MESSAGE: EUREKA 150

I am delighted to have the opportunity to provide a message for this special edition of The Eureka Echo, the official journal of the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria, for the 150th anniversary of the Eureka rebellion.

While the focus of the Eureka 150 events will be in Victoria and more specifically in Ballarat, there will be a range of activities involving Australians all around the country.

As we reflect on our nation’s heritage, we should also celebrate the traditions and values that identify us as Australians such as optimism; tolerance; perseverance and mateship; the importance of family and a fair go and our willingness to volunteer and to pull together in times of hardship and adversity. We are also renowned for our good sense, good will and hard work; and our sense of humour. Most of these qualities can readily be found in the story of the Eureka stockade.

The events at Eureka 150 years ago played a part in the development of Australia. As a pioneer of democracy amongst free nations, Australia is one of the few countries to have been continuously democratic throughout the course of the twentieth century.

This anniversary is an opportunity for the Australian community to learn more about this historical event. It is important that Australians are aware of and understand our nation’s past so that we are better equipped to determine our future.

(John Howard)

“We swear by the Southern Cross to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties”.

In this Issue

Eureka articles by:
Professor Geoffrey Blainey,
Victorian Resources Minister
Theo Theophanous,
National Party Resources
Spokesman Hon Peter Hall MP
Mike Nahan from the
Institute of Public Affairs
NQMA President
Ralph De Lacey
Herald-Sun Columnist
Andrew Bolt
APLA President Bob Sheppard
and lots more...
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Life membership of the PMAV is awarded only to those who have been extraordinarily dedicated to the Association’s work. During our 24 years, we have awarded just four life memberships. These were presented to: 
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Frank (Dick) Crimeen (dec.) 
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Kevin Hillier of Bendigo 
Rob Bormann of Darnham 
Geoff Strang of Mitcham (ineligible – current Committee Member) 

To join the PMAV, phone: 0408 176 496 or email: pmav@pmav.asn.au and ask for an application form.
Welcome to Eureka Echo 150

by Rita Bentley, Echo Editor and PMAV President

Welcome to this special edition of the Eureka Echo which has been prepared to mark the 150th anniversary of the Eureka Rebellion. True to its name, we hope you will find some Echoes from that significant day in 1854 throughout this edition.

Many of our regular contributors have supplied articles for this edition but we also have guest contributors who have written a few thoughts on the importance of Eureka from their perspective. We are proud to have contributions from Prime Minister John Howard, Professor Geoffrey Blainey, Hon. Theo Theophanous MP, Hon. Peter Hall MP, Peter Lalor, Andrew Bolt, Mike Nahan, Richard Laufmann and our colleagues Bob Sheppard (APLA) and Ralph De Lacey (NQMC). Special acknowledgment is due to all branch presidents who have put additional effort into their reports this time.

We have been fortunate to secure additional sponsorship for this Echo from the Minerals & Petroleum Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Grant Street Take Away, The Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, The Gold Team Mining Company, Sovereign Hill, Cordell & Kate Kent at the Mining Exchange Gold Shop, Likely Prospects, Australian Environmental Systems and The Ballarat Courier.

The best way to say thankyou to our sponsors is to give them some business, except for DPI who would probably just like you to say thankyou!

Special acknowledgement and gratitude to our raffle sponsors too – Minelab for their generous donation of a GP3000, Coiltek for the detector coils, Miners Den for the GPS and The Perth Mint for the Eureka Coin.

We have printed 4,500 copies of this issue - 600 have gone to APLA in Western Australia and 300 to NQMA in Queensland.

My thanks to all those who have contributed time, effort and money to ensure that this issue and our other Eureka 150 activities are a success.

This is a special time for all Australians but especially those of us who continue the tradition of prospecting and mining in Australia.

Remember ‘Eureka – The Legend Lives On’. It does so through us!

The Significance of Eureka

by Geoffrey Blainey

Next to Gallipoli, Eureka is probably the most debated military event in our history. Of course it happened six decades before Gallipoli. Curiously, the leader of the Eureka rebellion, Peter Lalor, lost a grandson at Gallipoli.

