

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JULY/AUG
2026

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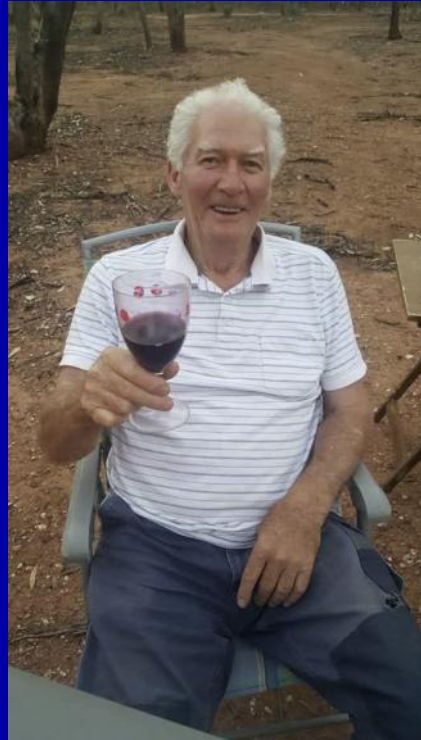
-Farewell to Ken

Whittaker

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 47 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Ken Whittaker see page 12



Chute camp



Your Committee of Management 2025-2026

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
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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**

Treasurer: Financial reporting, paying and receiving money, banking **Gary Harvey**

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**

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

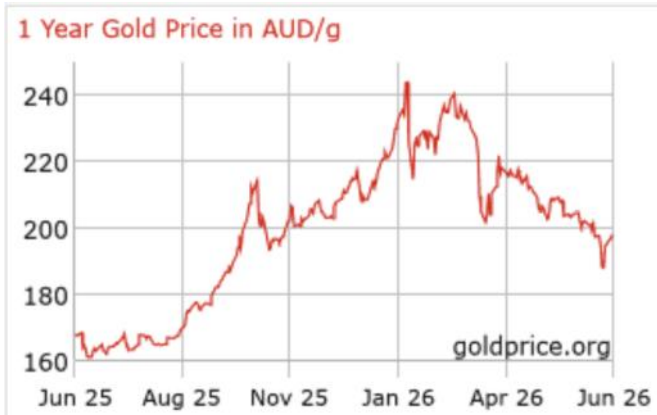
Mujeeb Afzal



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.**



JULY 2026	
General meeting	1st July
Avoca	10th-15th July
AUGUST 2026	
General Meeting	5th August
Amherst	7th-12th Aug
SEPTEMBER 2026	
General meeting	2nd September
Inglewood	11th-16th Sep

(Note: Camp is in a nature reserve and dogs are not permitted. Refer Parks Victoria for details.)

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.

Remember Annual membership fees are due 31/6/2026

See page 4 for details.



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



President John Wingham

Hi all,
 Since the last newsletter , the club is in the throes of finding replacements for Steve Hillman as Treasurer and myself as President. We have received offers of help for the Treasurer' s position , however we still need someone to step up and take over that part of the club's running.

It's not long now before the AGM , so please give the above some deep thought, as the club needs you.

We now have , thanks to Eric and others, a storage unit for the club's equipment, which takes off a lot of commitment from our longer term members who have repeatedly stepped up and taken on that burden themselves.

On another note, we have see some good gold coming out of the recent camps and it looks like the new 2000 is doing its thing and finding the gold.

Personally, I couldn't make the last camp at Chute and not sure for the next, as my van is in for repairs with a busted front window.

The club is now providing a Saturday morning breakfast on our camps, so if attending , check it out, weather permitting etc.

Just a reminder that membership fees are due, pay by 31st July and go into draw for \$100 voucher.

Well , that's all from me folks.
 Happy hunting,
 John

MEMEBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear members,
 As the current financial year draws to a close the new 2026-27 year begins. With this comes the need to renew your membership of the Victorian Seekers Club.

Memberships are due and payable from the 1st of July each year.

As in previous years all renewals paid by 31st July will go into draw for a \$100 voucher

- Annual Membership Fees
- Family Membership \$65.00
- Single Membership \$40.00
- One off joining fee \$10.00 single
- \$20.00 family
- Optional: Newsletter paper copy \$25.00

Direct deposits can be made to A/c Vic Seekers Club, BSB 633000 A/C 140771171

Please be sure to include your name in reference.

