

The Victorian
Seekers Club

JAN / FEB
2025

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FOSSICKIN' ROUND

VOL. 46 ISSUE 2

The Victorian Seekers Club bi-monthly newsletter



Moonambel Camp fun and games



Fury Visitor
To Talbot camp

Talbot Camp Fire (not)



Your Committee of Management 2024-2025

POSITION	DUTIES	NAME	CONTACT vicseekersclub@gmail.com
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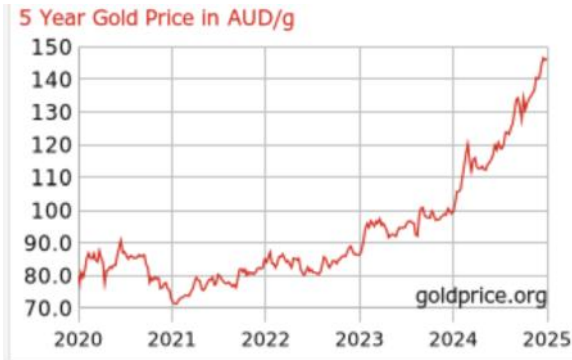
President:	Club management and representation, Chairperson	Steve Hillman
Vice President:	President's deputy, arrange speakers.	Tony Pappas
Research Officer:	Information about outings, field activity.	Eric Grummett
Secretary:	Correspondence, meetings, camp permits and other administration	Ken Barlow
Treasurer:	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
		Tye Sweeney
		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 18/2/2025

MARCH 2025

General meeting 5th March
Smythesdale 7th–12th March

APRIL 2025

General meeting 2nd April
Fryerstown 17th –22nd April

MAY 2025

General meeting 7th May
Mountain Hut 16th–21st May

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)

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PO Box 15
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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,

Christmas/New Year's eve gone. January gone and its February already!

I hope you are looking forward to our upcoming camps. See maps later in the newsletter. Also to note the Kingower camp is not at the old spot so please follow the directions and map provided if you are planning to attend.

News:

The club has purchased two new BBQ's. These are lighter and easier to carry than the old ones. Committee members have to pack these to bring to camps (along with defibrillator, first aid kit, sign-in tent and sign-in book, club light and battery, club detector, raffle prizes etc etc – yes, it's a lot!) and it will make it easier. We may try one of these out at the Kingower camp and see how it goes.

The club camp at Moonambel over the Christmas/New Year period was a great success and I believe those who attended had a fantastic time. The weather conditions and fire situation were ominous; however I checked with the local reserve committee who assured us the area was safe. In the end it was only the first day that was very hot and, the wind was kind and we had no issues. With the theme for NYE being "black and white", we all dressed up and there was a surprise "commitment ceremony" by Robert and Katherine, complete with

cake, exchange of vows and rings and presided over by me. There should be some photos in this newsletter. It was a lovely affair. Robert and Katherine also brought along their fancy karaoke system. Many of us with all levels of talent enjoyed using it over a few nights.

This year at the Easter camp, the committee enquired about something different for our Saturday night meal. So a Pizza truck has been hired and they assure us they can prepare up to 80 pizzas/hour. We have booked for up to 100 pizzas and club will be paying the cost. Non-members attending may have to pay a small fee to partake. We are still sorting out something for dessert. And of course, Good Friday morning pancakes, hot cross buns and Easter Bunny eggs will again be happening. At the Easter camp we will have the usual fun and games (with prizes). For the raffle this year we have a nice 2g nugget as first prize, plus we will also have a generously donated new pick from CC Picks as another prize. Amongst the many other prizes. I am contacting the Five Flags Hotel to book them again for the Easter Sunday night dinner for those who wish to at-



tend.
The club 2025 calendar: I made a mistake. The March camp is at Smythesdale (not Scarsdale as I put in). See map and directions elsewhere in this newsletter.

