

The Victorian
Seekers Club

SEPT/OCT
2024

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- Chute

FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 5

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Chute camp ground



Burnt prospecting
areas at Inglewood



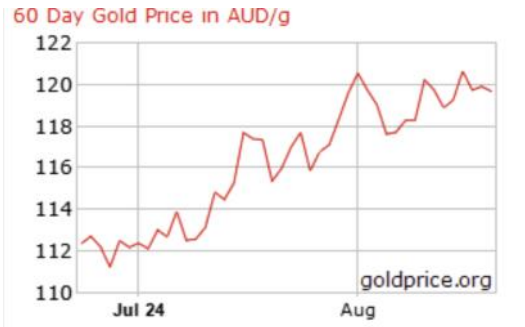
Your Committee of Management 2023-2024

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)**



Gold price as at 23/8/2024

SEPTEMBER 2024

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

OCTOBER 2024

General meeting	2nd October
Tarnagulla	11th-16th October

Recreation Reserve Camping fees apply see page 16 notes

NOVEMBER 2024

General meeting	6th November
Moliagul	31st Oct -5th Sept

Remember Wednesday September 4th is our Annual General Meeting. Please consider supporting your club on the committee or in the field. Talk to Steve Hillman if you are interested.

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,

Since our last newsletter, we have had two club camps. One at Inglewood (where some nice gold was found) and another at Chute. We headed up to Tibooburra so we missed the Inglewood camp. However we heard it was great. The recent Chute camp was really good, with most of us finding gold and a very nice nugget found by Rob S. I was lucky enough to be there to witness this lovely nugget see sunlight for the very first time as it was dug out of the ground. I think I was more excited than Rob!

We have several new members join in recent times. Please make them welcome when you see them and if they look like they need, or ask for assistance with using their detector, please help them out.

Several of us travelled up to Tibooburra. Some were there earlier. Some went up later. It amazes me how this area keeps on giving. So many people going up there chasing gold but its still there! Yes, the gold is small. However, many of us gathered up 10 grams or more. Marj and I were lucky enough to find a few "larger" pieces. The biggest being just over 1 gram on our last day. Our total was 15 grams for the trip. Given that the rain came and all tracks closed (even the bitumen between Tibooburra and Broken Hill was closed for a day), we travelled back down to Broken Hill, then up through Cobar and Bourke to Goondiwindi in Qld. It poured rain all the way with horrendous driving conditions. We even saw a three-trailer road train tipped on its side! We made our way to Brisbane to visit relatives and get some warmth and sunshine, then headed home via Lightning Ridge. All

up about 6,500 kms so the gold we found in Tibooburra has covered our total fuel bill for the trip.

Our members who have travelled to WA chasing gold have also had to deal with lots of rain, frequently closing off the roads there for many days at a time and making it difficult to prospect for gold. Some members have returned however a few remain in WA as I write this. I have already seen some pictures of some nice finds by our members and hope to see more.

This year's annual general meeting (AGM) will be held straight after our club general meeting on Wednesday 4th September. We will have a few vacant positions to be filled so I hope that these will be taken up.

Talking of committee positions: Bob Lake has advised that he will be standing down from his position of Field Officer. I am told that he has served on the committee for 27 years including three years as President. I hope you will join me in thanking Bob for his years of service to the club and wishing him a long and happy "retirement" from club committee duties. Well done mate and thank you again.

The \$100 gift voucher draw for paying club fees on time will also be conducted at our GM/AGM. Thank you to all who paid their fees on time as it really does make the jobs of the Treasurer and Membership Secretary easier if fees are paid in a timely manner. Who will have been the lucky winner?

As the weather improves (hopefully), we look forward to our warmer camps and hope we won't be waking up with ice on our cars and vans for a few months. It will be a welcome change to the cold nights.

Next camp at Eaglehawk, Phil Rackham of The Prospectors Depot has offered to visit us and talk about his prospecting journey and the new Algoforce metal detector. Hope you can make it to this camp. The October camp is at Tarnagulla

to coincide with the Laanecoorie Gold Bash. Tarnagulla is one of Marj and my favourite places for gold detecting activities.

Just a note re the November camp: You should have received my email about the change of timing for this camp. It has been brought forward again to coincide with Cup Day, which this year will be the last day of camp. Noting that our club general meeting is the very next day. So confirming that the November camp dates are 31st October through to 5th November.

Keep swinging those detectors! I wish everyone good luck on the gold and good health.

