Ausrox in Melbourne

The Ausrox gold nugget, which weighs 23.26 kg (748 troy ounces), was found by a very lucky prospector detecting in the eastern goldfields of Western Australia in April 2010.

The nugget will be on display at the Melbourne Museum until October 2011 as part of the gold section within the long term ‘Dynamic Earth’ exhibition.

Don’t miss this chance to see one of the biggest nuggets in existence.

The nugget’s display was facilitated by Ausrox Gold and is on loan from the Pinnacle collection.

The PMAV has been busy!

The past quarter has been exceptionally busy for your Association. We are moving closer to gaining access to more national and state parks for prospectors. Take a look inside this Echo for more reasons to maintain your membership or perhaps to join up. Go to page 7 for more information.

We need you and we need you now!
Officers of the PMAV:
President  Rita Bentley  0408 328 640
Vice President  Peter Maffey  (03) 9801 7430
Secretary  Wallace Young  (03) 9850 6961
Treasurer  Geoff Strang  0408 176 496
Committee  Tony Mills  0427 615 067
Bruce Brown  0407 806 981
Don Brereton  (03) 9716 3932
Mark Craig  (03) 9725 2707
Peter McCashney  (03) 9789 9749
Darren Kamp  0439 453 884

East Gippsland Branch (Stratford):
President  Brian Bateson  0488597098
Vice-President  Anthony Habben  (03) 5152 2244
Secretary  Colin Seton  0400 889 755
Treasurer  Jen Eaton  0427 196 038

West Gippsland Branch (Drouin):
President  Alan Ramsdale  (03) 5940 2446
Vice President  Alan McFarlane  (03) 5625 3216
Sec/Treasurer  Ken Brown  (03) 5623 4513

North East Branch (Yackandandah):
President  Bill Gleeson  0418 307 569
Vice President  David Jones  (03) 5756 2247
Secretary  Anne Gleeson  (03) 5744 1263
Treasurer  Yvonne Hunter  (02) 6025 1230

Melbourne Branch:
Contact  Geoff Strang  0408 176 496
Grampians Branch:
Contact  John Tottenham  (03) 5381 1217

Central Victorian Branch (Maryborough):
Contact  Vacancy – volunteer required.

South West Branch (Ballarat):  In recess

PMAV Historian:
Contact  Steve Barnham  (03) 5468 1405
likelyp@netconnect.com.au

The postal address of the PMAV is:
GPO Box 1706, Melbourne, Victoria, 3001
Fax No: (03) 9553 1032 Email: pmav@pmav.org.au
General inquiry number: 0408 176 496

The PMAV website is: www.pmav.org.au

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1800 637 786 or visit www.minelab.com

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President’s Report

I was missing for much of the past quarter – I took “long-service” leave from the PMAV (unpaid of course) and headed overseas. I travelled to Vietnam and Cambodia with Tracee Spiby, a good friend from the timber industry that I met during the Box and Ironbark Investigation, and then spent a month in the USA with my children. David stayed home, in his words ‘to pay for the trip’.

While in the USA I made the pilgrimage to Las Vegas to see Kevin Hillier’s iconic find – the Hand of Faith nugget. The nugget really is quite beautiful. While I was standing there admiring the nugget, a family from Texas came along and I proudly told them I knew the finder and told the story of how it was found. They said to tell Kevin that they thought it was all ‘awesome’. Apparently this is one thing that isn’t bigger in Texas.

The Committee held a very busy fort while I was away. I need to especially thank Geoff Strang who worked his butt off for the PMAV, no doubt to the detriment of his new business. The PMAV owes you a big vote of thanks Geoff. Noel Laidlaw has been a boon to the Association and assisted Geoff with many of the projects. The rest of the Committee helped with other work.

Wallace has been busy organising this year’s AGM – Rushworth on 22nd October – note this is a Saturday. This leaves the Sunday for you to enjoy the rest of the Rushworth region. Do take your detectors as there are nuggets in the area.

Our major focus in the short term will be getting a good deal for members from the Review of Victoria’s mining legislation. Much of what we are seeking is in line with our Eureka 150 Demands and the Coalition’s pre-election commitments.

Importantly, we are finally making some ground in achieving a review of the prohibition of prospecting in many national and state parks. It has been a long-time coming! Additionally that list of excepted rivers and streams is also being investigated. Watch this space.

I am hopeful that many, many years of dogged determination (or some may say pig-headedness) on my part with the support of many committee members over those years will produce significant results in the near future. Keep your fingers crossed!

Geoff Strang Noel Laidlaw and I had the pleasure of meeting with the Resources Minister’s senior adviser recently. Sarah Leslie requested the meeting to help ensure the Minister is kept informed of the PMAV’s concerns. She listened intently and gave positive responses to our questions.

We are to meet directly with Minister Michael O’Brien shortly.

We have also been contacted by the Shadow Minister’s office, John Lenders, requesting a meeting. This is yet to be organised.

More recently, Geoff Strang and I met with the new Parks Victoria Regional Manager for Central Victoria recently. Kate Millar takes over from Chris McCormick who was a good friend of the PMAV.

Kate was interested to hear about the PMAV’s relationship with Parks Victoria over the years – the ups and the downs!

It looks like our developing working relationship with Parks Victoria will continue to improve.

All in all, the future is looking quite bright for Victoria’s prospectors. We have bigger challenges to deal with regarding miners, but are working solidly in this regard.

Rita Bentley, PMAV President

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Situated on picturesque Lake Victoria and within walking distance to town centre.

Special Rates available for Prospectors

Every guest staying at the Maryborough Caravan Park is eligible to enter our ‘SHOW US YA NUGGETS’ Competition

All entries will go into the draw to win the grand prize of $1,000 to be spent at Coiltek Gold Centre - Maryborough.

Phone: 03 5460 4848 for more details
Rushworth – Saturday 22nd October 2011

PMAV’s 21st AGM

The picturesque town of Rushworth is the location for this year’s Annual General Meeting. This is to be held on a Saturday, not the usual Sunday. Rushworth is about a two hour drive from Melbourne and is accessible by excellent roads.