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Talbot Camp Report

A great time was had by all at the Talbot Camp prospecting trip! We had a strong turnout with around 23 caravans and approximately 40 members, which is fantastic for a winter camp.



By Nigel S

The weather was kind to us during the days, although we did experience a bit of rain on Saturday night. Some members got lucky early in the trip and managed to find a few pieces of gold, though the finds slowed down toward the end of the weekend.



Most of the members headed into Talbot for the Sunday market. The number of stallholders was down compared to previous years, which could have been due to the weather forecast. Despite this, there were still plenty of stalls to explore and enjoy.

A big thank you goes to Eric




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Talbot Camp Report

for taking the time to demonstrate and teach members how to use the new Gold Monster 2000. His efforts were greatly appreciated by everyone who participated.

Overall, it was a fantastic weekend filled with camaraderie, learning, and a little bit of luck in the goldfields. Between the thrill of a few gold finds, exploring the market, and sharing plenty of laughs around the campfire, the trip had something for everyone. We look forward to the next prospecting adventure and maybe even more gold!





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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://pnav.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.

Chute Camp report

By Gemma D

With a less than favourable forecast of rain, rain and possibly more rain, it still wasn't enough to keep us all away with 14 groups arriving to the Chute camp, with a total of 22 people, plus Mario's visit that brought us to 23. Some eager members arrived on Wednesday, with more completing our numbers on Friday, with the promise of more enticing weather over the Kings Birthday long weekend. We welcomed prospective member John who teamed up with Jarrod to dig and sluice with a healthy glow of gold for their efforts, new members Gary and Jill, and some of our more experienced prospectors who never fail to find enough gold to inspire everyone else.

Each day, everyone headed out, putting in the hours to bring back some exciting finds of Alistair's 6grams, Robert's 3.75grams, Anja's 2.59grams, Craig's exciting finds, Jenny's, Peter's and Lachie's. Graeme returned with an awesome deer skull complete with antlers, which he donated to Gemma's sister who is a local professional artist who will use it as a study for still life painting. She's very excited about it Graeme and sends



her many thanks.

Graeme spoilt us with some toasty hot pies, and Alistair and Dean cooked up a breakfast feast of bacon, eggs and sausages not once, but a fabulous second morning to finish off the stocks. Thanks guys, we all really appreciated your efforts, including Jarrod with his impressive haul of firewood to keep us all toasty over the course of the camp.

If you love the sound of rain on your roof, then Thursday didn't disappoint, producing a steady heavy flow of rain that perhaps tested a few of our caravan's batteries with a lack of sun for the ol' solar panels. We had one other



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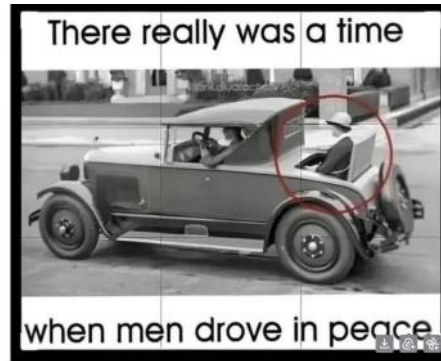
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evening shower that put an end to our campfire gatherings, but otherwise we did see sun, and the ground dried up enough for a fabulous weekend. So lucky that Anja missed a falling tree just meters from her detecting meanders... it certainly would have given you an awful fright Anja! A timely reminder to always be aware of risky trees and branches when going bush!



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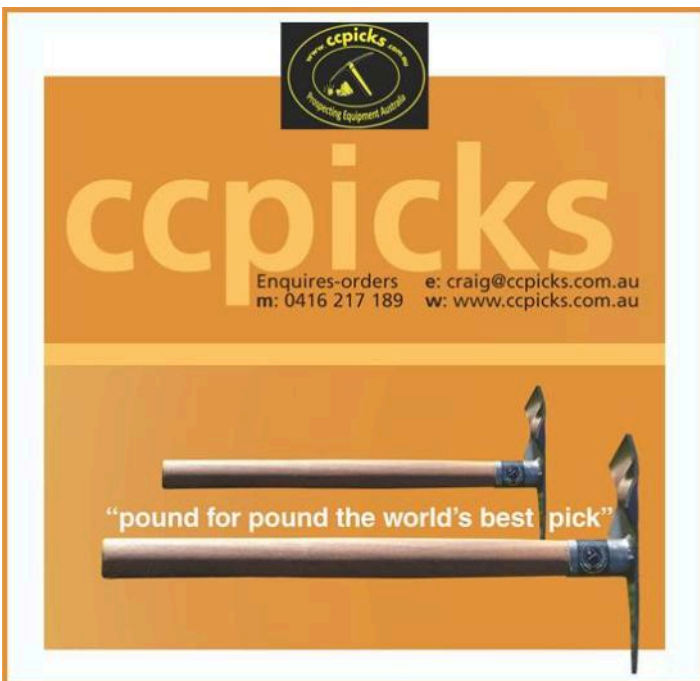
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Chute Camp Report cont...




