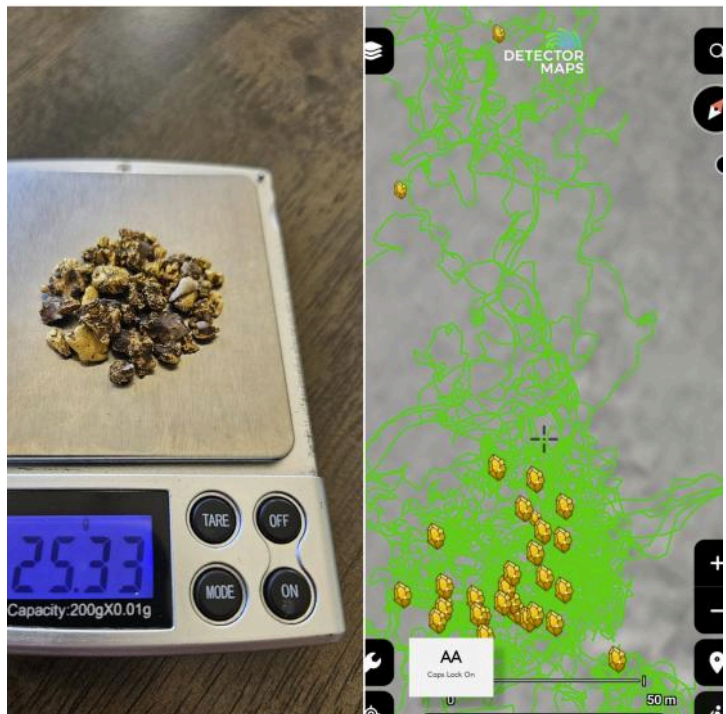
Fryerstown Camp Report continued.....



Anyone for a detect in this paddock



Final tally from Fryerstown and extremely thankful that I walked over a nice patch of gold. Thanks Gavin for allowing me to try your 10inch X-Coil which was deadly on smaller pieces and amazing depth.

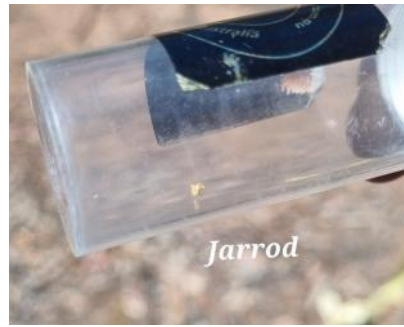


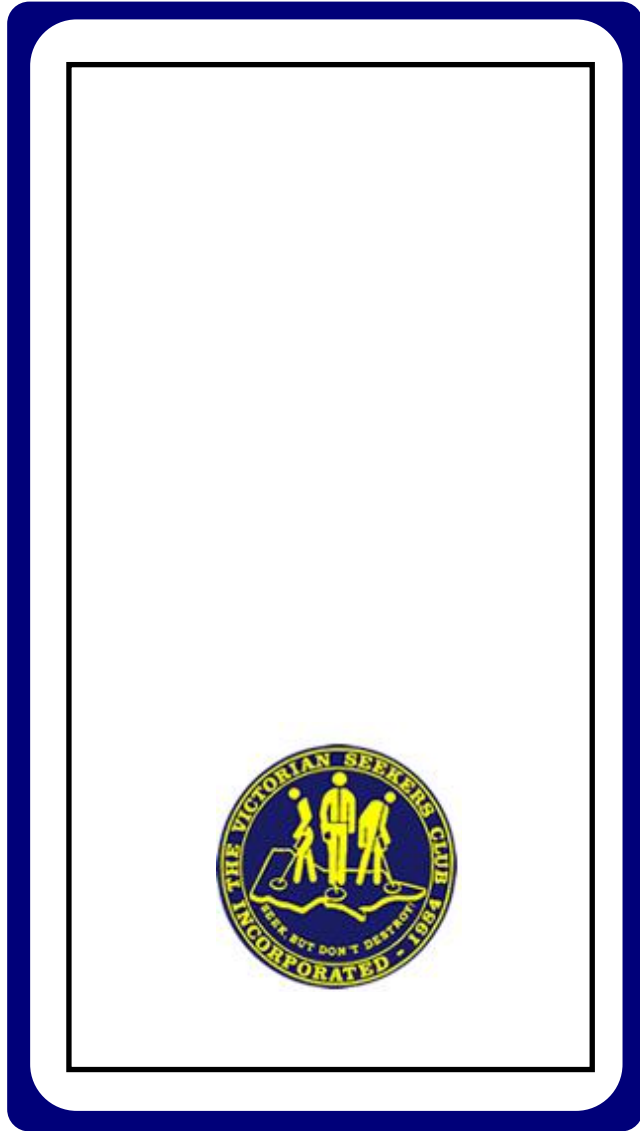

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Almoner's report

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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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.



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