Gold was discovered here in 1853 by miners on the way to the Beechworth diggings. Plentiful alluvial and reef gold in the early days supported a huge army of diggers. The forest industry followed until its partial demise as a result of the Box Ironbark debacle in 2002. Now the town supports the surrounding farming district. Rushworth currently has a population of about 1000 people and features fascinating 19th century buildings reflecting its earlier days as a gold-mining town. Similar to Maldon, the number of authentic buildings encouraged the National Trust to declare it an urban conservation streetscape in 1983.

We will use the Shire Hall for the AGM. The foundation stone was laid on the 25th July 1868. Immediately after, it was stolen and never recovered!

This beautifully restored and renovated Romanesque-style building is a valuable community asset used for public gatherings, school examinations and film screenings.

Full AGM details will be forwarded to members closer to the date, but keep in mind that we will be holding another fund-raising auction and organising a barbecue for members Saturday evening.

Wallace Young

---

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- Good stability & sensitivity  
- Good for open terrain  
- Easy pinpointing  
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www.coiltekmanufacturing.com.au
As reported in the autumn edition of The Eureka Echo, in March this year on the recommendation of the Minister for Energy and Resources, The Hon Michael O’Brien MLA, the Governor in Council appointed me as mining warden for a second term of twelve months.

During my first term and so far during this term, members of the PMAV and their representatives have been very co-operative and supportive in the tasks undertaken by myself and the Acting Registrar, Mrs. Bronwen Herbert. We realise that the subject matter of disputes can be worrying and upsetting for those persons involved. Notwithstanding this, we continue to be impressed by their ability to put those difficulties to one side in the interest of resolving the dispute at hand so that work under their licences can resume without further complications.

As a relatively new incumbent, I have been able to observe first-hand the respect the office of mining warden has earned and been given over the years from PMAV members and others. So much so, I mentioned this point to the new Minister in our first meeting and was encouraged by his favourable message as to the future of the office.

On a less positive note, however, I have to report a steady decline in the workload of the office. While on the one hand it is a good thing if disputation has reduced, on the other hand it has left me wondering whether some PMAV members and others may be battling through or living with some potential dispute issues rather than seeking to have them appropriately resolved through this office.

While not wanting to encourage disputation, members are reminded that this office is available to assist. So, if there is a problem, members should not hesitate to give Mrs. Herbert a call (tel. 9651 6057) and discuss their problem on a confidential basis. Every effort will be made to ensure disputes notified to this office are dealt with as quickly as possible.

As with most small organisations, annual leave can sometimes cause a temporary difficulty. This is the case this year in relation to the mining warden’s office. For a brief period between 13 September 2011 and 28 September 2011 both Mrs. Herbert and I will be absent from the office. Apart from that period, one of us will be here at all times. In addition, there is an answering service in place at all times so that a message can be left.

Thank you for the opportunity of contributing again to The Eureka Echo and I extend my best wishes for success in your mining endeavours.

E. John Butler, Mining Warden

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**Noel Laidlaw**  BA(Hons) Grad.Dip.  (Mining, Master of Engineering Science (Mining))

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Legislative Changes

The PMAV continues to represent the prospectors and small mining industry with ongoing consultations with government over a number of matters. The Association has contracted the services of ex-Mining Warden Noel Laidlaw to take much of the associated work-load associated with these discussions and negotiations. The complexity and sheer volume of current issues has meant we have needed the extra help that Noel brings. We are very lucky to have him on board.

Since the last edition of the Echo, the following matters have been occurring; all have involved a great deal of time and effort in representing members -

- The implementation of the amendments to the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act which were passed in 2010. There were many changes in this legislation. The most significant to the smaller-scale mining community was the introduction of the Prospecting Licence. A Retention Licence for larger projects was also added to the type of licences available. The regulations for these changes are being formulated so that the new licensing system can start on March 1st, 2012.
- The second round of amendments to the MR(SD) A. There have been a number of day long meeting with various government and industry representatives debating policy in eight key areas. These were “Lead Agency”, Work Plans, Planning, Enforcement, Native Vegetation, Cultural Heritage, Water and Other Matters. Under “other matters”, we raised the lifting of the prohibition of prospecting in national and state parks and in various rivers and streams. We have also put eductor dredging back on the agenda. Changes are also expected in the current marking out and surveying requirements under the Act. All written submissions, including the PMAV’s, are available from the DPI website or you can contact Noel Laidlaw directly.
- Native Title. Negotiations continue on the introduction of Indigenous Land Use Agreements and Land Use Activity Agreements following changes to the legislation last year. The PMAV continues to promote the interests of small miners who wish to work on Crown land having the least complicated and most direct process in obtaining traditional owners agreement
- Other consultations. The PMAV has also been involved in consultation with the Department on Community engagement, Health and Safety and on Reportable Incident Guidelines

All in all, it has been an extremely busy period with many different issues seeming to come together at once.

Introduction to Geology

This program provides introductory knowledge to persons with an interest in geology, including mineralogy, identification and classification of rocks, geological time scale, internal structures of the earth and plate tectonics, exploration methods and environmental influences such as global warming.

Topics covered:
- Geological time scale
- Minerals - silicates, sulphides, oxides, hydroxides, carbonates, etc.
- Internal structures of the earth
- Plate tectonics
- Rocks - igneous, sedimentary, metamorphic
- Geological structures - folds and faults
- Mineral deposits of Australia
- Exploration methods - geochemical, geophysical, drilling, sampling, assaying
- Geology and the environment

Start date: Saturday 3 September (2 consecutive weekends)
Time: 9am - 4.30pm
Sessions: 4 Sessions
Venue: Charleston Road Campus Bendigo
Cost: $395.00

For further details, dates and times please visit our website www.bendigotafe.edu.au or call 1300 554 248.

www.bendigotafe.edu.au
1300 554 248

Ararat Gold Dig
Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th
October 2010

Greenworn Road, Maryston
(follow the signs from the Maryston Store)

Hosted by the Ararat Y’s Mens Club
in conjunction with the Golden Gateway Club Festival.

Major prize: Metal Detector

There will be three sessions, held across the weekend, Saturday Morning, Saturday Afternoon and a Saturday Night dig. Another dig will be held on Sunday Morning presentations will be at 1.30pm on Sunday.

