

New Minelab GP 3000 Released

A lot of work has gone into the new GP 3000 to make it the very best gold detector Minelab has ever made. The GP 3000 has lots of features and benefits that the operator will love.

- **More Stable Threshold** – The threshold on the GP 3000 is noticeably smoother. Detecting is so much more enjoyable; concentration levels are maintained longer and target signals become more positive.



- **Improved Ground Balance** – The automatic ground balance is more accurate than ever before and when searching in fixed mode, the ground balance is more rigid with less drift. It is so good that owners will be able to use the 'mono' mode as well as monoloop coils in heavily mineralized areas that were previously too noisy for those deep-search coils.
- **Sharper Target Signal** – Another improvement with the new circuitry is a sharper, clearer target signal. The combined benefits of the smoother

threshold, improved ground balance and sharper target signal make a huge improvement in the detector's overall performance and ability to find gold.

- **Diagnostic Port** – Located on the control box is a new plug called Smart Point. Which is a diagnostic port that allows Minelab to verify that every GP 3000 control box is operating to correct

specifications prior to being packed and shipped. The control box is plugged into a computer through the Smart Point and a number of tests are run to confirm that the detectors programs and circuits are functioning as they were designed.

Other features include Koss headphones, more comfortable battery harness, heavy duty bungy cord and an 11" white plastic Double-D coil. Other accessory coils are also available in 18" Double-D along with the traditional 8"; 11" & 18" Mono-loop coils.

2003 Fund Raiser – win a GP 3000

Minelab has generously agreed to donate a GP 3000 for our major fundraiser this year. Tickets will again be \$10 and limited to members, family and friends.

A total of 750 tickets will be sold so be quick. We have received many positive reports regarding the performance of the new GP

so here is your chance to win one for a small investment that helps your Association.

The winner will be drawn at this year's Annual General Meeting in October.

Tickets are available from all branches, Miners Den or by mail – please include a stamped addressed envelope with mail orders.

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The oath made by the diggers at Eureka

"We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other & fight to defend our rights & liberties".

Native Title & Small Mining Seminar

The PMAV is hosting a seminar for all small miners to discuss issues affecting the future of the industry, including dealing with native title.

All small miners and other interested people welcome. Sunday, 29th June, 2003. Full details on page 14.

Association News

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The PMAV website is: www.pmav.asn.au
And: <http://groups.msn.com/PMAV>

Editor of the Eureka Echo:

Position Vacant—apply within

Deadline for Material 16th August 2003
Month Published September 2003

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Melbourne Branch Report

The Melbourne Branch continues to hold its meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the Miners Den. Field trips are held on the last Sunday of the month.

Meetings are well attended with about 50 people coming along not only to catch up on PMAV matters, but also for our guest speakers and to get together with other like-minded people. The after meeting coffee time is a very animated and noisy time.

Our field trip to Glenluce was a success, over 30 nuggets were detected and a few grams of fines were panned and sluiced. It was a great field trip destination as it offers good camping, areas to detect and a river to sluice and pan. Some disquiet was expressed by the daytrippers who arrived on the Sunday as we had broadcast the exact destination by a mail out previously and a few lucky members availed themselves of the easily detectable gold in the days prior to our field trip. There was more gold detected on the day (nobody ever gets it all) however this has forced us to rethink the way we organise field trips. We will in future arrange a scheduled meeting place and then travel to our "target zone" from that point as we have done on a number of previous field trips.

Subsequent trips have been to Amherst and to Moonambel where nuggets were found in areas where by rights there should be no gold left. This only proves the point expressed above.

Geoff Strang – Melbourne Branch Coordinator.

North East Branch (Yackandandah) Report

The North East Branch is slowly getting back to normal following the devastating fires which severely curtailed our activities. The annual Buckland Valley field trip on the long weekend in March was cancelled due to the fires. In early April a field trip to Granite Flat was undertaken. Our favourite camp site at the Walnuts was again enjoyed by all with the added bonus of collecting some walnuts. The camp gave us a first hand view of the devastation caused by the fires in the Mitta Mitta area. We enjoyed exploring the mining areas of bygone days that had been uncovered by the fires. A great find was the Mulhauser battery which branch members now plan to restore (see article in this issue). A couple of our members attended the Maryborough Gold Expo where they caught up with what's new in the industry. They also enjoyed the company of other prospectors at the camp near Talbot. To heighten the profile of North East Branch we have commenced working on plans to have a stand at the Albury/Wodonga 4WD, Caravan, Camping and Leisure Show in March 2004.

A number of our branch are about to embark on the winter exodus heading for WA or Queensland seeking warmer goldfields. Happy and successful prospecting to all.

Pat Wyatt – Vice-President, NorthEast Branch

Association News

Central Victorian Branch (Dunolly) Report

Attendance at the Central Branch meetings has been very pleasing, attracting members from as far away as Swan Hill and also new visitors.

Our aim is to make these meetings as informative as possible, not only by keeping everyone up to date on prospecting and mining issues but also on the latest detector technology as it becomes available.

Meetings are held every two months at Coiltek Gold Centre, Maryborough. Next meeting is on Monday 30th June, 2003, starting at 7.30pm.

If you want to hear the latest news, gossip, rumours, etc. don't miss it!

Tony Mills—Central Vic. (Dunolly) Branch Rep.

West Gippsland Branch (Drouin) Report

The West Gippsland Branch has enjoyed some great weather for our monthly field trips and our return trip to Latrobe River proved to be no exception, we even found a bit of colour. Some people did find crossing the river over a fallen log dampening to their spirits but it was amusing to others.

The Gold & Gems show at Moe's Gippsland Heritage Park finished on a disappointing note with rain on the Sunday, but Saturday was perfect with a lot of kids, including Marty, having great fun panning for gold and gems. A big thankyou to Rob Bormann, Martin Byrne and helpers. They put a lot of time and effort into a successful weekend.

The branch at Drouin is hoping for a cool burn to be done in the bush at Neerim East which could improve our detecting chances.