What happened? Ballarat in 1854 was one of the most populous goldfields the world had seen. A metropolis of tents and huts and shops and hotels and churches, it was pockmarked with mining holes and shafts, shallow and deep.

But the miners were hit by outdated regulations and taxes. Everybody had to buy an expensive licence, even if he earned no income. And the police who hunted for the unlicensed miners - they were not the salt of the earth.

In the end there were massive meetings of protest, the symbolic burning of mining licences, the designing of a revolutionary flag, angry talk of a republic, the collecting of guns and ammunition, and the building of a simple wooden fort or stockade. It was the only serious rebellion in our history.

The peaceful protests involved massive public support for the miners, but the final armed rebellion did not. The Victorian government had no option but to storm the stockade; every government in Europe would have done likewise. Soldiers and police made a surprise attack at dawn one Sunday morning. The death toll was 30 miners and five soldiers.

What lessons should we draw?

Firstly, the gold miners were demanding a ‘fair go’. This powerful democratic movement aired genuine grievances. The government did not listen attentively enough, did not act quickly enough.

Secondly, we are one of the oldest continuous democracies in the world. Democracy means government by debate, government by discussion. The months of protests by miners strengthened that tradition. But the building of the stockade and the one morning of battle defied that tradition.

We should celebrate Eureka and its democratic protests as a landmark event in Australian history. But we should not go too far in celebrating the battle itself, exciting and tragic as it was. To me the main lesson of Eureka is that argument, debate and compromise are more effective than an appeal to arms.
by Mike Nahan, Executive Director, Institute of Public Affairs

Environmental fundamentalism is one of the greatest challenges of our time. It is not only threatening our rights to use, enjoy and protect the environment, but also our very way of life.

Like all fundamentalists, those of the green variety view the world within a narrow prism of beliefs which are rigidly held, impervious to debate and prone to believing that the end justifies the means.

They see man and commerce, not as the guardians of the environment but as destroyers. Their solution is to lock an ever-growing proportion of the environment away from the grasps of man and commerce. Despite being at odds with the broader interests of society, the environmental fundamentalists have gained significant influence and are doing great damage.

To a large extent, the fault lies with us - society at large. We have allowed them to define the problem and the solution. We have allowed them to do so using junk science and spin. We have allowed them to frighten us with horror stories; silence the business sector with threats of 'brand-mail' and lure politicians with promises of votes.

We have allowed the fundamentalist into the decision-making tent to represent the environment.

As a result, our rights, our communities, the environment and system of governance are under threat.

The time has come to stand-up and to reclaim the environment from fundamentalists.

As part of this task, the Institute of Public Affairs together with a large number of community groups has organized the Inaugural Eureka Forum [www.eurekaforum.org.au] to be held on 3rd and 4th of December, 2004 in Ballarat.

The purpose of the Forum is to build an alternative voice from within civil society. A voice which: appreciates the need for human interaction with the environment; which is driven by evidence-based science and rational debate, which represents the values of the people directly involved in using the environment.

The Forum will bring together people and groups from across the country and across a range of interests including farmers, foresters, fishermen, prospectors, 4WD enthusiasts, bee keepers, bush walkers etc.

www.ipa.org.au

The PMAV is participating in the IPA's Eureka Forum and will keep members informed of developments.

by Ralph De Lacey

Author of the 'Small Miner and Native Title', President of the North Queensland Miners Association and President of the newly formed Queensland Small Miners Council.

I am often amazed at how modern Australians seem to play down or conveniently forget the importance that the Eureka Rebellion played in forging our modern democratic society.

If asked, most modern city-dwelling Australians will tell you that the rebellion had something to do with a gold tax.

Yet wherever you venture in rural Australia you will see the tattered remnants of the 'Australian Southern Cross' fluttering from a pole beside a lonely shack way out in the bush. The further out you go, the more often it is seen.

To a foreigner it must seem that bush people are the only ones who have not forgotten the importance of Eureka.