Participants will search for tokens strategically placed on each dig site, while there is the possibility of finding real gold in the area. Gold panning for all during the weekend. All tokens found from each session will be collected and entered for the major prize draw. There will be many other prizes to be won over the weekend.

Rules and regulations to be adhered to by all participants. Entrants are required to supply their own metal detectors.

The event is fully catered for all meals over the two days. Camping is also available from the Friday night. The Y’s Men will be providing music and entertainment for the Saturday evening.

Major sponsors include: Mine Lab, Coiltek, PMAV, Golden Gateway Festival and the Ararat Y’s Mens Club.

For more information on the event or for any queries, please contact:
Murray W oods: 5352 1683 or 0418 671095
Sally Perry: 0419 583623 or salperry13@bigpond.com

An event not to be missed; as always, something will happen!
Membership Drive

The Association has been strengthening its membership base by seeking new members, asking past members to rejoin and to build up our base of corporate members.

There has been a pleasing response to our direct mail-out to former members in May, with many members signing up again.

The holders of mining and exploration licences in Victoria were also asked to support the work of the Association by either joining as corporate members.

While we haven’t been inundated with applications, we have a few new corporate members on board and are hoping that more applications will be received soon.

The whole of industry approach to many of the issues which are faced has meant that the same issue that is facing a small alluvial operator on 5 hectare mining licence is often very similar to a medium sized mining company in developing an underground mine. Issues such as Planning, Native Vegetation, Work Plans or Water are often quite similar irrespective of the size of the operation.

PMAV President Rita Bentley said “It is time that all sections of the mining industry recognised the importance of the work of the PMAV in continuing to support and promote mining in Victoria. There is much to do and the PMAV’s resources are highly stretched, but we are carrying the cause of all of the mining industry up to government. We can only do this by the support of prospectors, miners and those corporate members who support the PMAV through becoming corporate members.”

---

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We can arrange insurance for all types of businesses, including liability as required by your mining licence and cover for your mining equipment.

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“Excellence Through Professionalism”
News from the Department

DPI has advised of the following fee increases from 1st July:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$30.60</td>
<td>Application fee for a 2 year Miner’s Right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$85.50</td>
<td>Application fee for a 10 year Miner’s Right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30.60</td>
<td>Miner’s Rights applications - Collection by Agents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$366.60</td>
<td>Application for Tourist Fossicking Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$488.80</td>
<td>Application for Mining Licence of 5 hectares or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$183.30</td>
<td>Application for Mining Licence Renewal -5 hectares or less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$18.30</td>
<td>Rent for a Mining Licence (per hectare)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,649.70</td>
<td>Application for Mining Licence of over 5 hectares, per 260 hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,038.70</td>
<td>Application for Mining Licence Renewal of over 5 hectares, per 260 hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,099.80</td>
<td>Application for Exploration Licence (per 500 square kilometres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,099.80</td>
<td>Application for Exploration Licence Renewal (per 500 square kilometres)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$122.20</td>
<td>Application for variation of a licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$183.30</td>
<td>Application for conversion of former title to corresponding new title</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$366.60</td>
<td>Application for transfer of a licence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$366.60</td>
<td>Amalgamation of a licence under section 36 of Mineral Resources Development Regulations 2002 made at the request of the licensee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30.60</td>
<td>Access to mining register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$8.00</td>
<td>The fee for the provision of a copy of a licence under section 74(1)(c) of the Act.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- BBQ’s, Camp Kitchen & Laundry
- Metal detecting lessons can be booked
- Special rates for prospectors
Why Small-Scale Miners Should Join the PMAV

The application fee for a mining licence 5 hectares or less is currently $488.80. The fee for a larger mining licence is $1,649.70.

The $1160.90 discount available to applicants for smaller mining licence is thanks to the work of the PMAV.

Why Prospectors Should Join the PMAV

We are currently working with Government to review all prohibitions on prospecting in national and state parks.

No-one else is doing this for prospectors – only the PMAV. This involves a lot of volunteer work with expensive overheads to support this work.

You will enjoy the results of this work; shouldn’t you be contributing to it?

New Electronic Distribution List

Rita continues to keep many members informed on developing issues via e-mail.

We have asked in the past for people to register their interest in being on the list and would like to reinforce that to be included on this list all you have to do is send an email to: ritabentley@swiftdsl.com.au asking to be added.

If you have previously asked to be included but haven’t been receiving updates, please register your interest again. We aren’t ignoring you; you may be the victim of a computer crash, typing error or just a simple oversight!
Prospecting Licences and our Indigenous Land Use Agreement

An unintended consequence of the introduction of the Prospecting Licence for smaller-scale miners may be that our Indigenous Land Use Agreement with the Dja Dja Wurrung native title claimants becomes redundant.

As of 1st March next year, small miners will be expected to take up Prospecting Licences rather than the current 5 Hectare Mining Licences.

PL’s will be similar to the small mining licences, except that they are not renewable. The legislation is written so that small miners are effectively being forced to move to the Prospecting Licences. However, our ILUA will not apply to PL’s. Applicants for the new type of licence will have to go back to the old system of direct negotiations between themselves and the indigenous claimants.

Commenting on this impending problem, PMAV President Rita Bentley said “This is an intolerable situation. The PMAV and Native Title Services Victoria have put a great deal of effort into establishing the ILUA over the Golden Triangle. It took ten years work and many thousands of dollars to get this agreement up and running.”

“Now, through no fault of our own, all of this work could be wiped out.”

“This is a desperate situation and we are looking to the new State government to step in and help sort this out. The PMAV is working with NTSV to try and resolve this problem, but as it came about as an action of the government, we expect them to come up with a solution” Rita said.

Of course, parties bound by an existing signed agreement over a 5 hectare mining licence will not be affected.

Bendigo Introduction to Geology Course

The Bendigo Regional Institute of Tafe is again conducting the Introduction to Geology course over two weekends in September.

Our own Dr. Allan Rossiter will again be teaching the course.

We have heard only good things about the previous sessions, so if you would like to extend your geological knowledge, give the course a try.