Our field trip calendar for the coming months is:- May – Coopers Creek, June – Deptford, July – Deadhorse Creek, August – Golden Triangle, September – Narracan Creek, October – Rawson & Walhalla. Weather conditions allowing – all welcome.

Don Campbell—

President West Gippsland (Drouin) Branch

East Gippsland Branch (Stratford) Report

Our only field trip this quarter was to the fire devastated area around Glen Wills and Sunnyside. This region suffered badly from the fire but it has certainly made prospecting and exploring for old mines and mining sites remarkably easy. One of our machinery experts had made three previous trips to the area in a search for some old cyanide vats that had lain hidden in the scrub. He was surprised at just how easy it was to find the vats now that the scrub has all gone. Unfortunately, the fires destroyed the historic battery shed for the Maude and Yellow Girl. We have decided to seek funding for the reconstruction of a suitable shed to protect the old equipment and battery.

Our evening bulldust session around the campfire was interrupted by constant showers so it was an early night for all concerned.

Some even managed to find a few bits of gold to add to the interest of the weekend, however the panners had a bit of bad luck as the river rose considerably overnight and made panning somewhat difficult. It is certainly worth a trip to the area as it is now possible to see many old gold workings that have been hidden for many years. The undergrowth is already rapidly recovering so that it will soon all be hidden once again.

Our meetings continue to be well attended.

Steve Dingwall—President East Gippsland Branch

South West Branch (Ballarat) Report

We have had our AGM and another year has begun. Unfortunately not on a good note as our newly elected Secretary, Bill Shaw, has since had a heart attack and unfortunately passed away. Our sincere sympathy to Bill's family.

On to other things, we held a garage sale at Max Muir's house during May and raised \$250 towards branch funding. Well done to all those who supplied goods and to Max for his efforts.

Several members, including myself represented the branch at the Gold Expo. The weekend was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We are still putting together our plans for future activities following the AGM but I have no doubt that this will be a busy year for all members of the South West Branch.

Keith Roberts—President South West Branch

Fee Increase

Unfortunately we have had to increase our fees for 2003-2004.

There is one sole reason behind this increase – our public liability insurance premium. The Association's insurance has increased by 300%! This is not due to any claims or perceived higher risk. We are just a victim of the insurance crisis like so many other community groups.

All fee increases will be absorbed by the insurance premium so the increase does not improve our financial resources. We continue to operate on a shoestring budget.

Any fee increase is always done with reluctance, but the Committee has decided we have no option.

I trust that you will all continue to support the Association through your membership.

Geoff Strang, Treasurer

Expo Raffle Winners

- Geoff Clarke, Newstead —Coiltek coil
- David Barclay, Melton —Minelab jackets
- Mary Malcolm, Hastings —Flipscales
- Margaret McMillan, Maryborough —Koss headphones

Our congratulations to the winners and our appreciation to all those who purchased tickets.

A special thankyou to the donors of our Expo prizes – Coiltek Gold Centre, Miners Den, Likely Prospects & Minelab Electronics.

News from the Department

Minerals Industry Safety Handbook

The Minerals Industry Safety Handbook produced in New South Wales with cooperation and support of the State Government regulators of Australia's mining industry, has recently been printed.

The handbook is available for purchase (\$35 plus postage and handling) from the Minerals Business Centre, phone (03) 9412 5103.

The handbook contains valuable information on mining hazards and safe working practices to protect miners from injury.

Victorian Initiative for Minerals and Petroleum Launch

The Geological Survey of Victoria recently launched a number of new publications.

These publications included:

- VIMP Report 76 with 1 map – Regolith of the Ballarat-Creswick area **\$40.00**
- VIMP Report 58 with 5 maps – Bendigo and part of Mitiamo 1:100,000 map area report **\$55.00**
The five maps are Bendigo, Huntly, Raywood and Lockwood 1:50,000 Geological and Bendigo 1:100,000 Geophysical.
- VIMP Report 77 with 1 map – Regolith of the Bendigo 1:100,000 map area **\$40.00**
- GSV Report 121 – Castlemaine 1:100,000 map area with 5 maps (Castlemaine, Daylesford, Malmsbury, Trentham 1:50,000 Geological and Castlemaine 1:100,000 Geophysical) **\$65.00**
- CD - Beneath our Feet - Technical Record 2003/1 **\$25.00**
This is essentially the catalogue of the exhibition held at the Museum of Victoria in 2002 to celebrate the 150 years of the Geological Survey of Victoria – it includes the first geological map made in Victoria (Malmsbury area) drawn by Selwyn and signed by Robert Hoddle.

- CD pack – open-file tenement data (15 CD's in 8 packs) - sold as one package for **\$75.00**.
These are the reports held in the Minerals and Petroleum library on microfiche. They include all of the reports from Exploration Licence 3000 onwards.
- CDs – Geoscientific data CD's (GIS) – 11 CD's are available at the moment, a further 2 will become available later – **free**.

All of the publications for sale and the free CD's can be obtained from:
Minerals and Petroleum Business Centre
8th Floor
240 Victoria Parade
East Melbourne 3002 Vic
(Telephone 03 9412 5103)

Kim Ricketts, Co-ordinator – Minerals and Petroleum Business Centre

The Budget

The fact sheet that accompanied the State Budget Papers stated that for DPI 'over the next year, areas of focus will include:

- Roll out of guidelines that underpin key requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety (Mining) Regulations 2002
- Roll out of guidelines that support new environmental reporting and workplan submission requirements of the Mineral Resource Development Regulations 2002.
- Complete Phase One of an electronic inspection system for mining and environmental inspectors.

For more information, contact the DPI's Customer Service Centre on 136186 or visit the website at www.nre.vic.gov.au

Correction

In the last Echo the phone number for the Government's Minerals Business Centre was wrong. The correct number is (03) 9412 5103.