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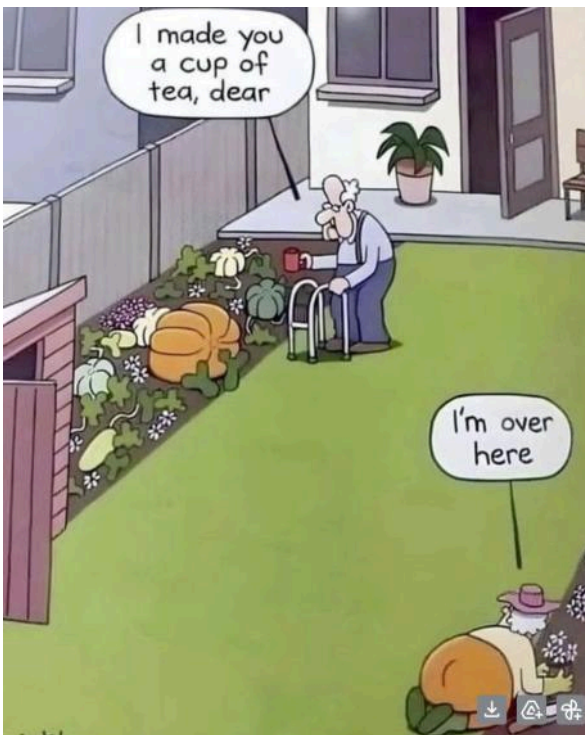



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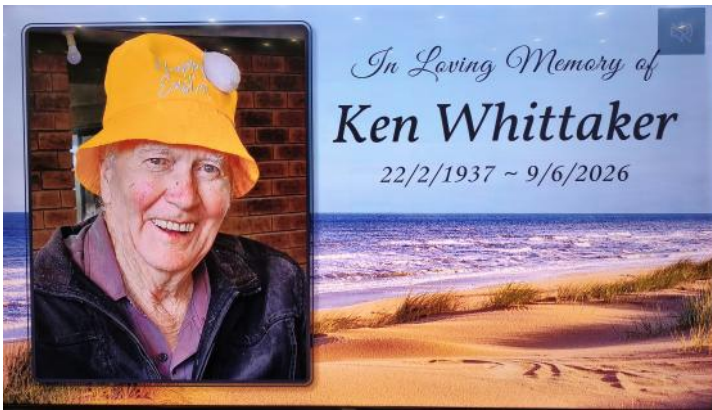
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Club Apparel

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It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our dear friend and fellow club member Ken Whittaker, who was born on 22nd February 1937 and passed away peacefully on 9th of June 2026, aged 89 years. Writing these words is difficult without tears, because Ken was more than a fellow club member, he was a true friend who will be deeply missed and never forgotten. His presence, humour, stories, and friendship left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him. Ken was a passionate and dedicated member of the Victorian Seekers Club and rarely missed an opportunity to attend club camps. Whether we were gathered around a campfire, out detecting, or simply sharing stories, Ken was always at the heart of the action. He had a remarkable ability to bring people together and make everyone feel welcome. Around the campfire was where Ken truly came alive. With a glass of red wine in hand, he would entertain us with stories, laughter, and spirited conversations. And while many enjoyed chatting with him, everyone knew not



to ask about religion or politics unless they had several hours to spare! He was often the last person sitting by the fire before finally making his way back to his caravan. On more than one occasion he felt a little under the weather the next morning and would jokingly say, "Don't tell Betty (his wife) about this!" Ken was a passionate supporter of Carlton Football Club. Despite Carlton's last premiership being in 1995, his optimism never faded. He would proudly declare, "They know we're coming!" while also sharing his thoughts that modern AFL had become a game of handballs, often remarking that players passed the ball more than netball players do. Away from the club, Ken was extremely passionate about his career managing Pioneer Concrete, a company that helped supply concrete for major projects, including the construc-

tion of a bridge over the Yarra River in Melbourne. Ken was a true friend and a great storyteller. He was always ready to share his experiences and knowledge with others. His passing is a great loss to the club and to all who knew him. We will miss his presence and his stories. Rest in peace, Ken.

