

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JULY/AUG
2024

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- Talbot
- Moora

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 45 ISSUE 4

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Graeme's Famous pies



Camp fires are back



Raising the dress standards



Gold panning

Your Committee of Management 2023-2024

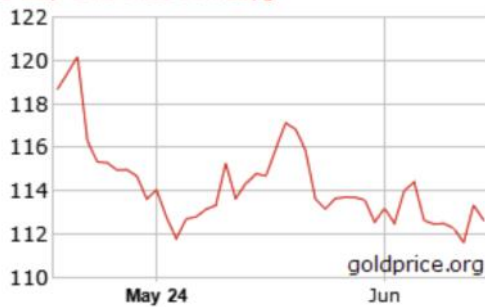
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.		
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp 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 M	
		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	Bob Lake	
		Tony Pappas	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Alistair M	
		Brian McGough	
		Paul Griffin	
		Pam Griffin	

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. (SUBJECT TO CURRENT COVID19) RESTRICTIONS)**

60 Day Gold Price in AUD/g



Gold price as at 18/6/2024

JULY 2024

General meeting 3rd July
Inglewood 12th-17th July

NO DOGS ALLOWED (Nature reserve)

AUGUST 2024

General meeting 7th August
Chute Camp 9th -14th August

SEPTEMBER 2024

General meeting 4th September
Eaglehawk 13th -18th Sept

Club Fees are Due 1st July

Again we are offering a chance to win a \$100 gift voucher if you pay your club fees on time.

See Page 5 for details

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

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,

Our Club continues to flourish. However, our hobby is constantly under threat from those who wish to shut us down. They want to lock up the bush so nobody can use it. It is part of our heritage to be able to be out in the bush. Many of us have spent our lives camping, 4W-driving, bushwalking, fishing, for all of our lives before we even became interested in gold prospecting.

Eric and I attended a rally in Drouin on Sunday 26th May. The rally was against the proposed "Great National Park", locking up over a million more hectares of land. There were in our estimation, well over a thousand people attending. Several politicians spoke there as well as PMAV and other interested parties. There are two petitions that can be signed and I have put the links in comments to my post in the Seekers FB group. If you haven't already, please consider signing the petitions so they can get presented and heard in parliament.

Committee recently added the next three proposed camps to the club calendar. July camp Inglewood (sorry, no dogs allowed at that camp). August, Chute. September, Eaglehawk. Please note that as is club policy, camps can be cancelled, deferred or location changed due to severe inclement weather or extreme heat. In that case, the club will make every effort to notify

members as early as possible of any changes. Well we do live in the lovely state of Victoria, so weather can be anything at any time of the year! I would like to make special mention of the firewood collectors at Talbot camp. Our members from Sydney and Mudgee started us off with a nice big load of firewood. Tye Sweeney brought back two huge loads of firewood during the camp. The nights were cold and we were very lucky to have these guys provide all of the wood we needed to help keep us warm. It did last us through to the last night, when the last of the wood was used up.

Once again we have some members heading West, with some already there and some on their way as I type this. We wish them many golden days, safe travels and look forward to them sharing pictures of their finds.

There are also some members intending to travel to Tibooburra this year. Intended travel date is immediately after the June camp, however I understand that a couple of members are intending to travel a week or so earlier. Please note that this is not an official Club camp, just several members heading there to be there at the same time to enjoy the area.

As per last year, the Club will again be offering a chance to win a **\$100 gift voucher** if you pay your club fees on time. Our treasurer Kevin will give details when fees due reminders are sent out. All fees paid within the time frame will go into the draw. Who will be the lucky winner this year?

We hope that you enjoy this issue of the club newsletter. Meantime, wishing happy hunting to all of us chasing that elusive gold.

Regards,
Your Club President
Steve H

MEMEBERSHIP RENEWAL

Dear members,

As the current financial year draws to a close the new 2024-25 year begins.

With this come the need to renew your membership of the Victorian Seekers Club.

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

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 \$20.00

Members will receive advice of membership renewal being due, to their email or postal address during July 2024.

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

Include name in reference.

Treasurer K Hubbard

Notice of Annual General Meeting.

Members, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Victorian Seekers Club Inc, will be held following the September 4 2024 general meeting.