Minerals & Petroleum Core Library

Of interest to many of our readers is the Minerals & Petroleum Core Library, which has been in its present home at Werribee since 1996. This facility contains approximately 18,000 samples collected over the last century from drillholes and mapping projects throughout Victoria. The collection includes cores, cuttings and other samples from groundwater drilling, petroleum and mineral exploration, geotechnical research and field mapping programs. New samples from current mineral and petroleum exploration programs are added to the collection as they become available.

Equipped with inspection and sampling facilities, the Core Library is used by industry, academia and government to assist in the location of new mineral deposits, energy resources and for training future geoscience professionals. The Core Library provides data which is otherwise unobtainable or can only be captured by expensive and time-consuming re-drilling. In some instances, the sample is irreplaceable, providing samples from areas that are now inaccessible—because of Victoria's present obsession with conservation.

The Core Library is located on South Road (off Sneydes Road) in Werribee. (Melway Map 206 E8). Sample inspections are by appointment only. For inspections contact Avi Olshina on (03) 9412 5094.



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President's Report



Rita Bentley

Winter is upon us and while most Victorians are inclined to curl up on the couch to watch TV – prospectors stay more active. The stream of prospectors heading to the Victorian goldfields continues only slightly diminished by those seeking the warmer conditions of Western Australia.

The fantastic Gold Expo in Maryborough over Easter indicates the interest in prospecting continues to grow with retailers selling lots of new detectors. I did notice that we are

not getting any younger however and this is one of the challenges that we all face, how to make sure there is another generation who keep the prospecting tradition alive.

People such as David Hasler, Ian Hayward, Eric Gray, Stan Andrews, Paul Wilkes and many branch members all do a terrific job in this regard by encouraging children to try panning or detecting at various events. Even my daughter who has grown up with prospecting all around enjoyed panning with David Hasler during the Gold Expo. One thing to note is that all those children who go home with a few specks of gold will never throw them away. They will always have that memory of panning for gold – hopefully some will be encouraged to participate further as they get older.

Those of you with children or grandchildren why not give the kids a try of your detector, let them have the pleasure of finding a signal and uncovering something? Take them panning with you – let's face it finding gold is still a thrill for all of us, even a few specks.

Our workload has not diminished and yet our team of willing workers has! Unfortunately Allan Kenshole is not able to produce the Echo after doing such a great job since we lost John Winter. Laurie Farrugia's health has not allowed him to participate in Committee matters and two of our team have joined the exodus to the West for the winter.

If you have ever considered assisting the PMAV Committee, believe me now is the time! We are looking for an Echo editor and others with various skills to take up some of the workload. I believe those of you who attend branch meetings would have been told how important your active participation is.

As the AGM nears we will be looking for new Committee members – what better way of finding out what is involved than giving it a trial run for a couple of months? Anyone interested either contact Geoff Strang or Jeff Douglas.

The PMAV is widely respected and acknowledged by Government, the media, bureaucrats, industry and the general public (the greens don't like us but who cares). This respect does not come without lots of work and effort.

Rita Bentley

Native Title Update

Progress is finally being made with the Indigenous Land Use Agreement that the PMAV is trying to negotiate for member small miners. I hope to see all small miners at the meeting in Maldon on 29th June where we can discuss this progress.

The reorganisation that is occurring at Mirimbiak will cause more delays but at least there is a glimmer at the end of this very long tunnel!

Jeff Douglas – Native Title Co-ordinator

Bank with us and everybody benefits.

PMAV is now an agent of Bendigo Bank.

Bendigo Bank will pay a commission for every dollar deposited. For PMAV to receive this benefit you must quote our agency number 816 when opening an account.

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and make a contribution that counts. It means we get involved in activities at a local level, therefore supporting many local organisations.

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New Addition to 'This Golden Life' Series

The Gold Expo in Maryborough saw the launch of the latest publication from Likely Prospects. The book 'The Bennett Brothers' tells the story of the trials and tribulations faced by well known central Victorian prospectors Tom and Neil.

Tom and Neil have generously agreed to donate the profits from the sale of the book to the PMAV's fighting fund.

This is one of six in the 'This Golden Life' series. The series is dedicated to recording the life histories of PMAV members.

Following is a list of all publications to date in the "This Golden Life" series:

No 1 Len Goldsmith: Creswick hydraulic sluicing in the 1930's and detectorist. As a youth Len started his connection with gold working in hydraulic sluicing operations on the heads of Slaty Creek near Creswick. Len's story tells of these operations and characters and events along the way. He also tells of other adventures with a focus on his Army days including Darwin when the first Japanese raid occurred. Len's style reflects his 'pull no punches' forthright views.
Order code G1: ISBN 0 9577909 5 3: Sept 00—Retail \$19.95

No 2 Fred Ward: Gippsland high country hydraulic sluicing in the 1930's, detectorist, dredger and prospector. Fred is a well known hero of the PMAV, having been very active including a stint as Gipps Branch president. He has a family history of sluicing operations in Gippsland and details information on some of the sluicing operations around the Bright district. His style is a narrative that weaves together characters and events and tells his story mainly in relation to other people.
Order code G2: ISBN 0 9578691 0 x: March 01—Retail \$19.95

No 3 Tony Mills: Detecting pioneer, detector business operator and assorted detecting related adventures. Tony Mills tells the story of how detecting got started in Australia and his part in it. His character is such that when something needs doing he is there doing it and is a persistent voice in the tradition of the fair go which shows through his fast moving story. Included in his adventures are treasure hunting in Greece and confidence tricksters in Africa.
Order code G3: ISBN 0 9578691 6 9: May 02—Retail \$19.95

No 4 Bill Morris: Prospector & miner of the Blackwood—Trentham field from the 1920's. Pioneer prospector and miner of the Emperor mines in Fiji during the 1930's depression and the Northern Territory. Detecting from the late 1970's, Bill's story is of

a full life and true adventures that rival classic adventure fiction. His style is the deadpan delivery from a man who is truly comfortable with himself and has genuinely 'been there, done that.'
Order code G4: ISBN 0 9578691 1 3: Aug 01—Retail \$22.95



From left: Neil Bennett, Rita Bentley, Steve Barnham, Wendy Harland-White and Tom Bennett at the launch of the latest book (Steve and Wendy are the principals of Likely Prospects).