Regards,
Your Club President
Steve H

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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Inglewood Camp Report

Eric G

It was 17 of us and 4 visitors who took the gamble with the miserable forecast to try our luck in the large area of a recent cold burn conducted adjacent to our campsite. Those who arrived before Friday copped the full fury of winter on Thursday night with about 25 ml of rain overnight, but that was it, apart from being very chilly (3 degrees one morning) it left us with good detecting conditions for the remainder of our visit. We shared our site with two other long term couples from Tassie and SA. who were enjoying our unbelievable unlimited access to Victoria's goldfields (and gold), mostly thanks to the long time hard earned efforts of the PMAV, which I reminded them of, and con-



vinced them to join that group to help preserve their privilege. Some people are saying that many of our members are getting on in years and approaching dementia and forgetfulness, well let me tell you that isn't correct, as proved by two of our youngest members (with blond hair) who left early on Thursday and at the halfway point (100k) realized that they had forgotten their detectors, so it was a sudden U turn which added another 200k to their journey, arriving just on nightfall, and in time for the deluge of rain to hinder the erection of their lean-to camp. Us old fo-

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Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid

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Vic Seekers communication channel during camps



gies felt real sorry for bad day they had but realized that we still have a few more years to go before we can top that. Now this said couple could

not take trick this weekend. Because of all the rain and the fact that they only had a little 2 wheel drive van, we advised them not to venture up the slippery tracks the next day, so dutifully they stayed on the main road, pulled off to the side and got bogged. Luckily Kevin came along with his winch and demonstrated his skills, saving their day. The very next day after detecting all day, and on arriving back at camp the he partner could not find the she partner's UHF



portable radio and believed that she had lost it in the bush. In the last glimmers of light he took off back to look for it, with no luck, returned back to camp furious with she for the loss, but all was forgiven when they opened the glove box discovering the said item. It was not all bad luck for them as they did find quite a few small gold with she becoming ecstatic with her 1.95 grammer

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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.

Inglewood Camp Report cont...

(well done Kathy).

The burnt areas proved to be a filthy affair to those who ventured into the blackened half burnt scrub, coming out looking like coal miners who have spent the day underground. Alas, I think we were a few weeks late for the good gold in the burnt areas, as there were literally thousands of detector holes all over, leaving us with a few scraps that were missed. It was an interesting exercise, especially when we got home, as it took 3 days to soak the soot from my clothes. Most found gold, notably Paul with 4 gm.

Eric





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Chute Camp Report

By Gemma

An impressive mid-winter Chute camp evaded all but one small evening sprinkle of rain, with toasty fires to keep a total of 32 people warm at the gatherings, including 19 camp setups and prospective members Mario, Lionel and Deb. Being midway through the Paris Olympics, we had our own quests for gold with many finding a few pieces and Rob S finding a very pretty 7.9g nugget. The lucky seekers did well in some of the burnt-out clearings, in bushland off nuggety named roads and with permission on Mrs Reid's property. Some of you



must have incredibly experienced eyes for where to detect for gold, as with Paul who had multiple finds! Wow... you guys are inspiring. I suppose we'll



get the hang of this one day soon. We enjoyed some of Graeme's pies, shared shots and snacks, watched Rob & Katherine cook pizzas on their bespoke pizza press and Eric

with his double-foil-wrapped potatoes that he baked in the coals (I believe the trick is to leave them in for up to an hour, so when I had to leave camp early, I set Tony with the task of trying this himself, with much hilarity from the fireside group!). Evenings were nudging close to zero degrees on a



few clear-sky nights, but generally it was quite mild, with some heading off early for full day jaunts detecting, and a few of the girls frequenting nearby towns for the best brews of coffee, wineries and op shops.

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.

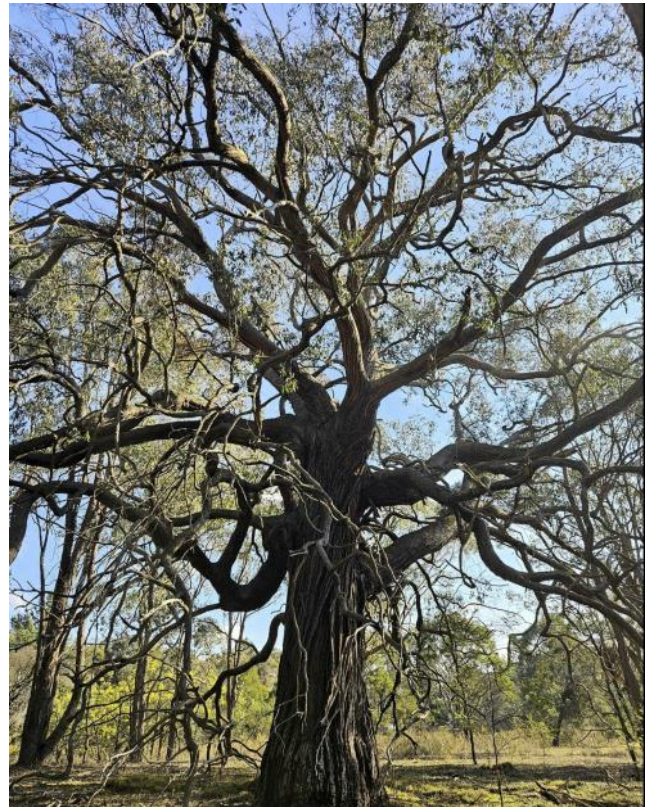
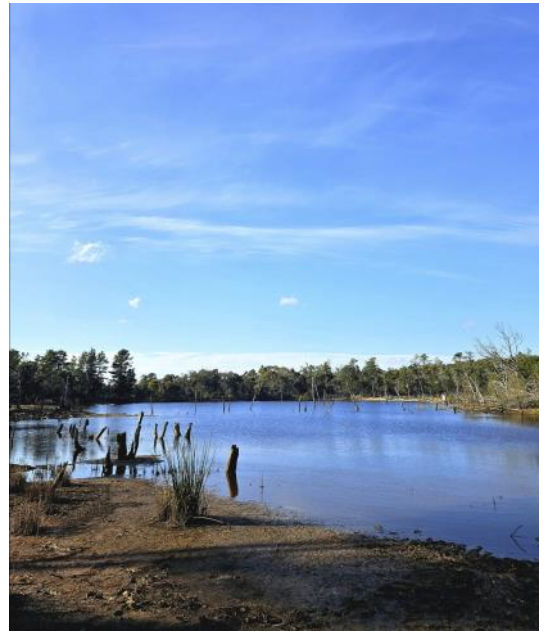
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A huge thank you to Tye who once again came back with an entire ute load of firewood, which many of us helped to stack by the fire. Eric gave Katherine a few tips on her axe swing, and chopped up some firewood himself. Well done Eric, you're greatly appreciated for all you do... you're amazing! It was also lovely to see Eric's brother Ian join us, and seeing these two off detecting together, with Ian finding gold just metres from their camp.