All Committee positions will be declared vacant. Nomination forms for committee positions will be emailed to members during July 2024. Return nominations to Secretary up to 7 days before AGM.



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Harvest Home Camp Report

Eric G

Well due to popular request, it was take 2 for this camp site after being there only a few weeks before, and as it is very central to Dunolly, it is a great area to go in any direction in the search for gold. The weather was just perfect for us which attracted 30 members including Bruce and Gino from NSW who we haven't seen for some time. Also arriving was Robert and Kathy who I first thought must be new members as it took a second glance to recognize them as they sported new out with the old and in with the new looks, Kathy now has short platinum

hair replacing the long brunette job she had, and Rob, not to be outdone gave us a gold plated coloured short crewcut hair and beard. We do have a few odd ones in our club. Because we were next to a dam, it gave us a good opportunity to do some panning and sluicing. Our new-member Jarrod demonstrated with



great interest, his high capacity high banker sluice which-kept him amused most of the weekend. Kathy and Robert also had a go with their little wooden version which worked quite well. Plenty of micro gold was obtained by these operations.

This was the first time for the year where we could have a decent fire, so was time for a couple of dampers

superbly cooked by Louise and topped with Sue's tasty ginger jam—yummy. It was a matter of the quick or the dead for a serve, as within seconds there were only a few crumbs left. The next night Graham treated us to a plate of hot party pies, which also coincided with his 87th birthday –well done Graham. Saturday night it was down to the Railway Hotel for most of us for some local tucker washed down with some liquid on tap.

Our gold finds were small but fairly plentiful, notably Lachie's 2x1.5 gm pieces.

Another great camp done and dusted, we look forward to returning to this spot again.

eric

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In the event that a Code Red Day is declared for any camp days, the camp will be cancelled.



FIRE DANGER RATING

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.

Talbot Camp Report

By Marj H

As we had decided not to travel to far Noth Qld, Steve and I were able to attend this camp. This was our first time at this location. We were pleasantly surprised that so many of us were able to attend. We had 24 camps with 36 people attending in total.

The weather was reasonable during the day but very chilly overnight, getting down to a frosty 3 degrees one night. However, thanks to the guys from NSW starting us off with a stack of firewood and Tye Sweeney's huge two loads of firewood, we were able to have a fabulous campfire each night. A couple of days we had a little drizzle for a short time but it didn't dampen our enthusiasm.

Gold finds were slow to start off with, but by the end of camp they had started to add up. I only managed to get one little bit of gold (tiny, but shiny). However, Tye S. ended up with over 5 grams, Lachie R. ended up with 4.25 grams and many others ended up with nice gold. Jarrod found his first nugget using the club SDC 2300 detector. He also did some sluicing by a nearby dam and was pleased to be able to find some more gold there too.

Sam Z. came by for a day visit. He showed us his lovely 18.6 gram nugget that he said he found near Dunolly a couple of weeks ago. Find of the Month? We also had a day visit from Pam and Paul G. It was great to see them, especially as they had both recently been sick and Paul still recovering from his illness. We had some other day visitors. Peter Smits plus a couple of others.



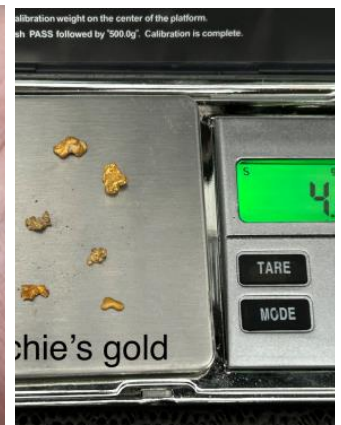
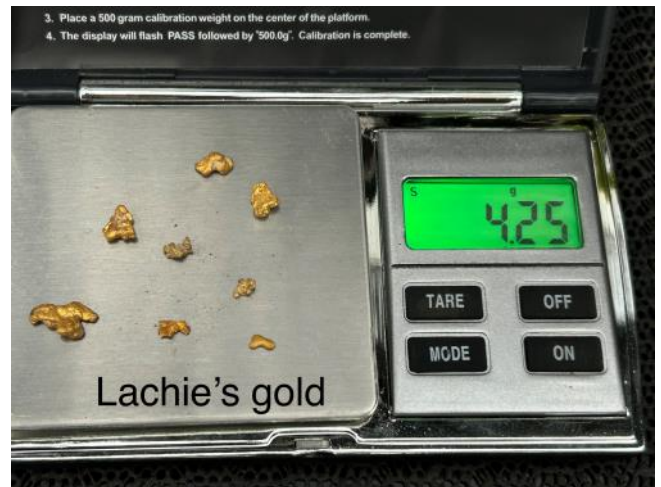
Axe Woman