No 5 The Bennett Brothers: Neil & Tom are known as the Bennett Brothers. These successful prospectors use this name to provide some anonymity due to their success. This is about Tom's childhood days in Ballarat and Neil's adventures in the Northern Territory and possibly the last hydraulic sluicing operation in Victoria. As with all the titles in this series, this is what they want to say about themselves and some of their experiences. Neil and Tom are unsung characters and icons of gold detecting in Victoria and reflect the 'have a go' larrikin - Australian spirit that is often spoken of, but rarely seen by an urbanised society. They are very different individual people with different styles but to tell their stories separately would neglect a genuine Australian mateship.
Order code G5 ISBN 0 9580214 4 9: Jan. 03—Retail \$19.95

No 6 Herbert Cann: Herb Cann is a member of one of Blackwood's 'old families'. In this story he relates his early adventures and the family association with Captain John Williams, who recovered the gold from the sunken ship 'Niagara'. Herb installed and ran cyanide plants and explains the technology in practical terms. He also had many years of struggle trying to develop the Premiere Mine near Kyneton in Central Victoria. Herb, along with his wife Betty, are yet more examples of people whose determination and persistence contributed to building this country. Herb's style is that of the determined stoic.
Order code G6 ISBN 0 9578691 9 3: Jan. 03—Retail \$19.95

Letters To The Editor

Dear Rita,

Thankyou for the copy of the nomination by the PMAV for the position of Senior Victorian of the Year. Would you please convey to the Association my sincere appreciation of their kind support, not only for this honour, but for all the support they have given to the PMAV in the past. I sincerely thank each and every one for this.

At present we are being given an opportunity to stress objections in Submissions to the State and Federal Inquiries into the Bogong Bushfire Complex. Within the Terms of Reference they ask for comment on Land Management. It is there that we have a chance to bring to notice our objection to the injustice of the ban on Educator Dredging in Victoria. The failure of Departmental and CFA action in the past to render safer our Crown and Reserve land, at least from wildfire. We fear for our safety in the forests, while exercising our rights to enter

such land for legitimate search for minerals. I believe we have a right to suggest an increase in funding for fuel reduction by burning, or other methods, under tight control—using the technology at hand for this purpose.

Good luck with your mining and prospecting, and your submissions to both State and Federal fire safety inquiries. I favour a Royal Commission of Inquiry and will request this in submissions.

Yours sincerely, Fred G. Ward, Bairnsdale

From the Office of the Mining Warden.

I had an interesting case not that long ago. A retired miner asked me to investigate whether the rehabilitation bonds which he had lodged over the years on various licences had all been returned by the Department.

Up until the late 1990's, the Department would accept a bank guarantee or a term deposit in the name of the Minister as a surety for a rehabilitation bond.



The old miner was sure there was money owing to him from a mining licence that had transferred some time before.

I contacted the Department and they were very helpful in establishing the history of this particular licence and the fact that they had released the bond a number of years previously.

I then contacted the bank and once again they were most helpful and traced the bond that I was examining. Yes it had been returned but they then found another amount dating back to the 1980's.

It was a mining bond. It was in the name of the Minister for Minerals and Energy, (a Department that has not existed for nearly 20 years).

I then contacted the Department once again and they were happy to release the amount to the miner.

There is a lesson in all of this. It is essential to keep good and accurate records of all of your dealings in relation to the tenements that you hold and have held. It is worth

checking your records of your old titles to ensure that all monies owing to you are fully repaid.

It was fortunate for the complainant in this case that the bank was prepared to do a major search through all of their records for any bonds that were held by him. Otherwise this money would have remained idle in the bank and no-one would have been any the wiser.

Noel Laidlaw, State Mining Warden

PO Box 161, Bendigo 3552 Ph 5442 5588

Email Noel.Laidlaw@nre.vic.gov.au



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- FOUR** Do you supply videos on detecting? Minelab's video is free with every SD
- FIVE** Can you supply technical service? We are Australia's largest detector service organisation, authorised service, Minelab — All other brands serviced
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DIARY DATES

This page is under review; it will be a job for the new editor.

In the meantime, a reminder that the PMAV's 2003 AGM is to be held on Sunday, 26th October at Rawson.

Park Regulation Review

The Regulations attached to the National Parks Act were recently reviewed. The PMAV took an active part in the process to protect member's interests.

Get a Mate to Join

As you will read elsewhere in this Echo, the PMAV has been forced to increase its membership fees to cover the increase in our public liability insurance premium.

We have looked at ways of increasing our income without increasing our fees and believe that the best way is for all those prospectors and miners who are not members of the Association to join.

Let's face it, they enjoy all the efforts and achievements of the Association, many of them pick up a free Eureka Echo on a regular basis. Basically they are sponging off their fellow prospectors and miners.

So if you, or someone you know, fit this category, there is no time like the present. Just use the application form on the back of this Echo, or a photocopy will do, send it and payment in and then you will be able to sleep well at night knowing you have done the right thing. Remember the PMAV is all that stands between prospecting and prohibition.

The Ideology of Some of the Eco-fundamentalists Who Lead the Green Movement

Our thanks to Marshall Pardee who compiled the list.

These quotes are an indication of how clearly and brutally the green movement has lost the plot:

"Isn't the only hope for the planet that the industrial civilizations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to bring that about?" Maurice Strong, head of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

"Every time you turn on an electric light, you are making another brainless baby." Dr Helen Caldicott, June 14th 1992

"Childbearing should be a punishable crime against society, unless the parents hold a government license....., all potential parents should be required to use contraceptive chemicals, the Government issuing antidotes to citizens chosen for childbearing." David Brower, Friends of the Earth

"If environmentalists were to invent a disease to bring human populations back to sanity, it would probably be something like AIDS. It has the potential to end industrialism, which is the main force behind the environmental crisis." Earth First! Newsletter.