See ad in this Echo for details.
A Piece of History

This photograph of those who gathered for the unveiling of the Hand of Faith Monument at Kingower last year is now available. The cost of a photo (19 x 34cm approx.) will be $20. Professionally mounted and framed versions are available for $90.

At this stage we are unable to post these out so you will need to pick up either from the AGM or from your local branch after the AGM.

Original plans were for all attendees to be named on the photograph – but this proved too difficult for us, sorry. Also apologies to the two people who don’t appear in this photo. The only picture we had of everyone wasn’t clear enough to enlarge.

Kevin Hillier already has one of these photos – a gift from Rita and David on Kevin’s 70th birthday last year. Shouldn’t you have one too?

Orders must be received by 15th September, 2011.

Please use the order form on page 21.

Electronic Echoes

Electronic copies of the Eureka Echo for the past ten years are now available on CD for $5. The CD will contain every issue from June 2002 including this one, but with the exception of 2002 Vol 3 and 2005 Vol 2, 3 & 4. We have been unable to locate electronic copies of these issues, but are still looking!

There will be at least 30 issues in total on the CD. These are only available by pre-paid order. See the order form on page 21 for details.

INTRODUCING THE FIRST LITZ WIRE WOUND COIL FROM COILTEK MANUFACTURING.

The 14x9* Elliptical GOLDSTALKER® Blitz mono.

Specifically wound for the new GPXS000 detector this coil, coupled with the ‘FINE GOLD’ setting, has the potential to brighten up those faint targets, especially the smaller pieces at depths only seen on the new GPXS000.

The coil’s ability utilises the already popular shape and size of the 14x9* coil providing excellent manoeuvrability and sensitivity for pinpointing and depth.

Size: 348mm x 225mm. Weight: 695g / 24.8oz

- Litz wire wound
- Specifically manufactured for the GPXS000
- Heightened target response and clarity
- Robust and lightweight design
- Elliptical shape for best manoeuvrability
- Easy pinpointing
- Good depth with excellent sensitivity

COILTEK* Manufacturing
5 Mengel Court, Salisbury South, South Australia
T 08 8249 0222
www.coiltekmfg.com.au

RESULTS FROM THE FIELD

I jumped at the chance to field test a 14x9* GOLDSTALKER® Blitz series mono.

With 30 years of experience, I am very particular about the performance of any coil I use and the 14x9* GOLDSTALKER® Blitz series mono ticks all the boxes for me. I found it to be stable and very sensitive on small targets, along with amazing depth on larger targets.

I found a sub gram nugget in medium to heavy mineralized ground at 8" and a solid signal 6 feet away produced an 1816 George III Shilling at 14" deep.

I used the 14x9* GOLDSTALKER® Blitz mono for a day on areas I have searched for years. The number of musket balls, bullets, and other junk targets along with nuggets and the shilling, pleasantly surprised me. The 14x9* Blitz series mono will be a winner in many areas.

Sensitive, stable and light weight, I’m hooked!
Coiltek & Minelab Working Together Optimising the Opportunity for X-Terra

Coiltek Manufacturing has been designing and producing aftermarket accessories for metal detectors for over 15 years. With this experience, they have developed a drive to continually produce coils and accessories that are proven performers. This provides customers with greater choice and fossicking ability when out in the field. Coiltek now enjoy a worldwide reputation for excellent, before and after customer service. The demand for their products is continually growing.

All of their coils are specifically suited to Minelab detectors, from the early Stirling and Sovereigns to the latest E-TRAC, GPX and now, X-TERRA machines.

The coin and relic series has been specially designed to enhance the performance of coin and relic machines operating in diverse terrains around the world.

In a recent media release Coiltek said “We are proud to announce an exciting new product – the 15” All Terrain DD coil to suit the X-TERRA series of detectors. In a collaborative effort with Minelab, we are the only after-market manufacturer of a fully approved X-TERRA coil utilising the VFLEX technology. This new coil is what many X-TERRA users have been after, a larger coil for more depth and coverage. The 15” All Terrain X-TERRA coil now provides the user with a greater selection when compared with the current range of coils available.”

“The X-TERRA coil is fully waterproof and during testing it produced a number of significant finds at varying depths. It has good balance on the end of the shaft as it is lightweight for its size, weighing 710g/25.3oz, and responds well to deep targets. Operating in the medium frequency (7.5 kHz) it has the ability to punch deep into the ground and give great overall performance.

Along with our existing coin and relic coils, the 10 x 5” Joey, 12 x 8” Elliptical All Terrain and 15” Round All Terrain, your opportunities are increased whether you are a hobbyist or a professional.”

For more information visit
www.coiltekmanufacturing.com.au

The Washington Nugget – a Clever US find or a Clever US hoax?

We have been watching with interest the development of the story of a 131.2 oz find in the Sierra Nevada foothills in the USA.

Photographic evidence on a prospecting forum website would indicate that the so-called ‘Washington Nugget’ bears an uncanny resemblance to a nugget found at Rokewood, here in Victoria many years back.

Letter to the Editor

Rita,

Welcome back to the greatest country in the world. Did I send you the link to the Mark Twain book chapter now on our web site (reproduced with permission) called ‘Ballarat and the big nuggets’? I loved his writing on Ballarat, and mining in the area. If you haven’t read it please have a look at it, as it might help the PMAV with some current arguments. We are not going back to the old days of vast area devastation. Modern ‘small scale gold recovery’ (my generic term that differentiates what we do with detectors, pans, sluices and small dredges) is different by a long way to that by large commercial companies, this is worth considering. I also consider that ‘small scale gold recovery, be defined as perhaps a weight of Au recovered per year of say (for arguments sake) of 200 oz of mixed parcel gold, as opposed to windfall nuggets of that size or larger. Please give this some thought, we ARE in the industry/activity of ‘small scale gold recovery’. Mark Twain wrote some excellent words and ideas 116 years ago.

Cordell Kent
Inquiry Terms of Reference

As foreshadowed in the last Echo, the Parliamentary “Inquiry into greenfields’ mineral exploration and project development in Victoria” is underway with a call for submissions by 19th August, 2011.

The PMAV will, of course, be preparing a submission but we encourage anyone with an interest in this area to also lodge a submission.

Have no doubt; the anti-mining lobby will be having their say!