If that same foreigner was to have a quick glance at Australian history they would find the true significance of the flag and that the rebellion was much deeper than just about a gold tax.

It was about democracy and free enterprise, the rights of free men to make their own decisions without being stifled by government intervention.

In today's fast moving society it seems that rural people are the only ones forgotten by government legislation designed by and for the city dwelling majority.

Eureka

Bush people fly the rebel flag as a statement of their objection. This subtle statement cuts to the very core of our society and is what makes Australia so great. All Australians, regardless of where they live, subscribe to the ideal that every Australian has the right to 'have a go.'

Although the Eureka stockade was quickly defeated by a superior number of troopers, the rebellion was a tremendous political victory. The right to free enterprise was recognised and many legislative changes were made so as to allow what all Australians now take for granted.

Since that day whenever officialdom has tried to stifle our right to 'have a go' we quickly reach for the blue banner emblazoned with the Southern Cross to make the same statement that was made on 3rd December 1854.

The most enlightening thing to see today is that in modern Australia with all its high pressure and the fast moving computer generation, should you dare to scratch beneath the surface and try to impinge on their rights, the modern generation will rapidly rally to the same ideal that was exposed in 1854, and so aptly captured by the lines from the Henry Lawson ballad 'Eureka'.

But not in vain those diggers died. Their comrades may rejoice For over the voice of tyranny is heard the peoples voice; It says: 'Reform your rotten law, the diggers' wrongs make right. Or else with them, our brothers now, we'll gather to the fight.'

THE EUREKA ECHO—December 2004
The first days – early 1850’s

150 years ago the Governor of Victoria, Sir Charles Hotham, administered the goldfields of Victoria. At that time there was no ‘Minister for Resources’. Needless to say, Sir Charles and the miners did not see eye to eye.

Even in those times, the Crown owned all the gold and a person was required to have a Gold Licence before they were allowed to mine and keep the gold. A Licence cost 30 shillings for three months. In today’s money, that is roughly equivalent to half a week’s wages. At one point the Governor proposed to change the fee to 3 pounds per year, while the miners wanted it reduced to 20 shillings.

This was a lot of money, especially for people who did not have much money and may not even discover any gold.

One of the conditions on the licence was: It is enjoined that all persons on the Gold Fields maintain due and proper observance of Sundays.

Another was that the licence area was just 12 feet square (around 13 square metres).

The police troopers that enforced the payment of fees were paid a bounty of half of the 5 pound fine for diggers caught without a licence. The fine for a second offence was 15 pounds and 30 pounds for a third. Governor Hotham ordered licence hunts twice a week.

At Forest Creek in 1853, Chief Commissioner Rede – perhaps equivalent to the current Chief Inspector of Mines – ordered the arrest of a digger who had ridden past on horseback without doffing his hat to the Commissioner as he sat reading a newspaper under a tree.

Miners were also unable to vote.

Eureka! 1854

In the days that led up to the Eureka Rebellion, licence raids became increasingly violent. Troops were pelted with rocks or beaten, and shots were fired.

The battle at the Eureka Stockade on 3 December 1854 itself lasted perhaps 20 minutes. Both Government troops and miners died. Peter Lalor, leader of the miners at the stockade, had his left arm amputated as the result of a bullet wound. He was arrested soon afterwards.

After Eureka: a better state of affairs.

A review by a committee of the toxic state of relations between Government and the industry was already under way a month before Eureka. Eureka only reinforced the views of the committee that the Government’s enthusiasm for such harsh application of the law should change. Chief Commissioner Rede and many others were replaced. The violence subsided quickly and Licence hunts ended.

Peter Lalor and other arrested stockaders were tried but all escaped conviction. The Gold Licence was abolished and replaced by the Miner’s Right. The Miner’s Right came into force in June 1855 and cost just 10 shillings for a whole year. Not only did it allow a miner to dig for gold, but he could also hold a plot of land for a house and garden. He was also able to vote.