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How to find the weight of gold in a specimen

There is 4 ways to determine the weight of gold in a specimen.

1; Break up the specimen to release the gold, and pan off the residue. This method is not recommended because it would be crazy to destroy a fine specimen since the value of the gold in the specimen could be worth less than the specimen as a whole, particularly if it of a nice configuration.

2; Determine the volume of the specimen by placing it in a measuring jug filled with water and note the water displacement. Now find another rock a bit bigger than the specimen and with the same composition as the host rock that doesn't contain any gold, and chip bits off it until it has the same water displacement as the specimen. Now all you need to do is weigh them separately and the gold weight will be the difference.

3; This method requires the calculation of the specific gravity of the specimen. Specific gravity is defined as the ratio between the

mass of the material and the mass of the same volume of water. Specific gravity of some substances are as follows:- Water 1.0, Quartz 2.6, gold 19.0. All you need for this is any accurate set of scales and a container of water, plus some cotton or fishing line to suspend the specimen in the water. First of all weigh the specimen in air (WA), then weigh it in the water suspended on the cotton, care being taken not to let the specimen to touch the sides or bottom of the container (WW). The formula for calculating the specific gravity is as follows:- $SG = WA / (WA - WW)$. For example if the specimen weighs 36 grams in air and 24 grams in water, and applying the formula, $36 / (36 - 24) = 36 / 12 = 3.0$. If the SG is 3.0, using the table below which shows the % weight of gold in quartz, there is 15.45% of the 36gm specimen having 5.56gm of gold. Although quite accurate. If the gold is in ironstone or other rock a different table would have to be calculated.

4:- For this method, a formula has been calculated for a quartz specimen using $3.1 \times$ the weight of the specimen in water minus 1.9 the weight in air. Using the example above, $3.1 \times 24 - 1.9 \times 36 = 74.4 - 68.4 = 6.0\text{gm}$ (very close to the above method)



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.

QUARTZ
The Percentage by weight of Gold in a Specimen, when the Specific Gravity of the Specimen is known.

Specific Gravity	Percent Gold	Specific Gravity	Percent Gold
2.60	0.00	5.20	57.93
2.65	2.19	5.40	60.67
2.70	4.29	5.60	62.06
2.75	6.32	5.80	63.92
2.80	8.28	6.00	65.65
2.85	10.16	6.20	67.27
2.90	11.98	6.40	68.79
2.95	13.75	6.60	70.21
3.00	15.45	6.80	71.56
3.10	18.69	7.00	72.82
3.20	21.72	7.20	74.02
3.30	24.58	7.40	75.15
3.40	27.26	7.60	76.22
3.50	29.79	7.80	77.24
3.60	32.18	8.00	78.20
3.70	34.44	8.50	80.42
3.80	36.59	9.00	82.39
3.90	38.62	9.50	84.15
4.00	40.55	10.00	85.73
4.10	42.39	10.50	87.17
4.20	44.13	11.00	88.47
4.30	45.80	11.50	89.66
4.40	47.39	12.00	90.75
4.50	48.92	13.00	92.68
4.60	50.37	14.00	94.34
4.70	51.76	15.00	95.77
4.80	53.10	16.00	97.03
4.90	54.35	17.00	98.13
5.00	55.61	18.00	99.12
		19.00	100.00



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Membership Report



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Mens Heavy Weight Fleece -
PF380

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Ex. GST



Brushed Cotton Cap - 4199

\$20.00
Ex. GST



Brushed Heavy Sports Twill
Hat - 4250

\$20.00
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>



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