For further details go to www.parliament.vic.gov.au/edic or phone Ms Yuki Simmonds on (03) 8682 2832.

Membership Time

Firstly, thank you very much to all those who have already paid their memberships – especially those who have paid for year/s in advance.

All memberships fall due on 1st July so, for those of you who haven’t yet paid we would appreciate your attending to this as soon as possible.

We are occasionally asked why the PMAV doesn’t offer electronic funds transfer. The answer is that since most of the payments we receive are either $30 or $50 we may not be able to identify who made the payment! We are working on this, but for the moment cheques, money orders, credit cards or cash via branches are the only options.

Donations to the PMAV

Members continue to be generous with their financial donations. We have received donations with membership payments from many of you and are most grateful. Particular mention to Syd Pearson, Morning Star Gold NL, Edward Havers, Charles Lougoon, Peter McMahon, Alan Duncan and numerous others. We would love to name all of you, but we are restricted by space.

Be assured we are most grateful for all donations and that this money will be put to good use protecting and enhancing your interests.

John Winter Award, 2011

This Award is given annually to someone who has shown unusual dedication to the PMAV over an extended period of time.

The Committee will be making a decision on the 2011 Award recipient during September. We invite nominations for the Award from members and ask that nominations together with supporting material, be sent to either pmav@pmav.org.au or GPO Box 1706, Melbourne Vic 3000 by 30th August.

The nominators name must be included with the nomination.

These accounts are good for your association’s prospects

Bendigo Bank is supporting the Prospectors and Miners Association as part of our commitment to helping the local community. So as well as enjoying the Bendigo way of banking which includes face-to-face service, longer opening hours and the full range of products and services, you can earn a donation for your association.

Simply quote the referrer number 816 when you take out a selected banking product.

For more information please contact your local branch, phone 1300 366 666 or visit www.bendigobank.com.au
New Branches – Yes Please!

We have had a couple of false starts with re-establishing the Ballarat branch. We thank those who have already expressed interest but, for various reasons, it just hasn’t worked yet.

To help those who might be interested in working on this (or any other) branch, I thought I’d write down the basics of what is needed for a branch and the minimum for ongoing management.

The PMAV’s branches basically work autonomously, but are required to keep the central Committee informed on activities. In return, we keep the branch executives informed of issues or any other relevant news. Because of the immediacy of some issues we now insist that branches have email – preferably all branch executives but at least the president or co-ordinator. We don’t have time to phone around when something needs attention.

Finances are managed by the branch. Branches are given a commission on any membership fees they collect. Any other finances raised remain with the branch. If a branch requires funding for a special project they ask the central Committee – we rarely say no. In fact I can’t remember saying no. A rule of thumb when deciding on expenditure is ‘is it of benefit to members’? If not, then the answer will be ‘no’. We take management of members’ funds very seriously.

Our branches all have different ways of operating, some have stuck with the traditional President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer roles, others simply have a Branch Co-ordinator. The decision of how to operate is decided by branch members.

Another issue on which the branches report to the Committee is branch outings. We ask for details of outings purely for insurance purposes. We do not act as Big Brother!

Some branches meet on a monthly basis, others every two months and some only get together occasionally for field outings. This is again up to the branch.

All branches have the opportunity to input into policy, submissions, etc – but aren’t forced to.

The only ongoing written requirement is a branch report for the Echo.

So, if you think you can handle the above and would like to get a branch going in Ballarat, Bendigo or anywhere else, please phone (or email) any committee member.

Rita Bentley

Safety News

Bruce Brown continues to represent miners with Health and Safety issues and provided this report for the Echo.

At a recent Worksafe meeting I lodged a request for a special class of altered machinery for small miners, rather than the current unwieldy certification process. This would affect items such as stooping winches or diesel locos. This would make it a bit easier for you to get these in use.

Some general advice for underground miners, whenever possible plan work from an adit as these are much easier to get through the system than shafts.

There have been changes to explosive licences which affect you, these include storage. Anyone affected should go to Worksafe’s website - worksafe.vic.gov.au/explosives. This will detail your new ‘duty of care’.

There are other changes - small mines now need a full emergency plan for fires, underground rescue or any other potential crisis. Again Worksafe’s website has the details.

Bruce Brown
There was nothing directly affecting PMAV members in this year’s state budget.

The following was received from DPI

Additional Energy Technology Innovation Strategy funding

The Victorian Government is committed to exploring pre-commercial low emissions technology options available to Victoria.

In order to stimulate research and demonstration projects in this area, the Budget invests an additional $41 million in the Energy Technology Innovation Strategy (ETIS). This significantly increases pre-commercial energy technology funding across Government.

Funding will be focused on energy technologies that are most relevant to Victoria’s needs and on projects that develop the skilled workforce needed to take these technologies forward.

The program will also enable Victoria to better leverage existing national and international investment.

Establishing the Safer Electrical Assets fund

In pursuit of its commitment to carry out the recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, the Victorian Government has established a $50 million Safer Electrical Assets (SEA) fund. This fund will begin crucial work needed to reduce the numbers of bushfires caused by ageing electricity assets. The allocation of the funding will be based on advice from an independent expert panel.

The report of the Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce (PBST) scheduled for 30 September 2011 is expected to include initial advice on options for disbursing the SEA Fund.

The PBST was established in 2010 to investigate the full range of options to reduce the risks of catastrophic bushfires from electricity infrastructure.

Boosting mineral exploration

The Government will support mineral exploration in Victoria by investing an additional $625,000 in the Rediscover Victoria program.

The additional funding will support Geoscience Victoria to develop a better understanding of:

Victoria’s potential to host additional gas developments, especially onshore unconventional gas opportunities in Victoria’s large sedimentary basins, in light of the need for lower emissions fuels to generate affordable power; and world-class mineral deposits in mineral sands, disseminated base metals and disseminated gold.

More information on the Government’s Budget commitments can be found on www.budget.vic.gov.au

Dr Michael Hollitt
**Panhandlers Corner**

**PMAV Challenge to Clubs, Companies and Other Organisations.**

The PMAV will be entering a team in the Victorian Gold Panning Championships team event and challenges other organisations to do the same. Including PMAV branches.