We had a few newer members (John, Paul and Jarod), plus prospective member Ray and his wife attend camp also. Unfortunately, prospective member Shayne got his dates mixed up and arrived at camp after most mem-

bers had already packed up and left!

Some people attended the Talbot market on the Sunday. Paul Bakx was there selling plants. He is heading to the West again this year.

We shared stories, drinks and nibbles around the campfire each evening. Once again, Graham bought out his now famous hot party pies for us all to share. Thank you Graham!



I think everyone had a good time. We are looking forward to the next club camp at Moora Reserve, Rushworth.



Enjoying the last of the firewood on the last night of camp



Sam Z's beautiful 18.6 gram nugget



Stopped by a roadside stand that said lobster tails \$2. I paid my \$2. and he says, once upon a time there was this lobster....

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Moora Camp Report

By Paul H

Moora Camp Report – June 2024

On the Melbourne Cup weekend last year we first gathered at the Moora Racecourse and Recreation ground about 8 km from Rushworth. We got close to 40 attend this winter camp in June so it is proving to be a popular location. Visitors, new and prospective members included Corey S, Natalie W, Mario, Kieth & Di, Bill & Ruth.

I arrived about lunch time on Thursday and there were already about half a dozen vans and camper trailers on site. Over the next two days a further 20 camp sites were set up. Weather from Thursday to Monday was fine with temperatures from 0 to about 15 degrees C. I believe Tuesday got quite wet but most members had returned home by then.

shelter shed in case of rain. It was also nice that the Seekers club committee made a donation to the Recreation Reserve committee so members did not have to pay.

In what I believe is a first for the club,



members Gemma and Tony bought along a large trailer boat which they "camped" in (see photo). They are members of a trailer boat club and were on their way to a club get together on a lake near Echuca.

President Steve and Marj, Trout and Lyndal as well as Eric were going to Ti-booburra after this camp.



I think what makes Moora attractive for members is the large area of well-kept grounds, toilet facilities, dog friendly site and it is about 10 to 15 minutes from shops, café etc and the gold fields. In the Seekers Club area we also had a "fire pit" and

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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.

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New member Keith sampling licorice medicine

Even though the gold-fields in this area are not huge there were some reasonable finds for those who put in the work. Our Facebook site may have more accurate detail but at the time of writing I believe most members picked up a something. Locky R and Peter G each had over 2 g and Sue L picked up some nice specimens. I believe Tye S had around 5 g and a possible find of the month.

I left Moora early on Monday and managed 7 nuggets for 1.5 g.

On Sunday afternoon I came across Brian and Louise who were detecting along the Nine Mile track. Over a cup of coffee, Brian told me that Louise had asked him to walk 100 m uphill to check out a small round piece with a little bit of white corrosion on it. Louise was convinced it was gold but no amount of "washing" in her mouth could



Tye's gold!
Big one is 2.7 g



Sue Littleow's species 😊



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Moora Camp Report cont....

turn that lead pellet into gold. To make matters worse Loisse also went the wrong way on a track and was geographically challenged for about an hour. Brian could not reach her on his radio but Sue and Robert were able to make contact and track her down. This is another timely reminder about carrying safety gear, water and not detecting alone. I should mention that lucky Louise did get two nuggets as well.

At camp we had some nice times around the fire and due to numbers increasing we actually had two fires going for a few nights. Thanks to those who supplied fire wood and snacks. Robert and Katherine supplied crepes on Saturday night and Graham M supplied party pies on Sunday evening. A few members including Sue, Peter and Steve also supplied some tasty beverages.