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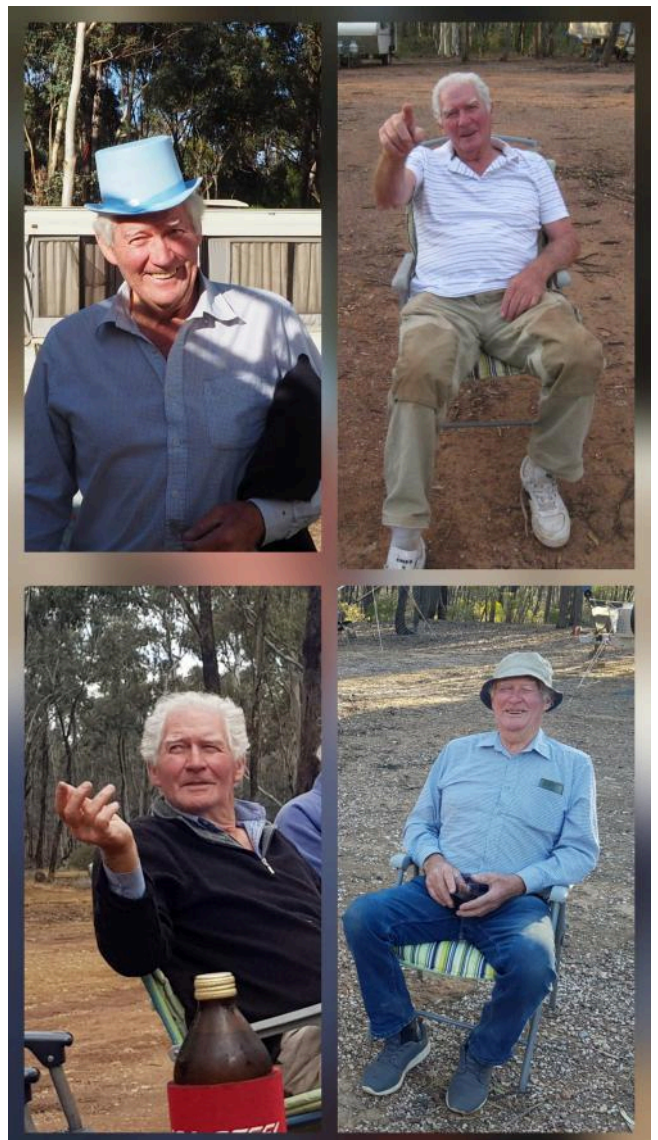




A big gathering of members in Moe for Ken's wake.

tion of the Victorian power stations. He took great pride in his work and the role he played in helping build the important infrastructure. Gold detecting was another of Ken's great loves. He often joked that his beloved wife Betty was his good luck charm, especially when she managed to find bigger nuggets than he did. One of Ken's proudest moments came at the Seekers Camp in Wedderburn in 2013 when he discovered a magnificent gold nugget weighing over an ounce. The grin on his face that day was unforgettable. Ken was truly one of a kind. He was generous, passionate, loyal, and full of character. He leaves behind cherished memories and a legacy of mateship that will continue around campfires for years to come. Rest peacefully Ken. You will be greatly missed, fondly remembered and forever a part of the Seekers Club family

Robert Shannon



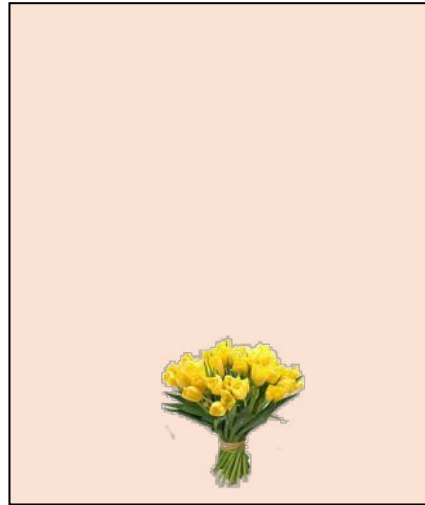
Membership Report

Please welcome new members



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.



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

Postal:

PO Box 15
Mt Waverley BC Vic 3149

Email:

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Website:

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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.

