

The Victorian
Seekers Club

NOV/DEC
2024

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 6

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter

Club thanks long time member Bob Lake stepping down from committee after 28 years of service including 3 years as President.

Always supported by his lovely wife and committee member Virginia.



Gold breaks
\$ 4000 OZ



Your Committee of Management 2023-2024

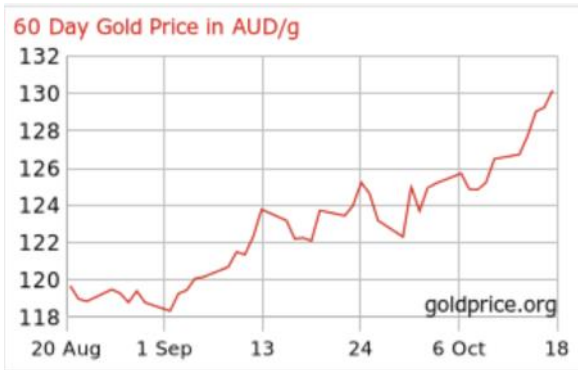
POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman	
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Tony Pappas	
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett	
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, 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 McKnight	
		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	John Wingham	
		Robert Hatvani	
		Ivan Albrecht	
		Brian McGough	



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)**



Gold price as at 20/10/2024

NOVEMBER 2024

General meeting	6th November
Moliagul	31st Oct –5th Nov

DECEMBER 2024

General meeting	4th December
Christmas Picnic	8th December
Details Page 5	
Moonambel	26th Dec– 1st Jan 25

JANUARY 2025

General meeting	No Meeting
Amherst	23th –28th January

FILL IN ALL HOLES, take your rubbish home and carry a valid MINERS RIGHT at all times.

Under current Government requirements fossickers should be trained in first aid; should 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

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,

Well, it seems that the year has flown past. October already and we are preparing for our Melbourne Cup camp, Club Christmas breakup and then the Club Christmas camp. More info to follow on these events as they are finalised. Then it is time to set out the Club calendar for next year. Time flies!

I have sent out an email to all members, regarding the Cup Day camp and "Movember". I hope that those of you attending camp can participate. It's just a bit of fun and the Club will be putting on a BBQ at this camp as we have done in the past.

Info on the upcoming few camps (dates and locations) can be found on the last pages of this newsletter.

It has been a bit hectic for Marj and I over the last few months, with three interstate visits, illness and a death in the family. I will be travelling interstate a few more times this year to assist with finalizing estate affairs but will try to coordinate the travel so it does not impact Club activities and meetings. It was great to be able to attend the last camp at Tarnagulla, one of Marj and my favourite places for prospecting. A great time was had and I believe all attendees also enjoyed the camp. See camp report elsewhere in this newsletter.

The club is purchasing a number of caps with the club logo on them. Some will be used as raffle prizes and the rest can be purchased by members.

We are also purchasing a quantity of stubbie holders emblazoned with the club logo. The idea is that each member can have one for free. I will let you know when they become available and we can work out how you can pick yours up – either at a camp or at a general meeting. If you cannot make it to either, you can get a friendly member to pick up on your behalf or I guess I can arrange postage at your cost as a last resort. Either way, once these items are available I will let you know.

The \$100 gift voucher, drawn at the AGM for paying membership fees on time, was won by Paul Hart.

At the AGM, the new committee was formed with most incumbent committee members again electing to stay on. It was somewhat disappointing that we had no new nominations for committee positions at all. As mentioned at the AGM, Bob Lake has stood down from the committee after many, many years of service to the club. Eric will stand down from his position as research officer at the next AGM. I have advised that I will be standing down from the role of president at the next AGM. So you all need to start thinking about considering a role on the committee. Without a committee, we will not have a club. It's that simple. Most of the committee members have been serving for many years and, quite honestly, they need a break. I give my heartfelt thanks to the committee members who have given so much over the years.

I do also thank those members who have since stepped up and offered to be field officers. We only had two at

the time of the AGM and the club needs about six. This so we know we can have at least one or two at each camp. We have since had two more members raise their hands for this role and we have accepted their nominations with thanks.

Looking forward to seeing you all at upcoming camps and meetings.

Regards,
Your Club President
Steve H



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ACCESS FOR ALL
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Join us at our Christmas picnic on Sunday 8th December!



Christmas is coming!

Mark this in your calendars now! Our Christmas picnic party will be held on Sunday 8th December from 11am onwards at Wicks Reserve, The Basin (Melways ref 65 D8).

Turn left at the roundabout on Mountain Highway, then 400m down The Basin-Olinda road, turn right into the Reserve.

* Drawing of the Christmas Raffle: 3 HAMPERS TO BE WON!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

* Detecting contests for everyone with a coin machine (PI gold detectors are not to be used.)

* Door prizes

* Bring your spouse, kids, friends, food, drinks, coin detector. Digging tools (no picks) and have fun ...

Adults should collect their door prize ticket on arrival.