"We in the Green Movement, aspire to a cultural model in which the killing of a forest will be considered more contemptible and more criminal than the sale of 6-year-old children to Asian brothels." Carl Emery, German Green Party

"The Planet is about to break out with fever, indeed it may already have, and we human beings are the disease. We should be at war with ourselves and our lifestyles." Dr Thomas Lovejoy, conservation biologist and assistant secretary to the US Smithsonian Institute.

"Phasing out the human race will solve every problem on earth, social and environmental." Dave Foreman, founder of the environment group Earth First! and a Director of the Sierra Club.

Introducing the Victoria Police Mining Liaison Officer

My name is Patrick Bannan. I am a Detective Senior Constable attached to the Bendigo Crime Investigation Unit. I am a police officer of 29 years service. The majority of that service has been in the criminal investigation field in and around Bendigo.

In early 1999, the former Mining Warden Mr Kevin Ryan approached the Victoria Police, expressing a need for the Victoria Police to develop some expertise in the Minerals Industry. Mr Ryan found there to be a lack of knowledge of the mining industry within the Victoria Police and it made discussing such matters difficult.

I have been involved with the mining industry since my appointment in 1999 and in particular Bendigo Mining NL and other mining operations around Bendigo. All the people I have encountered in the mining industry thus far have been very supportive of my role. I maintain a strong liaison with the Gold Stealing Detection Unit based in Kalgoorlie W.A. and the Victorian Mining Warden Mr Noel Laidlaw.

As the Victoria Police Mining Liaison Officer, I wish to offer those people in Victoria who are involved in the Minerals Industry, a contact person within the Victoria Police Department. I want you to know that you can speak to me about any police related problem and feel confident that I have a good knowledge and understanding of the industry. You can also be assured that all information will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and will not be discussed with any other operators.

My first priority is in relation to prevention and detection of criminal activity within the mining industry and I can assure you the Victoria Police has a very strong public relations policy, so I encourage you to contact me about any police related matter.

I can be contacted at the Bendigo Criminal Investigation Unit, Bull Street, Bendigo on Ph:54402547.

Also available to you is the Anonymous Hotline Ph: 54432544.

I am interested to speak with anyone who has any information regarding criminal activity in the Mining Industry, not necessarily confined to Victoria. As you are aware the fraternity is small, and there is little recognition of state boundaries in the industry. You are welcome to ring me, or call in and speak to me on any matter which you feel can assist me in this role.

Patrick Bannan, Detective Senior Constable. Bendigo CIU.

Victorian State Budget

*From the Minister for Energy Industries and Resources
- Theo Theophanous*



*Hon Theo Theophanous
New Minister for Energy Industries and Resources*

The 2003/04 Budget is a clear statement of our continued focus to deliver more jobs, stronger communities and new opportunities for all Victorians.

This is a truly exciting period for Victoria, with our minerals and petroleum industries in the midst of a new era of exploration, investment and economic development.

The newly created Department of Primary Industries, is dedicated to ensure our world-class minerals and petroleum industries are successful for the long term and continue to create jobs across Victoria.

That means promoting the creation and use of new ideas and technologies to attract investment and employment. It also means supporting new exploration to harness our resources wisely for the continued creation of jobs and prosperity across all of Victoria.

At the same time, we will hold the industry to strict standards so that the benefits we all reap are not only economic, but environmental and social as well.

Over the next 12 months we will continue to build on the strong foundations laid down by previous budgets, with a number of major ventures ongoing.

Our mapping and data collection program is already a critical component in attracting hundreds of millions in exploration expenditure to regional Victorian economies. Onshore and offshore petroleum investment is eclipsing previous records, and up to \$2 billion of gas and pipeline projects are planned.

Finally, we remain aware that industry must operate in a way that is acceptable to the community. We are committed to ensuring the highest standards of health, safety, environmental and social safeguards.

Those are our key themes. Through these, and a range of other activities and tasks, we are playing our part in generating prosperity across a range of responsible resource industries.

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BUG news

Well the bushfires have certainly brought out the anger in the silent majority. It's been a long time since BUG has been able to sit back and read and listen to the responses from the Green movement and the Department of Sustainability and Environment desperately trying to defend their narrow minded, destructive practices.

As BUG President, I have addressed two meetings in the last month. The first one was the Barmah Forest cattlemen's "Save our Forest" rally at their annual muster on the 27th April. Speakers included Bill Baxter MLC for North Eastern Province and Sharman Stone Federal Member for Murray. The second meeting was on Thursday 15th May where a full house at Mathoura was addressed by Kersten Gentle - State Manager for Timber Communities Aust, Peter Cochran - TCA State Manager NSW, Mike Thompson - State Forests NSW and Shaun Lawlor - DSE Vic.

BUG has been continually warning people that the appetite of the Government to lock up more public land has no limits. One of

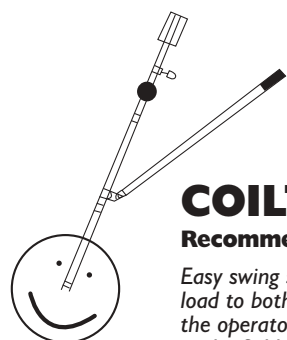
their promises at the last election was to instruct the Victorian Environment Assessment Council to investigate the creation of a chain of parks on public land along the Murray from Yarrawonga to Swan Hill, similar to the box ironbark investigation. Another promise was to create a new national park in the Otway/Angahook/Lorne region.

It's refreshing to see so many people in those areas prepared to fight this disease and with BUG's involvement the Government are in for one hell of a fight.

In closing I would like to bring to PMAV members attention four of the hardest workers in the BUG organisation. Your very own well respected president and my vice president Rita Bentley, Tracee Spiby our Treasurer and TCA member, Win Morgan President BUG Indigo and Kathy Beattie from Broken Boosey Land Holders. Without the hardwork and dedication of these women BUG would not be held in such high esteem as it is today.

Robin Taylor, BUG President

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Mulhausers Lost Battery

As a prospector and mining history buff, I can safely say that along with a large amount of destruction and heartache, the bushfires which swept through the mountain region of North Eastern Victoria have also provided us with a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore the mountain goldfields relatively unhindered by acres of impenetrable undergrowth.