The effects of Eureka today and into the future

There is no doubt that relations between miners and Government have improved. Our mechanisms to resolve issues require less bloodshed! I understand our Mines Inspectors aren’t being stoned any more and I meet regularly with Rita Bentley and other industry representatives to discuss and resolve problems.

Compared to the days of the Eureka Stockade, Government responsibilities in regard to the health and safety on mines sites – your safety – is a world apart. Our concern with environmental matters has also changed significantly and we also recognise the potential impacts on nearby neighbours and the community in general.

This is a challenge for miners and Government alike, and luckily this task is easier than resorting to stockades and bayonets at Parliament House because of the good communications I have with the PMAV.

The miners’ needs are different now, but ‘demands’ are still being made on their behalf by the PMAV and Minerals Council of Australia. I have asked the Department of Primary Industries to review the latest list of demands from the PMAV.

I would like to congratulate the PMAV on maintaining the spirit of Eureka and continuing its staunch advocacy on behalf of the miners and prospectors of Victoria. We may still not see eye to eye on every issue, but I am prepared to listen to the voice of the miners and discuss their concerns.

Our Time Capsule

We have completed our time capsule and it is ready to hand over to The Eureka Centre in Ballarat for 50 years of safekeeping.

We will do this in the evening of 4th December after the AGM.

The wording on the time capsule is as follows:

Eureka 150, Prospecting – Our Heritage & Our Future

This time capsule was placed at The Eureka Centre on 4th December 2004 by the Prospectors & Miners Association of Victoria to provide a snapshot of our time. It is to be opened on 3rd December 2054 by those continuing the tradition of prospecting and mining.

Full report in the March ’05 Echo.
A Tasmanian Eureka?

by Bob Richardson, President of the Bush Users Group

It is fitting that just a few weeks before the anniversary of Eureka those who support untrammeled extension of national parks received a major setback in the federal election.

The loss of two Tasmanian Labor seats following Mark Latham's old-growth forest lock up announcement was the first time in decades that the ALP has done a deal for Greens preferences that has not paid off.

Tasmanian communities, industry, workers and unions rose up and mounted a spectacular demonstration and public meeting which cheered John Howard and his policy of working with the Tasmanian Government and keeping jobs.

Importantly the action translated into votes at the ballot box – the language politicians understand. People who were previously reluctant to take a political stand decided enough was enough. They didn't want to go back to the bad old days of constant federal political interference in Tasmania's affairs.

Like Eureka, it may represent a turning point. It may go down in history as the time when the Greens decline began.

We all have to work to make this so. The next Victorian election is the time to show our strength!
by Bob Sheppard, President, Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association of Western Australia

In Australia we have a right to vote, a right to follow whatever religion we like and various other rights defined by law. Our indigenous partners have Native Title Rights. Prospectors and miners have Miners Rights. It is the right of every Australian to be able to participate in the search for and development of this country’s mineral resources. It was the deterioration of these rights that led to the battle at the Eureka Stockade in which prospectors and miners and the guardians of law and order lost their lives. The Eureka Stockade has become a symbol of defiance against any authority that steps over the mark and encroaches unjustly upon our rights.

Fortunately, the spirit of Eureka is still strong. Organisations such as the PMAV, the NQMA and APLA are still fighting for prospectors’ rights. It’s not an easy fight. The almost overwhelming lust for power by out-of-touch public servants, the financial clout of multi-national companies and investors, the misguided efforts of the green movement and policies of social engineering by state and federal governments are all destined to erode the power of the Miners Right and to make the life of prospectors and miners more difficult.

It is the responsibility of every prospector and miner to remain vigilant and help those organisations that are there to help you. There is a responsibility too, for all prospectors to act as ambassadors for the industry. In Western Australia each year we see more and more prospectors from the other states visit our goldfields and you are all welcome. However, the influx of prospectors who lack knowledge of our Mining Act is causing problems with pastoralists and tenement holders. This is likely to lead to a deterioration of the Miners Right in Western Australia.

APLA is doing all it can to maintain our Miners Rights as they are so we all can have continuing access to our mineral fields, but we need everyone’s help. What happens in the West will have huge ramifications for all Australian prospectors.