Whether you are part of a club, mining company, the Minerals Council, AusIMM, DPI, School of Mines or any other relevant organisation, we challenge you to a ‘Pan-Off’ as a bit of fun! Even if you have never held a gold pan in your life, we are sure someone will show you how.

Learn a little more about Victorian heritage, support the Victorian Gold Panning Association and participate on Sunday 9th October.

_Don’t take life too seriously and give panning a try._

**Victorian Gold Panning Championships**

_Central Deborah Mine Bendigo Sunday 9th October 2011_

---

The Challenge: Test the speed and accuracy in which you can recover 5 to 12 pieces of gold from a container of seeded gravel within 10 minutes using a gold pan for your chance to win some fantastic prizes. The competition is open to anyone of any age and any skill level and is seen as a stepping stone to the World Championships.

**Registration:**

9:30am – 1.30pm

**Heats:**

10:00am – 2:30pm

**Teams Challenge:**

2:30pm – 3:00pm

**Sponsors Challenge:**

3:00pm – 3:30pm

**Finals:**

3:30pm – 4:00pm

**Finals are for the Skilled and Traditional Pan categories only, all other category winners will be determined by the fastest time obtained in the heats.**

Registration will be located in the Gold Treatment Area next to the CDGM panning troughs. Participants will be given an information pack, name tag, heat number and have the rules and regulations explained to them at this point.

Participants can enter as many times as they like, provided there is a heat open for entry.

Keep in mind ... the overall winner is the panner with the best aggregate time from the Skilled and Traditional Pan finals, so participants will need to register for both of these categories to take out the major prize.

---

**VICTORIAN GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

_Central Deborah Gold Mine, 9 October 2011_

_The day will include:_

- Registration from 9:30am
- Free access to the mine’s surface
- Gold Pour Demonstrations
- Cage Rider
- Underground Mine Tours
- BBQ lunch and drinks on sale

_Panning Categories Include:_

- Children (under 12 yrs)
- Youths (13-16 yrs)
- Novice
- Skilled
- Traditional Pan
- Batea Pan
- Teams Challenge

**Major Prize:**

_Trip to the 2011 New Zealand Gold Panning Championships_

76 Violet Street, Bendigo Ph: (03) 5443 8322
www.central-deborah.com
### Dates to Watch

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>3rd &amp; 10th</td>
<td>Bendigo Tafe ‘Introduction to Geology’ Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Victorian Gold Panning Championships, Central Deborah, Bendigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>Ararat Gold Dig</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>22nd</td>
<td>PMAV AGM Rushworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>156th Anniversary of the Eureka uprising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>160th Anniversary of the ‘Monster Meeting’ Chewton</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Australian Goldpanning Championships, Lake Wendouree Ballarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>Labor Day weekend</td>
<td>Wedderburn Detector Jamboree and Junior Gold Panning Championships.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2012</td>
<td>Labor Day weekend</td>
<td>East Gippsland Branch Gold Expo at Bullamwaal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular branch meeting dates are included with branch reports.

Dates of branch field trips can be obtained by contacting branch executives.

The PMAV Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

For a free listing of your event in this column, call 0408 328 640 or email pmav@pmav.org.au

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**Categories:**

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<tr>
<td>Children (under 12 yrs)</td>
<td>$5.00 per heat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youths (13-16 yrs)</td>
<td>$5.00 per heat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skilled</td>
<td>$15.00 per heat</td>
<td>$10.00 per heat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australian Traditional Pan</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Traditional Pan (Batea)</td>
<td>$10.00 per heat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teams Event</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heats will take place underneath the trestleway (in front of the museum). 10 people can compete in a heat at a time and heats runs for 10 minutes. All equipment is supplied, including gold pans.

The overall winner and therefore 2011 Victorian Champion will win a trip to the New Zealand Gold Panning Championships.

The winner of each individual category will receive a trophy and all participants will receive a certificate of participation.

*Geoff Strang, Secretary, Victorian Gold Panning Association*

*Gold Panning – Reliving History*

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**Victorian Gold Panning Association News**

VGPA president, Marcus Binks, is working overseas for a while so our own Geoff Strang is looking after the VGPA in his absence.

*Geoff, there are just 24 hours in a day remember!*

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**Wedderburn 2012**

The Junior Gold Panning Championships will again be held in conjunction with the Gold Jamboree in Wedderburn on the Labor Day weekend in March 2012.

*Further details in future issues of the Echo.*
New Business in Cyberspace

For those wondering what had happened to Geoff Strang, he tells us what he is up to now.

After the recent sale by Minelab of Miners Den Melbourne (after 28 years) I found myself superfluous (after 12 years). Not wishing to leave the industry that has served me so well and vice versa I had to come up with an idea. Although my early days at Miners Den have fond memories, who can forget the team back in the late 1990’s with Peter Schofield and Merv Scherer when we launched the GP Extreme and we had queues of people lined up for a long overdue new model. After they retired we had other new younger staff all of whom did a fine job, but my interest in retail had long gone. In recent years what I really enjoyed was the business side of things; establishing new agencies, coming to grips

with new computer software and helping other dealers, so it all seemed no great leap to continue doing so for myself. Hence “Prospecting Supplies Australia” came to be in 2010.

Getting a website up and running was the first imperative and after a false start and computer breakdowns and being offline for 3 weeks and 100’s of hours of data entry, I finally got the website live on April 8th this year. See www.prospectingsupplies.com.au. From that first day when there were 41 visitors to 446 pages of my website I was in business. I get visitors from all over the world from short-term visitors of 30 seconds to a minute but also up to and over an hour. The main source is Australia followed by New Zealand and the USA. There are also many visitors from Asia and recently I sold a large 50 tonne per hour trommel to a company in Singapore for a mining project in Vietnam. The trommel was only on the website for three days before it was sold. For interest I have left the listing on the site - www.prospectingsupplies.com.au/products/192-scrubbertrommel-sold.aspx and while on that page have a look at the amazing gold room (as pictured in the Echo). Surprisingly I have had more enquiries for a trommel the same or similar so if any reader has another one of these in their back yard let me know asap as I have buyers waiting. For that matter I have people interested in any size trommel at all.