Almost before we had rid ourselves of the smell of smoke I had started to receive reports of mine workings and relics that had been uncovered, from people who had been touring the fire ravaged areas. I was amazed to learn how much the undergrowth had been hiding and surprised to see what I must have almost fallen down during previous prospecting trips.

One such report I received from a 4wd enthusiast was of some machinery lying beside a track in an area that I thought I knew well. I had assumed that the machinery in question would be located at the end of a secondary track that exits from Dunstan's Logging Road where it crosses Mt Wills Ck. This track leads to an old miners hut that had been used in the 1970s when a nearby mine was last in operation. My assumption proved incorrect and it appears that the battery site described

below was a completely different operation to the one near the miner's hut.

250 metres along the secondary track from the turn off from the main logging road and only a stone's throw off the track, lying on its side, was a small 4 head stamp mill. On closer inspection we discovered that the battery itself was quite complete although the wooden rod guides were severely charred. As we wandered around the immediate area we realised that we had stumbled across a battery site that had all its major components still on site and had been there since the 1930s. At the foot of the mortar box were the remains of the plate tables complete with mercury wells. On the south side of the site is a trench about 8 feet deep with the spoke hubs and drive shaft of an overshot waterwheel, along with idler shaft and pulleys that would have provided motive power for the battery. At the lower end of the site was a pile of battery sands with an upturned mine cart that was probably used to load the cyanide vats located a short distance away. Next to the vats was a hand operated reciprocating pump that would have been used to pump the cyanide solution up into them. As well as these major items there are numerous pipes and fittings, bottles etc. At the time of our first visit the site appeared to have been

left virtually as it was last used, apart from the ravages of fire. Due to the site's location and proximity to vehicle access we felt that it would be a prime target for scavengers if something was not done.

At our next branch meeting I raised the idea of retrieving the battery and drive shafts etc, and after refurbishing them, place them on display in a secure area for the public to see. The members agreed enthusiastically. The first step was to gain permission from the land managers to remove the battery plant. Space doesn't permit the full story of the many phone calls and e-mails that went into this process, suffice to say that the Yackandandah branch was finally given permission to remove the battery only, and after repair place it in a small mining heritage park in the Mitta Mitta township along with other mining relics from the area.

On the day the battery was lifted from its resting-place of the past 70-odd years, a hot dog vendor would not have been out of place, such was the number of interested parties.

Local earthmoving contractor Mike Fitzgerald donated his time and expertise as well as incurring considerable personal expense in floating his excavator the 50 kms to the site to lift the battery onto a trailer. Local DSE officer Ernie Cole was on hand to supervise the operation as well as John Yea, the grandson of William Mulhauser the battery's last owner, photographers, a reporter from the local paper and other onlookers.

On a sour note. By the time the Battery was removed most of the smaller equipment that was present at our first visit had gone missing as well as the front door from the battery's mortar box and the brass makers name plate. This will make the job of restoration just that much harder.

In the next Echo I hope to be able to present a summary of the mining career of William Mulhauser the battery's last owner, the mines he worked, his lifestyle and that of his family.

Jeff Kennett



*Mike Fitzgerald, earth-moving contractor moving the battery for restoration by the PMAV.
Mike very kindly donated his services for the move.*

Gold Expo

Easter saw over two thousand prospectors from around Australia converge on the central goldfields town of Maryborough for the Gold Expo. The event was organised by Coiltek – many thanks to Jim Foster and John Gladdis for hosting the event. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the Central Goldfields Shire who wholeheartedly supported the event.

Most detector outlets were represented, other participants included gold buyers, camping equipment retailers, map and book sellers and gem and jewellery dealers.

The PMAV had one of the larger displays with an assorted display of gold, relics and publications inside the venue and gold panning outdoors. David Hasler, Stan Andrews and Eric Gray did a great job on the panning while Clyde Leatham and Paul Thompson put the hard work into setting up the indoor displays.

Special acknowledgement must go to Clyde who spent many weeks organising the display and the two full days manning the stand. There was a great team of workers including Marj & Tom Tully, Pat Wyatt, Rob Bormann, Steve & Jenny Dingwall – who incidentally won two coils as door prizes- Geoff Mostyn, Eric Grummett, Allan Rossiter and many others including our President Rita Bentley and Vice-President David Barclay who both spent considerable time selling our message.

Acknowledgment must also go to Rob Brouwers from Parks Victoria who bravely faced many concerned prospectors during the Expo. Departmental representation at these events is vital for an improved relationship, unfortunately there was no display from the Minerals Division.

The one disappointment for the weekend was the small number of new members that we signed up. Despite the fact that many

\$5000 plus metal detectors were sold only a few decided it was worthwhile supporting the organisation that works to retain their access rights. Perhaps all those detectors were sold to existing PMAV members. If you know of a prospector or small miner who is not a PMAV member remind them that we are all that stands between prospecting and prohibition! After all, full membership of the PMAV is only 11 cents a day – can they afford not to belong?



Howard Short, Tom Tully, David Bentley & Jeff Douglas discussing PMAV issues

Gold Expo 2003 – Clyde's Thankyou

Colour, sounds, crowds, things that went right and things that went wrong, but overall another great Expo under our belts, and we will do it better next time.

Many thanks to Coiltek's Jim Foster and John Gladdis for hosting and organising the event, also to the various community groups involved. Again to Minelab, Miners Den, Coiltek, Likely Prospects, and other traders, thank you for the generous donations of substantial prizes that you made available.

To Geoff Strang, Paul Thomson, Tony Mills and Melbourne Branch members who put together and transported the display boards etc. Thank you.

Tony, your extra involvement providing some of the needs for the Amherst camp and get-together was much appreciated, but we didn't expect you to supply firewood by cutting down your own tree. By the time we got to burning the stump it had taken root so we will burn it next year. This Expo had everything including atmosphere created by Cliff and Betty Berry, with Tom Stewart M.C. providing enjoyable entertainment. Pleasing also was the high standard of trader exhibits contributing overall.