This year is APLA’s 100th anniversary. Since 1904 we have been honouring our constitutional mandate to “protect and further the interests of prospectors.” While we are celebrating our own milestone we will be remembering the efforts of the prospectors and miners who joined together to help one another at Eureka. Some paid the ultimate price. Let us honour their efforts by ensuring that we all cooperate and look after one another in the years to come. It is that cooperation that defines the spirit of Eureka.

The PMAV sends sincere congratulations, admiration and appreciation to all at APLA for their perseverance and hard work over the past 100 years!
by Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun Columnist

This article appeared in the Herald Sun, but has been edited by Andrew for inclusion in this Echo.

I’m not surprised most critics are urging on Eureka!, a musical about the bloody rebellion of Ballarat miners in 1854.

‘Vibrant,’ said the Herald Sun. The Age, shrilly Leftist, of course clapped loudest, calling Eureka! ‘rousing contemporary entertainment’.

But from where I sat, crying over the cash my wife had flushed down the mineshaft, what made this entertainment so unrousing was the most contemporary thing about it -- its endorsement of the Left-wing prejudices that so mar the arts in Australia.

First, a history lesson.

By 1854, the gold rush had dragged in more than 100,000 miners, who needed services the Colonial Government could barely afford. So the Government made the miners pay for a licence, but who likes paying taxes?

The miners liked even less having police stop them to check for those licences. And when a rich publican killed a drunk miner, only to be acquitted by a dodgy magistrate, a riot turned into a mini-rebellion, which ended only when soldiers stormed the miners’ fort, killing 30 of them and losing four of their own.

For a while, it seemed rioters might go wild in Melbourne and Geelong, too, but Victoria survived under the British rule of law and art of compromise. The licences were scrapped and gold exports were taxed instead.

The place boomed, and many people became rich. The leader of the Ballarat rebels, Peter Lalor, was even elected to the Legislative Council and became Speaker, proving the British had built a society in which any man -- or, later, woman -- could rise high through brains and work.

Count how few countries back then could offer such freedom. That’s something for which to thank the British, but don’t tell that to the creators of Eureka!.

Every one of their half a dozen British characters is evil, weak, a fool or a crook. The Governor is a heartless snob, his wife is a drunken snob and the Police Commissioner is a vicious snob. Even Lalor’s girlfriend is fickle, and the police, of course, are foul.

The Irish are the true heroes and learn even to be kind to the Chinese. They sing, with foreign friends, Strength in Unity, an anthem to the collectivism that still makes Labor hard to vote for. And they angrily condemn British ‘oppression’.

So does Kardinia, an Aboriginal earth mother who regularly wanders in simply to give New Age sermons about the genocidal British invaders, their violation of sacred land, and their silly Christianity.

In fact, it seems from this show that the British didn’t even give us democracy. No, that was created in the Eureka riot. As the show’s poster says of the rebels, ‘They came for gold and created our nation’.

Some people will love this image of our past -- nasty British wiping out blacks and oppressing brave Irish workers, who take up arms against tyranny and build a nation.

But it is a wrong and racist reading that denies the credit for building our great nation to those who did most.

by the Hon Peter Hall MP
The Victorian Nationals spokesman
for Resources and the Environment

The Australian way of life is to support the underdog. It is feasible to say that this commitment was first expressed in a major event on December 3rd, 1854, which is why the name Eureka has registered as an important historic milestone for generations since.

That was the day where our pioneering forefathers fought the proud fight against economic and political injustice. Perhaps almost unwittingly, they sowed the seeds of democratic freedom.

The result of the Eureka battle was in some senses immaterial. What was important was that the underdog stood up for its rights and showed future Australians the need to fight for what we believe in. That lesson has been heeded in numerous events on the world stage since and I believe today we stand proud and proved as a nation.

It is also true that the gold seekers of the 1850’s provided the basis of the strong economy we enjoy today. That is why it is disappointing that the State Government of today has not heeded the lessons of history in its decision making.

It seems the fervour of Government to ‘lock away’ increasingly greater areas of public land is again challenging land users, including prospectors and miners.