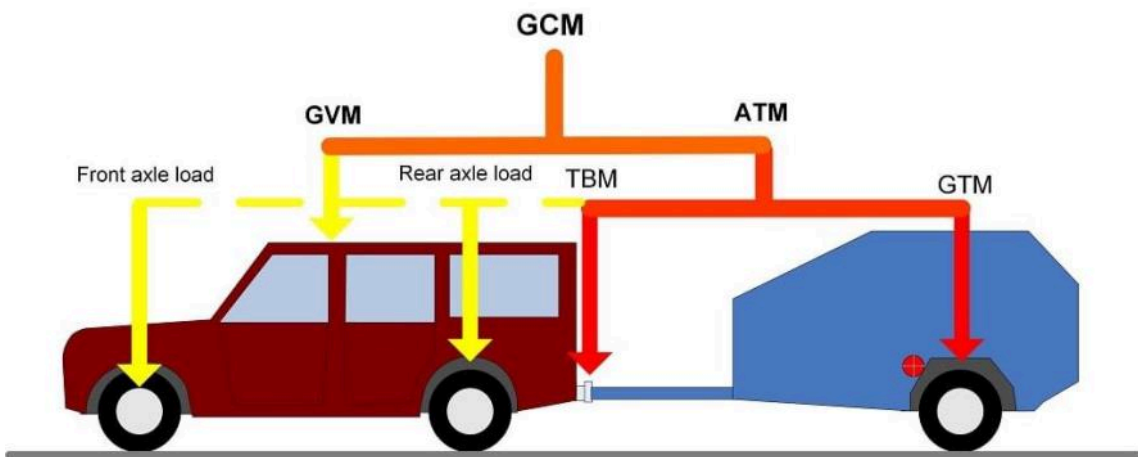
Some members have told me they are heading to WA or QLD this winter. We wish them well in their search for the elusive "retirement nugget".
I did re-visit the presentation on car/caravan weights at the February general meeting and have been requested to include the diagram that explains these weights/terms in this newsletter. So you will find that in here somewhere.

Best wishes for the rest of 2025.

Your President, Steve H



Thomas M's Find Of Month!



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Moonambel Camp Report

By Shirley S

“The Victorian Seekers” gathered at their Christmas - New Year Retreat, held at the Moonambel Recreation Reserve, what a great location especially when the summer temperatures rise.

Due to the extreme fire conditions in the Grampians and surrounding areas many club members deferred their travel dates until the cool change came through. Club members arrived from Boxing Day onwards. There were 32 people in attendance during the Christmas – New Year Period, 18 camps.

The nights preceding NYE saw much fun and frivolity with the Karaoke equipment provided by Robert and Katherine proved to be a great success with many club members participating with either a singalong or solo performances. The performances were met with much cheering and clapping. This made for a wonderful evening. Club members also participated in playing different games, including Scrabble, Greed, Sequence, etc. and one balmy evening played Bocce which became pretty competitive alt-

hough shared in good spirits and much laughter.

During the festive period some club members took advantage of the Winery within walking distance of the Recreation Reserve to have their morning cuppa, whilst others headed out into the surrounding gold fields to try their luck, seeking that elusive gold nugget.

A number of tiny to small gold nuggets were found over the period of the camp, one lucky prospector Shirley found her one of the first nuggets, it appeared to be one piece when cleaned turned into three pieces, that just proves that persistence really does pay off.



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**Vic Seekers
communication
channel during
camps**

The main event during the Festive Period was the New Years Eve BBQ dinner. Sausages, hamburgers and salads provided by the Club and finished off with deserts provided by club members served with ice-cream. 25 people were in attendance for the NYE dinner. This year's theme being "Black and White" proved to be very popular, what an amazing array of costumes and dress. (See photos).



There were some outstanding fun costumes, including the presence of "Father Hillman", Sister Erica and Sister Maria (alias Marj

Hillman) blessed quite a few members whilst in attendance. However, the highlight of the fun and festivities timed to perfection at 7pm was a Commitment ceremony between Katherine, a beautiful bride dressed in an amazing white wedding gown, and Robert dressed in a black suit. The ceremony was presided over by Father Hillman. The excited couple recited their heartfelt vows, rings were exchanged, the ceremony culminated with the cutting of a beautiful wedding cake provided

by the Bride and Groom a very special celebration in a perfect bush setting, we wish the lovely couple many happy years of camping, gold prospecting for years to come.



The raffle again proved very popular with several of the prize winners taking home more than one prize in some cases maybe four. It proved if you buy a lot of tickets, you win a lot of prizes. Bingo was a great hit, once people got the hang of it? although some people with hearing problems found it difficult to keep up which was quite hilarious.

Karaoke set the scene, leading to the bewitching hour of midnight in readiness for the end of 2024 as we turned the calendar over to 2025. The champagne corks popped, much kissing, handshakes welcomed in the New



Year, the fun and frivolity continued well into the early hours of the morning concluding at 1.30am in the morning.