Without apology for obvious bias, equal first prize winners were the outdoor mining equipment and panning exhibit run by David, Stan, Ken and Eric, and the principal gold indoor exhibit attended by Margaret, Tom, David, Jenny, Steve, Rita, David, Pat, Lindsay, Allan, Keith, Paul, Ian, Bob, Joan, Don, Geoff, Rob, Eric, Laurie, Rob, John and myself - all PMAV Members. A really great effort. Last but not least Gippsland Branch supplied and built two swank showcases for the event, one honouring Fred Ward, the other honouring Rob Bormann.

In conjunction with the Expo, the PMAV invited members and visitors to join in a camp at Amherst. Unfortunately some member branches and clubs were pre-committed at Vaughan and Havelock and were therefore unable to attend. Many thanks to Rob Brouwers of Parks Vic., for his time fielding questions about newly formed Parks and Reserves, also for providing a Furphy of water for our use.

In future the PMAV, its members, associated clubs and the prospecting fraternity at large, should join together in all our prospecting areas with a clear message that we are here to stay.

Clyde Leatham, Committee Member.

AGM—26th October, 2003

The PMAV's 2003 Annual General Meeting will be held on the weekend of 25th- 26th October at Rawson Village, near Walhalla. Only 2 hours or 173km from the GPO.

This year we are planning a whole weekend with various activities including a dinner at the Village on Saturday night. The actual AGM will occur on Sunday afternoon.

The Gippsland branches have big plans for the weekend to make you feel welcome – see their invitation elsewhere in this Echo.

We hope a lot of members will participate in Saturday night's dinner – at only \$25 per head for 2 courses, this should be within reach of most members.

Bookings for the dinner should be made through the PMAV –please send your full payment together with the names of attendees to GPO Box 1706P, Melbourne Vic 3001.

Accommodation is available at the Village with lodge accommodation for \$20 per person per night through to motel accommodation, which includes a full cooked breakfast, at \$91 per double. Accommodation bookings should be made direct with Rawson Village on 51653200.

We are still organising guest speakers but I must admit keeping up with the last few years is difficult. How do you equal the excellence of Wilson Tuckey and Ian Plimer? We also have been honoured with the attendance of Candy Broad, Peter Hall, Philip Davis and Peter Ryan.

It is important that members attend the AGM, this year's format will allow much more input from members so we hope to see you all there, the venue is big enough!

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Echo Editor Required

Wanted - new editor for the Eureka Echo. Unfortunately, after three wonderful editions, Allan Kenshole has advised that work commitments mean that he can no longer be the editor of the Eureka Echo. A huge thankyou to Allan for a job well done.

Rita Bentley produced this Echo on a once only basis, but we need a more permanent solution.

Anyone with aspirations to co-ordinate the production of what has become a respected and sought after magazine should contact Rita on 0408 328 640 as soon as possible. Full training available, plus lots of ongoing assistance.

Small Miners Meeting

From Page 1

On Sunday, 29th June 2003 at the Maldon Hotel, High Street, Maldon commencing at 11am, small scale miners will have an opportunity to have a say in their future.

The PMAV is hosting a small-miners meeting to determine what we all need to do to ensure the future of our industry.

Guest Speakers will include James Buckingham, Native Title Lawyer from Marcus Love & Associates,

Rita Bentley PMAV President and Jeff Douglas PMAV Native Title Co-ordinator.

There are many issues affecting the future of small-scale mining in Victoria, native title is only one of them. Come to Maldon on 29th June to be part of determining the future of the small mining industry.

We must stand together to fight against the excesses of governments, native title claimants and the green movement.

This may be your last chance to resist the opposing forces – you are strongly urged to attend.

Please let Jeff Douglas on 0408 176 496 or email: jeffrey.douglas@optusnet.com.au know if you wish to attend.

The PMAV is dedicated to protecting your interests.

Jeff Douglas, native title co-ordinator and convenor small miners sub-committee working group.

Prospecting Guidelines

This document is now complete and can be seen at www.parkweb.vic.gov.au. Copies of the Guidelines will soon be issued with every Miners Right.

Prospecting in Box Ironbark Parks

There has been some confusion – both by Parks Vic officers and prospectors – regarding the laws relating to prospecting in the newly declared parks.

To clarify – all of the new parks are subject to the same regulations as existing parks, ie no dogs allowed, camping in designated areas only etc. The one difference is that prospecting is allowed in the new parks – it is not allowed in the areas where it was previously not allowed. This is complicated I know but I'll have another go, this time by example:

St Arnaud Ranges National Park – previously the Kara Kara State Park. When it was a state park there was a designated fossicking area within a largely 'no-go' park. This state of affairs remains the same, however the extended area of park is available for prospecting – as it was prior to the creation of the National Park.

This will remain the situation until the whole area is reviewed in the preparation of the Management Plan.

Clear as mud? I thought so.

A Timely Reminder

All holders of mining licences are warned that the Department will no longer notify them that their licences are about to expire.

The Department believes it is the licensee's responsibility to remember to lodge the renewal in time, without notice, even though it may have been 10 or 20 years since the licence was granted.

There have recently been several licences that have inadvertently expired due to a lapse in memory of miners who were probably too busy with all the other paperwork the Department requires. They have been forced to reapply and start the application process from scratch –including native title.

So be careful!

Lardner Park Field Days

The PMAV had a small stand in the Australian Deer Association site at Lardner Park in Gippsland again this year, March 20th-23rd, to promote prospecting, the PMAV and BUG and basically to show the public that we are not environmental vandals. A lot of interest was shown by a large number who have done a bit of fossicking but did not know we existed. Numbers may have been down a little due to the wet weather and prospective new members fewer than hoped but it was a very successful PR exercise.

The concept of BUG in this area was unanimously supported as all users of the bush feel they are being pushed out and restricted primarily for political reasons.