While Prospecting Supplies Australia is primarily a wholesale business – there is no store front – I sell to anybody who is looking for prospecting or small mining equipment; many via E-bay or through online ordering.

Geoff Strang

YOU FIND IT, WE’LL REFINE IT

PETER W BECK
PRECIOUS METAL SERVICES

Refining • Assaying • Buying. Peter W Beck, Australia’s largest and most trusted, privately owned gold refiner and assayer has, over the last 30 years, carved out a reputation for honesty, accuracy and reliability. For personal service, insured collection of your refining and further information, please call our Precious Metal Services team today.

South Australia Sales Office 14 Duncan Court, Ottoway Park SA 5013, Australia Phone 08 8440 3399 Toll Free 1800 888 590 Fax 08 8447 1144 Email preciousmetals@pwbeck.com.au

Brisbane Sales Office Suite 5, Level 4, 141 Queen Street, Brisbane QLD 4000, Australia Phone 07 3316 2000 Fax 07 3012 8749 Email brisbane@pwbeck.com.au

Perth Sales Office Level 3, 105 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000, Australia Email perth@pwbeck.com.au
Member’s Story

I spent four days detecting various spots around Tibooburra recently, small but good fun and fantastic experience. There were 3 of us and I alone had 21 finds. Largest nugget weighing 4.5grm on left side.

We lost 2 days due to rain, but it dried out very quickly. There is so much ground to cover it makes the mind boggle how many small pieces of gold there must be.

Dean

Editors note – we appreciate stories of personal experiences in the goldfields. Dean has written another for the next issue about a more local 2oz find.

PMAV Membership Application 2011/2012

Please mark relevant box with a X

To renew your membership or to join the PMAV please complete this application and forward it with your payment to: PMAV, GPO Box 1706, Melbourne, Vic., 3001 or (if paying by credit card) fax to 03 9553 1032

First Name……………………………………………. Surname………………………………………………..
Address……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………
Town or City ………………………………………………. Post Code. …………………………………
Occupation (if retired previous)……………………………………………………………………………………
Tel.no…………………………………………………Email………………………………………………………….
Signature …………………………………………… Date………………………………

Are you a member of a prospecting club?   Yes   /   No

Membership fees for 2011-2012 are: Individual and/or Immediate Family $50.00 or Individual Pensioner and/or Immediate Family (Pensioner Concession Card Holders Only) $30.00
If joining after 31st December, please pay 50% for membership to 30 June.
Business, Club or Corporate entity $140.00 (NOTE –This membership does not cover individual members within the club or business)

Payment options: Cheque or Postal Order to PMAV or for credit card payment:

Please circle  VISA   MASTERCARD

Card number Expiry date /
Name on card
Amount of payment
Signature

Would you please consider adding a few dollars to your payment? We always need and appreciate donations
**Employees That Never Sleep**

Rio Tinto Ltd is planning to double its fleet of driverless haul trucks and to deploy them at the Pilbara’s largest mine site, Yandicoogina, after a two-year trial performed “well above expectations”.

Rio says it will deploy 10 trucks by next April for all haulage requirements in the Yandicoogina junction south east pit, moving high grade, low grade and waste material from multiple loading units.

The autonomous trucks will begin dumping ore for the first time, a major step in the evolution of the project towards full operational deployment.

“It will be the first operational deployment of this technology in Australia, or anywhere on this scale,” Pilbara operations president Greg Lilleyman said in a statement.

Rio has been trialling the Autonomous Haulage System (AHS) technology around the clock at the West Angelas mine in the Pilbara since December 2008, moving more than 42 million tonnes of material more than 450,000km.

The trucks use GPS technology to navigate autonomously around a pre-defined course from loading units to dump locations, including waste dumps, stockpiles and crushers.

**Goldfields Auction Results**

The Goldfields Sale by Leski Auctions was an exciting event for prospectors with some amazing prices paid. For example, one lot which was a variety of goldfields maps was expected to sell between $400 and $600, it realised $2100. Another interesting lot, a mine rope ladder sold for $1,150, yet many other items remained unsold.

Full auction results can be found at


**The Sale Continues**

The auction went well and ended up with good media coverage. The media made out that Kate and I were the only vendors. We were the catalyst for it and Leski’s asked if I knew any other collectors who would add items. I invited another serious collector I knew and Leski’s found at least another 3 other vendors to supply ‘relevant’ items. So it wasn’t just Kate and I who benefited from the $180,000 in sales on the night. That figure came from Charles Leski’s when the Ballarat Courier rang 5 minutes after the end of the auction. Kate and I lost our shirt on many items but ‘won’ it back on other things, especially when the ‘institutional’ buyers were after the same lots of very rare items. Bidders were either in the room, had left bids, were on the phones or on-line. At the start of the auction Charles Leski’s gave a warm welcome to the on-line bidders from New Zealand, USA, Canada and the United Kingdom as well as those from across Australia.

As I said, we were one of at least 5 vendors for the Auction; we supplied no gold or jewellery.

The feed back I have had from private buyers is that they were very happy with their acquisitions.

All unsold lots are still available for sale privately through us. So if people are still interested, they can contact me via mail@thegoldshop.com.au or on Skype, cordell9999.

Prospective buyers should note that it never was, and will not be a ‘clearance sale’.

Cordell Kent

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**Scientific Breakthrough**

Scientists have discovered the heaviest element yet known to science.

The new element is Governmentium (Gv). It has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert. However, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction normally taking less than a second to take from four days to four years to complete.

Governmentium has a normal half-life of 2-6 years. It does not decay but instead undergoes a reorganisation in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places.

In fact, Governmentium’s mass will actually increase over time, since each reorganisation will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes.

This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalysed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

Large deposits have recently been found in Canberra.
PMAV Merchandise

Why not fly the PMAV logo by wearing it on your chest or head? It has been a while since we have promoted PMAV merchandise in the Echo so thought you might like the opportunity of purchasing some.

You can order through your local branch or via mail with full payment to GPO Box 1706 Melbourne.

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Around the Branches

North East (Yackandandah)

The year is flying. We have had three very successful field trips this year so far. The first was at The Buckland which was reported in the last Echo.