Electric BBQs and water on premises. BYO table, chairs, food and drink. Don't forget insect repellent and sunscreen.

Come along to this break up party and support the club. You're sure to have a great time !



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Eaglehawk Camp Report

Nola Pappas

After a long hiatus for us overseas, it was great to get back to camping in the beautiful Australian bush.

The September VSC camp was held in bushland at Eaglehawk just outside Bendigo, and even though we had been there before, the instructions lead us (and a lot of others) a little astray. We certainly missed the aid of the usual Seekers signs and sailed past the turnoff, ending up circling around and arriving from the opposite direction, which wasn't such a bad thing when we saw the big puddle the "right" way would have taken us through. (It certainly makes you appreciate the efforts of the committee members paving the way for members for the other 99 times out of 100.) I heard that Geoff and Kay did their best to redirect the water from the track, but unfortunately to little effect.

Some of the other tracks in the area were in fairly rough condition and more than one member got bogged or stranded. Kudos to Rob for being the first to answer a member's call for assistance on UHF channel 12 and successfully hoisting out their vehicle that was literally stuck in a rut (the driver being an experienced committee member who shall remain nameless – and no, it wasn't Tony). I quietly congratulated myself for successfully negotiating that same track on a rare occasion of solo 4WD-ing over the weekend... my caution obviously paid off.

The camp was well-attended, with 28 people

signed in, and the area accommodated us all easily. Every type of camping gear was represented, and there were so many new faces that we felt like the newbies, but that's just evidence of the continued vibrancy of the club.

There was a guest speaker at camp on the Saturday afternoon, Phil, whose talk was eagerly attended by many. He recounted how he had started in prospecting, first panning for gold, and only detecting in earnest after moving to the Bendigo area. He now runs a shop, Prospector's Depot, and demonstrated some new equipment (there's always another new machine on the market,



isn't there?)

Being situated so close to civilization, many of us took the opportunity to head into town

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Vic Seekers communication channel during camps

for errands, shopping, sightseeing, visiting friends, or checking out the small market, so there was a different feel to this camp. Walking around (and around) the lovely Lake Weeroona Park was a great opportunity for me to get my steps up with zero chance of losing my way... but that wind across the water - brrrr!



The weather was changeable, but hey, it's Spring. And that wind blew all the clouds away for us to enjoy brilliant blue skies by Sunday. It was rather chilly by day, though warmer than Melbourne by all reports, and with those clear skies the nights were super-cold (but great for stargazing) and we all appreciated the two campfires on Saturday night for the extra warmth, although one was designated for cooking. There was a variety of foods buried in the coals, but potatoes were the staple, and although I followed what the internet had recommended, ours looked more like burnt offerings than



Tony prepping for potato bake



dinner... however inside that evil-looking carbon coating, light and fluffy potatoes were hiding, which we topped with a variety of random toppings: spinach, corn, Greek yoghurt, whatever we had on hand... not bad at all for a first attempt.



Twin fires kept us all warm

(Shout out to Kevin and the small band of volunteers who kept the firewood well stocked for the duration of this camp.)

The raffle that night was dominated by a couple of members until redraw was called (but hey, they deserved it, after all, how

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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.

Eaglehawk Camp Report cont...

many tickets did they buy?), and \$140 was raised, which will, no doubt be poured back into prizes for next time. It's all a bit of fun. Generous members shared their chocolates and other goodies around the campfire, and on Sunday night Graham's famous party pies made an appearance – and just as quickly disappeared.

We only heard of a smattering of small bits of gold found, until Gary impressed us with his 2 grammer just as we were packing up to leave, and I thought he was the "winner" till we saw Lachie's haul on Facebook. Well done! Some lovely quartz crystals were also collected in the area – no detector required.

I can't wait for Tony to get his mojo back and start finding some of that yellow stuff we all seek. For me, I'm content to enjoy the peace of nature away from the daily grind, and share in the camaraderie of our club. That's gold to me.



Bendigo sightseeing trip



Good to see Ken W visiting



Snakes are about



FOSSICKIN' ROUND





Members great find



Enjoying Potato bake



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Tarnagulla Camp Report

By Steve & Marj

The Tarnagulla camp was well-attended with a few early arrivals and some coming just for a long weekend. In all we had 24 camps at the reserve with a total of 40 people plus a couple of day visitors, Francine and Shirley, who were staying at a B+B near Durnolly and came to visit on several occasions. It was lovely to catch up with them both and I believe that Eric also took them out detecting which was very nice of him.



A few members opted to camp in the bush near our old club camp site. One member nicknamed them "The Sneakers" as they came to camp some evenings to join in with the rest of us around the campfire on a couple of evenings, then disappeared back to their camp.

The weather was perfect for our hobby with daytime temperatures in the low to mid twenties and overnight temperatures being quite mild. We had one false alarm when we had half a dozen drops of water fall from the sky one evening but otherwise the weather

was bright and sunny. The wind did seem to blow up a bit at various times but generally we had great weather.