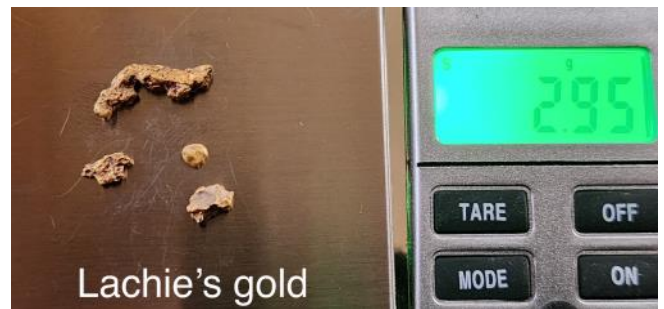
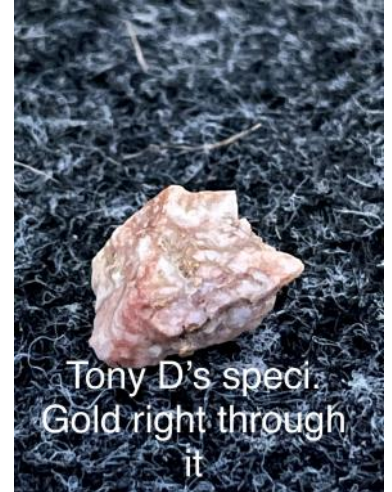
On Saturday night we had a raffle and before the draw Steve gave a useful summary of the General Meeting that was held a few



nights before.

All in all another enjoyable camp and on behalf of members thanks to the hard-working committee.

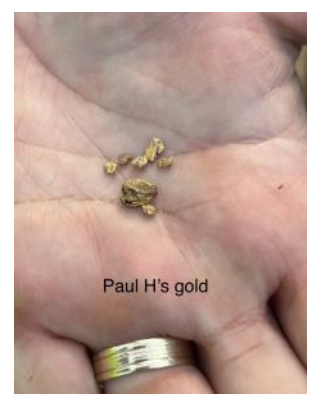
Paul H



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.



Protest Rally Drouin

On Sunday, Steve and I attended the protest rally at Drouin in support of the opposition to the proposed 500,000 hectares Greater Forest National Park covering huge area of western Gippsland which will exclude many activities such as 4wd, free camping, prospecting, and woodcutting. We had a crowd of over 1000 very irate bush users voicing their opposition to this green ideological proposal. We heard emotional speeches from the opposition party mp's including liberal leader John Pesutto who promised to fight for our access and rights. Other speakers were Bill Shultz (BUGU president), Jason Cornish (PMAV president), and the 4WD rep. Two petitions were running in support of opposition in the Upper and Lower House. Even though this park is an area that our club does not visit, we must help to stop this National Park agenda, because the next one may be in our area.

Eric



An item from *The Avoca Mail* June 1983

Exactly 100 years ago today, the 'Avoca Mail' reported that "a very curious will had fallen into the hands of the police at Amherst".

"It is the last testament of William Nicholson, an old man who died in a hut at Amherst Flat last week of starvation, leaving a small fortune of 63 sovereigns in his hut and an account in a bank at Talbot.

The will bequeaths the bulk of his property to a friend in Canada and a nephew, and further as follows:

"To S----M---- and M---B---: one shilling to pay for a treatise on truth, honesty and morality.

To M---N---: the sum of sixpence, to keep forever to remind her of her untruthfulness, dishonesty, and depravity.

I give to W---N--- sixpence to buy a tin whistle to blow on....a lying fool is fit for nothing else.

I give to R---M---the sum of sixpence, the father of lying rogues, to buy a rope. He knows the use I want him to take of it."

The will is duly signed and witnessed, but no executors are appointed. We may add that the deceased had a wife, but owing to his miserly ways she could not live with him, and is now at service in Melbourne. His property was claimed on her behalf, but the police have taken possession of it for the present. It is said that a Magisterial inquiry should have been held into the cause of Nicholson's death—he was found dead in his hut, apparently from starvation - but the Coroner gave an order for the burial of the body.

Membership Report

Please welcome new members



Club Apparel



Acrylic Beanie - Toque - 4243

\$20.00
Ex. GST



Mens Heavy Weight Fleece -
PF380

\$61.90
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>

Vic Seekers



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HF 12



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



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 Acoxa 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

Refer: toiletmap.gov.au; highwaytraveller.com.au