Next was a great weekend up at Adelong in New South Wales. There were 16 members present over the long weekend, which was great considering the long trip to get there. The scenery was lovely out on the station where I had arranged for our members to pan and sluice. Members found nice colour in varying amounts. We booked into the Museum on the Sunday morning which was opened up early especially for us by volunteers. On an October morning at 9.45am an inland Tsunami came out of the hills into the town. The photos were amazing, and more to the point we had not heard a word about it!

The last trip was to Melville Caves 22kms from Inglewood.

View from Melville’s Caves

There are two sites. The first is day visitors only and the 2nd is about one kilometre further towards the Caves on a long winding, sloping road. There are a lot of camping sites for vans and tents. It has a rather unusual “loo” where you can talk to someone next door. The Caves are well worth a look (no charge) and the area is generally very scenic.

We had a good roll up of members 8 vans and one tent, 23 people in total. Most members were there for 4-5 days. The weather was predicted to be showers for three days, however it rained mostly at night and we had good weather for prospecting. In all three nuggets were found, one 6.6 grams.

Thanks to Russell and Ronda for taking the club marquee along and erecting it with help from other members. It sure was useful on rainy nights. Two members made the four hour trip for our field trip but had left their tent poles behind. They left their trailer there, went home and were back in the morning to put up the tent. A mammoth effort!

As usual the camp was over far too quickly. We all went back to our own homes and will be ready in two months for our next camp (Talbot).

A prospector in our branch found a fourpence (1854) and shortly after much admiration, his wife accidently threw it into the fire with other paper rubbish. It was found two days later after raking out the coals and ash from the fire. A little singed on top but with the date still very visible. Lots of sighs of relief from his wife!

This year there are only four couples over in the West. We look forward to hearing how they are faring. Well, that’s it for now. Good luck.

Bill Gleeson – Branch President
Branch meets Yackandandah Senior Citizens, Wellsford St, Yackandandah - bi-monthly third Wednesday.

East Gippsland (Stratford)

Some of our members are now starting to return from their trips to W.A. Everyone seems to have found gold including one nice three ounce nugget. Our secretary has returned with ten pieces but has confessed that his wife found sixty-one. Just goes to prove that men never listen.

The branch will run another Gold Expo at Bullumwaal on the long weekend in March next year. All PMAV members, their families and friends are invited for the weekend. Camp sites will be available but please ensure you book well in advance with our Branch Secretary.

Bullumwaal is located north of Bairnsdale and was once a busy mountain gold town. The display will include both static and working gold mining and prospecting equipment including a working stamper (battery).

The branch has recently run field trips to Deptford and Combienbar for a few of our die-hard winter prospectors brave enough to venture in to the high country at this time of the year.

It looks like we will have several members travelling to Rushworth for the AGM. I am looking forward to the event and I am sure that many of our members will spend a bit of time around the goldfields in the area over the weekend.

Brian Bateson, Branch President
Branch meets RSL Hall, Stratford - last Thursday of each month.

West Gippsland (Drouin) Branch

Things have been a bit quiet at our branch for the last two meetings as a dozen or so of our regular members are over in the west trying their luck. Weather has been a deciding factor on weekends away, so we have opted for day trips instead. These have included a day trip to Dead Horse Creek at Neerim East with panning and sluicing producing some nice trails of colour in our pans. We also a day at Neerim East this time trying our luck at detecting, but recent rains had made the undergrowth quite thick and so the going was challenging. No gold was found but weather and company made for an enjoyable day.

As I mentioned earlier, we have a number of members away in the west with the first starting to make their way back. One couple are returning with around 10oz, while another member was last reported with 13oz.

Alan Ramsdale, our president and his group had found around 7oz when last reported.

The Eureka ECHO — Winter 2011
I am certainly looking forward to the next couple meetings as they all return with their many stories.

**Alan McFarlane - Vice President;**

Branch meets CWA Hall, 10 Sinclair St, Drouin - second Thursday of each month.

**Grampians Branch**

Gold is getting scarcer on public lands and most of the prospectors are detecting away from Stawell. However, I have seen photos of a 6 ounce and a one ounce found near Stawell in recent times by different prospectors. The larger piece was interpreted as rubbish by the male, but not his partner. Just confirms my observation that women are often much more patient than males and tend to find gold which men either assume is rubbish or are in too much of a hurry to bother with.

**John Tottenham – Branch Co-ordinator**

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**Melbourne Branch**

The branch has held its last three meetings at the new Miners Den. Ian and his team do a great job transforming the shop into a meeting room and then back to a shop at the end of the evening.

The meeting in June was the first time I chaired the meeting as Geoff couldn’t make it. Not a great number of members turned up as it was a very cold night. Luckily I managed to get through the night okay. With thanks to David Hasler, we watched a DVD from the ABC shop called ‘How the Earth Began’ (the chapter on gold of course). It was well worth watching and I would recommend viewing for all those interested. It starts by telling where gold originated and then how to find gold from panning through to open cut mining. It runs for about 45 minutes and I am sure we will be watching it again.

As the weather since February has been so wet with flooding etc, field trips have all but been forgotten. Our last trip was back in summer. This is something we must all work on for the future. If anyone wants to help with ideas or places they would like to go, please let me know.

We are not asking for you to run a trip but have some input, as every little bit helps.

We have had many members out and about with lot of stories to be told. Wallace Young had a nice find with two nuggets of around 8 grams and I picked up a nice 1.5 grammer and some smaller pieces around the Avoca area over the last long weekend.

**Mark Craig**

Branch meets 7.30 on the second Tuesday each month at Miners Den, 517 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham (Behind Subway).

We are still seeking branch co-ordinators for the Central Victorian and Ballarat (South West) branches.

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**Club News**

The Bendigo Prospectors Club has advised of new executives as follows:


*From left to right. John Rogers, Barbara Allen and Tad Borowiecki.* As always, Ray Swinnerton was busy taking the photo. In the future, history will be grateful to Ray for the terrific collection of photos he is contributing to documentation of present day prospecting. The present day Eureka Echo editor is also grateful!

As gold becomes scarce more specimens are being found as BPC members are searching the mine dumps in areas not usually known for nuggets.

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