A few club members left on New Years Day and a number of members remained until the 2nd of January 2025.

The Committee Members did an outstand-

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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.

ing job organising the activities and prizes for a great camp at a wonderful facility. Special thanks to the Happy Bride and Groom Katherine and Robert, who made the whole festive period including NYE an outstanding success by bringing along the Karaoke equipment and the Karaoke prizes. It was a New Year that won't be forgotten in a long time. Best wishes one and all for a great 2025, happy prospecting, may peace, love and laughter be with you.

Guest reporter – Shirley Schubach




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



Australia's Emu Wars

By Jasper Garner Gore



A bolshie emu stares down a photographer sometime between 1935 and 1937. Image credit: State Library of Victoria/Roy Dunstan

In 1932 Australian troops were dumbfounded when they found themselves out maneuvered by clever birds during the Emu Wars.

Early on the morning of 2 November 1932, the Seventh Heavy Battery of the Royal Australian Artillery alighted at Campion, WA, on to a hot red-dirt landscape about halfway between Perth and Kalgoorlie. There they unpacked two Lewis automatic machine guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition.

The unit's intention? To open hostilities with the emus of Western Australia that were moving in from central Australia in search of water and, having stumbled on the region's delicious wheat districts, had begun to ravage crops.

No sooner had the unit arrived than a flock of 50 emus was sighted. The company's commander, Major G.P.W. Meredith, immediately ordered his troops to circle the birds and chase them into range of the guns. By the day's end only a dozen birds out of the thousands the men had shot at were dead. Nevertheless, first blood had been drawn in Australia's 'Emu Wars'.

It all came about late in 1932, after a marauding emu population of at least 20,000 had been devastating farms across WA for some time. The farmers



Emu running in the Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges national park in the Flinders Ranges, South Australia. Image credit: Mike Langford/Australian Geographic

under attack (many of them ex-soldiers themselves) had eventually petitioned for military aid from the Minister of Defence George Pearce. He deployed troops swiftly, and they arrived with hopes of quick victory and a few emu feathers for their hats.

No sooner had the conflict begun, however, than it became clear that the Australian military had vastly underestimated the emu. Cunning adversaries, the emus proved almost impossible to hit with machine-gun fire, and they seemed able to shrug off even serious injury from bullets without breaking stride.

Describing the emus, Major Meredith later said: "If we had a military division with the bullet-carrying capacity of these birds it would face any army in the world... They can face machine guns with the invulnerability of tanks."

A few days into operations, a planned ambush by a dam failed miserably when one of the Lewis guns jammed. A later attempt to mount a machine-gun on a truck fell apart when it was made apparent that the vehicle could not keep up with the birds.



In recent times we can see thousands of emus flock against Western Australia's 'rabbit-proof fence', as they make their annual migration southwards. Image credit: WA Department of Agriculture and Food

Emu War and Peace

Within a week of first contact the troops were recalled. Roughly 2500 rounds had been fired and killed somewhere between 50 and 200 emus. Meredith did note that his men had suffered no casualties. When the question was raised if a medal would be struck for the conflict, federal labour parliamentarian A.E. Green replied that any medals should go to the emu who had 'won every round so far'. For his involvement in the deployment, Defence Minister George Pearce earned the unofficial title 'Minister for the Emu War'.

Although a second (slightly) more successful military operation was mounted against the emus only a few days after the initial retreat in November 1932, in the end it was the instituting of a bounty on emus that proved most effective. Between 1945 and 1960 around 284,700 emus were killed in WA.

Australia's emu population, however, remains stable to this day. Thankfully, they do not seem interested in resuming hostilities with the Australian government.

Talbot Camp Report

By Maree B

A brief history of Talbot:

The first unofficial discovery of Gold was by a shepherd at Daisy Hill in 1851 on "Glen Mona Run" sheep station. The first official discovery of gold occurred in 1852 at Daisy Hill Creek, which later became Amherst in 1853.

Gold was discovered all around the area especially at Back Creek where huge nuggets of 5-8kg were found. Followed by the Scandinavian rush in 1859 which consequently led to the establishment of the town of Talbot. At that time, it was estimated that around 15,000 prospectors were in the area and by 1860 the rush subsided but a town was created.