The Laanecoorie Gold Bash was on over the weekend with many of us attending and supporting the charity, Peter Mac for cancer research. Some people made purchases of new picks, coils, food, joined the PMAV or joined in on the token hunts, joined a 3 hour tag along and one member even managed to sell some gold which fattened his wallet substantially!

Gold finds were varied amongst members. Rob S had a nice haul totalling over 14 grams. Scott G had three pieces with the largest being a very nice looking 6.3 gram nugget, taken from a patch that we have all been winning gold from but this one must have been missed by us all as it was in between all of our scrapes and digs. Well done Scott.

Paul H had a nice swag of small nuggets totalling 3.6 grams and Lachie R also did well with several nice pieces totalling around 2.5 grams. Many of us claimed



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several smaller nuggets for our efforts so it seems that Tarnagulla is still giving up some of its treasures to us. Clearly though, the 7000's and their operators took the major finds once again.

Jarrood was busy testing out his new high banker, picked up on the Friday afternoon from Phil at The Prospectors Depot. Jarrood was rewarded with some fine gold and even a couple of pickers. Well done Jarrood.

Let's not forget those members looking for coins and relics. John found a fantastic old whistle and Paul found an old coin and I think a button. I think we need to gear up a serious coin and relic section for those members who pursue this side

of detecting.

We again had a few keen prospective members at camp and they all seemed to have a good time, which was good to see. Please continue to make prospective members and visitors welcome at our camps.

With the closing of the pub and the café in Tarnagulla, the Post Mistress has started a small café with barista



coffee, toasted sandwiches and home made cakes. On the Saturday mornings they serve scones with jam and cream. Despite her asking me how many and me advising the evening before, that we would have "around ten" people showing up for the scones, the poor lady was quite rattled with our presence and noted that "there are 14 people!". Struggling to keep up with the coffee making, Katherine jumped in and became the barista for us all and did a wonderful job. Thank you Katherine and I know Mary at the post office will never forget your help!

On a side note, the pub has been purchased, the liquor license has been retained. However; the new owners are to perform major renovations before opening so I suspect that the pub will



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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://pmav.org.au/>

remain closed for some time yet.

The raffle around the campfire on Saturday night went well, with Scott G doing a marvellous job of selling tickets.

Thank you Scotty.

Thank you also to those who donated raffle prizes. There were a few of us who donated and we thank you.

Before the raffle we had a briefing of the recent general meeting for those country members who cannot get to GM's. We also had a special thank you to Bob L for his many, many years of service to the club plus the presentation of find of the year trophy to Alistair M and find of the month trophy to Anja M.



One last point: The Tarnagulla Reserve now has a dump point (for gold coin donation as they have to pay to have it pumped out) – even though the sign in town on the main Street was pointing in the wrong direction, which we pointed out to the President of the Reserve Committee when we met her at the post office!

All in all, this was a great club camp. Thank you to all who attended and helped make it so.



Tony Pappas

11th oct 2024

Atmospheric Arora from our camp ground



Tony and Nolas new rig.

11 October 2024

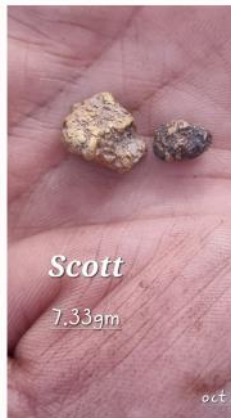


Remember to be considerate of others if you feel that you must use a generator

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.





Some great Gold finds were made



The Poseidon Nugget

The Poseidon nugget was found on the 18th of December 1906 by Samuel Woodall and was named after the 1906 Melbourne Cup winner "Poseidon"

The nugget was 29.6 kilograms, or 953 troy ounces of gold and found only a couple of feet down in shallow ground at the head of what became the Poseidon Lead in Newbridge, Central Victoria.

The whole area was rushed and it became the world's richest shallow alluvial lead, with thousands of ounces in small and large nuggets being found over hundreds of metres as the lead got deeper. The adjacent Woolshed Reef had been worked 50 years before this and the lead had been totally missed until someone got a hand auger and tested the depth across the slope and found the hidden deeper ground.

Fortunately, many photos of the diggings, the miners and the nuggets were taken over the next few years.

PMAV member Tim Brown is the great-grandson of Samuel Woodall and lives in Castlemaine and is still actively prospecting.

Editor's note : I pegged this area in 1990, Claim Number 2973 Min 5139 and worked the area with my wife Rita Bentley, on and off for several years with a dozer and excavator. We only found a couple of ounces as the area had been too rich and every

single bit of the shallow ground had been carefully gone through by the original miners. There is probably still a lot of gold in the deeper parts of the lead which goes for kilometres.

DB.

Thanks to P.M.A.V for article



Club Apparel



Acrylic Beanie - Toque - 4243

\$20.00
Ex. GST



Mens Heavy Weight Fleece -
PF380

\$61.90
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>



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.

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



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