The kids had a ball playing in the water of the working sluice box, picking out the nuggets (painted rocks) and putting them in the donation pan or their pockets. The 4 day long haul manning the stand was made easier thanks to the helpers from East & West Gippsland branches, AMTRA (Australian Motor Trail Riders Association) and 4x4 clubs. Thanks guys, it was the start of us all coming together and pulling on the same rope. Also many thanks to the ADA for making us welcome and catering for our inner needs.

Rob Bormann

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THE EUREKA ECHO—June 2003

PMAV 23rd AGM Rawson Village —Gippsland 26 October 2003

This year's A.G.M. at Rawson is the subject of considerable planning by the Gippsland Branches. Apart from accommodation and restaurant facilities, Rawson Village also provides areas for van or tent camping. The branches are organising bush camping at Walhalla and / or Cooper's Creek. For those who have not visited or prospected in the area and are able to stay on for a while, prospecting opportunities abound and will be guided by tall good looking 'no stills in the hills' men and women who know the area backwards.

Walhalla offers considerable attractions with its well-preserved history, a good pub and accommodation and tour inspections of the famous Long Tunnel Mine. Its reconstructed Goldfields Railway is able to transport you to the Thomson River. Other places you should not miss are Cooper's Creek Copper Mine, the Horseshoe Bend Tunnel and the Thomson River Dam which is just up the road.

Minelab Electronics have again generously donated their latest G.P.3000 metal detector for Association fund raising purposes. The winner of this fabulous prize will be announced at the A.G.M. Come along and support the Association that supports you, so enjoy the occasion and please have some input.

Clyde Leatham, on behalf of the Gippsland Branches

Eureka 150 Countdown —the Legend Lives On

Only 18 months to go until the 3rd December 2004 when all prospectors and any remaining miners will get together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Eureka uprising.

For those interested in getting involved phone Clyde Leatham to register your interest on: 0359712877 or email: pmavmail@yahoo.com

THE EUREKA ECHO—June 2003

Gems and Gold

Gippsland Heritage Park in Moe hosted its 2nd Annual Gems & Gold Show in April following last year's most successful weekend. A variety of displays by local clubs as well as dealers in lapidary and gems had something for everyone. There were gold, gemstones, opal, mineral specimens, shells, bells, bottles, old tools and wares, coins, stamps, etc. Also gold tour info, silversmithing, gem cutting, gold panning and gem sieving which really attracted the kids, little and big. The weather was perfect on Saturday attracting a good crowd but the rain on Sunday dampened things a little. On Saturday evening the park put on a BBQ and refreshments for the exhibitors, a chance to catch up with old friends and a few of us camped on site. A breakfast of bacon and egg sandwiches and coffee was prepared by the park manager and the volunteer park chef. Heritage Park is in top condition thanks to the untiring efforts of the 20-odd volunteers, and is well worth seeing on its own but it makes a perfect backdrop for such a show as this. Note it in your diary and see you there next year. If you have something to display, demonstrate or sell and would like to be included contact the Park or Rob Bormann.

Protecting our Heritage

One evening I received a phone call from a member in the far east of the state who had seen an important piece of mining equipment flattened by earthmoving contractors during the Department's 'rehabilitation' of fire ravaged areas.

The Pioneer Battery Steam Engine near Tubbut that was on the Victorian Heritage Register had been knocked over and was in the process of being buried.

Thankfully our quick thinking member rang the PMAV and we swung into action. We contacted a departmental heritage expert at 7pm and later that evening we were pleased to receive a phone call saying all work would cease and a full investigation of why this was allowed to happen would occur.

Thanks to John Wilkshire and the PMAV an important piece of mining heritage will survive.

Rita Bentley

Bushfire Inquiries

The PMAV has made submissions to both the Federal and State Government Inquiries into the horrific summer bushfires. The basis of our submissions was the future safety of our members, the concern for the impact on mining heritage and the general concern for biodiversity that has been put at significant risk by the ideologically based management of public land over recent years. Why lock us out and yet not be concerned about the whole lot burning to the ground?

The submission to the State Inquiry is largely a waste of time – the State Government is continuing to bury its head in the sand on this issue. We hope that the Federal Government Inquiry with its wider terms of reference will make a difference.

Simply – something must change. How can 1.3 million hectares of Victoria going up in smoke be ignored? The question of how much the green ideology-based management of Victoria's parks has contributed to the extent and intensity of the fires must be answered.

Useful Phone Numbers

The inquiry line for the Department of Primary Industries (Mines Department) and Department of Sustainability and Environment (Forestry) is 136186.

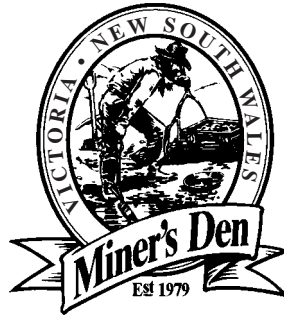
The inquiry line for Parks Victoria is 131963.

Both numbers are local calls from anywhere in Victoria – except from mobile phones.

Shame File - No New Mining Licences

For the period January to March 2003 there were no new mining licences granted in Victoria. In this period there was only one application, this was a licence which had expired when the licensee had overlooked its looming expiry so in fact there were no new applications or grants of mining licences for the three months.

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The PMAV is the only group representing the interests of smaller scale operators to prospect, fossick and mine in the state of Victoria. Hobbyist or professional, we are fighting for your right to survive. Join the Association and help in the fight. For further information write to the PMAV Inc, GPO Box 1706P, Melbourne 3001. Tel. 0408 176 496.

Membership fees for 2003/04 are:	Individual & or Family	\$ 42.00
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To join the Association please complete the form below and forward it with your payment to; The Hon. Treasurer, PMAV Inc., GPO Box 1706P, MELBOURNE, VIC., 3001.

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Nominated Family Members:

.....

Enclosed please find Cheque/ Money Order for \$_____ being membership fees for 2003/04.

Enclosed please find Cheque/ Money Order for \$_____ being donation for fighting fund.

Name & address of friend who may be interested in membership

First Name Address
 Surname Town or City
 Telephone No Postcode

Signed Date: / /