Today, Talbot is a small town that boasts



a farmers' market on the third Sunday of each month, an Aussie Rules football team a swimming pool and a golf course. According to the 2016 census, Talbot had a population of 442 people.
*



Fast forward to January 2025:

Arriving at camp on the Thursday afternoon there were already quite a few campers at the site, the weather

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was kind to us being in the low to mid-twenties, the next day more people arrived filling up spaces and by then there were 19 camps with around 30 people with another six day visitors attending, including Geoff and Kay, Darren, Gavin and Brett, and Lochie.

On Friday Ken led the troops to a location near camp where he had found gold a



few years earlier. Tony P and Steve H found a small piece each there, and over the following days many locations were tested around the area with nil results for most, apart from the usual lead shot and rubbish.

Some of us had more success finding Gold than others, Craig found a really nice 3.8g nugget coated in ironstone plus a few nice bits for a total of 4.5g, with Marj and Ken finding a piece each as well. Over the next few nights we would gather around our pretend fire and share our stories and experiences of the days prospecting, Saturday night was a fun night for all, with many winning prizes in the raffle which took \$160. The majority of members found gold (mostly small pieces) and a lot of it was found in and around the campsite, Jen found a nice chunky .89g piece near camp and John found quite a few small pieces, Imi found 2 pieces and Australia Day saw Alistair find a nice 2.8g nugget with new members Mike and his daughter finding a piece at the campsite. Everyone enjoyed sitting round the "campfire" with quite a few gold finding stories being shared.

During the camp some of the ladies got together to form a walking group taking in the beautiful scenery of the Victorian bush and sometimes stopping to check for mobile service which was very minimal at the Talbot camp, even Telstra



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service was only one bar at the best of times but the best thing about bush camping is the quietness and relaxing environment enjoying the company of others without being too distracted with the world outside. Australia Day long weekend camp saw the Aussie flag flying high as we remember those who gave us the freedoms we have today in this country. While celebrating the day, the traditional Lamingtons were shared around the "campfire".

Many members started packing up as we drew closer to Monday which was forecast to be around 40 degrees Celsius, with a few of us deciding to stay on and brave the heat, which turned out to be quite bearable, there was a hot Northerly wind for most of the day but by about 7pm the welcomed cool change arrived giving us relief for the night ahead.

Imi, John, Shane, Mujip and us (Tony and Nola) were still searching for the elusive yellow stuff with myself finding another four pieces at the campsite for a total of half a gram, by Wednesday the camp was almost deserted, with John and Imi the last to leave. All in all, it turned out to be a great camp with lots of members finding gold and sharing their gold prospecting ex-

periences.

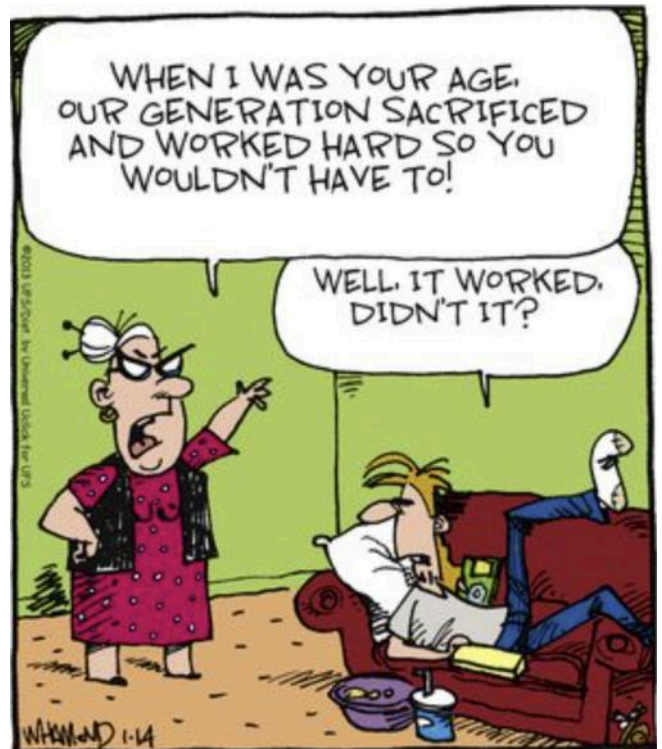
In conclusion a big Thankyou goes to Sue for organizing a tasting at the Amherst Winery just outside of Talbot, Sue Les Nola and myself were there for the tasting and I must say the wine produced there was very good, it's a shame more people couldn't make it on the day, while being able to support local businesses is a plus for our club.

*source Wikipedia





Talbot Gold Finds



Vic Seekers
UHF **12**



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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