The failure to acknowledge users as an important land management resource ignores the reality that Government by itself does not have the resources to manage public lands.

I join with you all in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Eureka and, in today’s climate, I urge the current generation of gold seekers to display the same tenacity, courage and fight as those of the past.

The efforts of our forefathers will long be remembered and admired and we need only look at their efforts to know what is required today.

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The Legend Lives On—Those Fighting the Battle on

PMAV Committee and State Executives

These people are the mainstay of the Association. It is thanks to their dedication to protecting the future of prospecting and mining in Victoria that these activities continue for future generations to enjoy.

The State Management Committee believes it is an honour to represent this generation of prospectors and miners and are proud of all that we have achieved in the past 24 years.

Our appreciation to those who have gone before and our best wishes to those still to come.

Amalgamated Prospectors & Leaseholders Association of Western Australia

APLA President—Bob Sheppard

APLA long-term Secretary – Lindsay Stockdale

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Branch Executives 2004

PMAV State Committee

From left: Don Brereton, Eric Grummett, Geoff Strang (Treasurer), Tom Calvert, Rita Bentley (President), Jeff Douglas (Vice-President), Allan Rositer (Secretary), Paul Wilks and Bruce Brown.

Absent Rex Motton.

Branch Presidents

From Left: Tony Mills (Central Vic.), Andrew Overton (Grampians), Steve Dingwall (East Gippsland), Rob Bormann (Rep. West Gippsland), Keith Roberts (South West).

Absent: Jeff Kennett (North East), Geoff Strang (Melbourne), Colin Johnson (West Gippsland)

Eureka 1854-2004

Representing Prospectors
Since 1904

Image courtesy of Ballarat Fine Art Gallery
Eureka Like You Have Never Seen It Before

Eureka Revisited: the Contest of Memories is an exhibition brought together by the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery and on show in Ballarat from November 29 until February 13, 2005. With the original flag of the Southern Cross as its centrepiece, this exhibition will re-tell the story of the events of 1854/5 using original works of art and memorabilia. It will then go on to examine the way the Eureka story and its starry symbol have taken on the status of legends. They have been exalted, vilified, used and abused over 150 years. This exhibition traces the development of one of Australia’s great cultural icons.

Thanks to the generosity of the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, PMAV members are able to visit the exhibition at the concession rate of $2.50 – just show your current membership card at the front desk.

The modern ‘The Ballarat Couriers’ links with Australia’s goldrush heritage are many and various.

Robert Clark, the paper’s founder, arrived in Melbourne early in 1855 to find the colony all agog about the events at Ballarat little more than a month before.

After a brief stint at ‘The Argus’, the Melbourne paper at first for and then against the miners’ cause, he went to the diggings and subsequently found employment at ‘The Ballarat Times’ under Henry Seekamp, the newspaper editor jailed for his part in the Eureka affair, just days before that worthy was horsewhipped by Lola Montez in February, 1857.

Clark went on to work for ‘The Star’, the Ballarat paper established shortly after Eureka in 1855 before establishing ‘The Back Creek Register’ at Talbot in 1859 and ‘The Ballarat Courier’, in partnership with Edward Bateman, on June 10, 1867.

‘The Ballarat Courier’ bought ‘The Star’ in 1924 – a fact acknowledged on the masthead for many years.

This convergence of two great publishing traditions makes today’s ‘The Courier’ one of Ballarat’s oldest institutions – either public or private.

It has, through the eyes of Robert Clark, his first local employer Henry Seekamp, and the staff of both ‘The Ballarat Courier’ and ‘The Star’, been an active witness to events dating back to before Eureka.

An active participant in history as well as a recorder of it, ‘The Courier’, its management and staff take an active pride in a remarkable newspaper heritage virtually unequalled in regional Australia.

The paper has chosen to celebrate these connections, and a dramatic moment in the history of Ballarat and Australia, with ‘Eureka: 150’, a special publication intended to capture the spirit of those heady times for future generations.

Victoria’s Gold Production—then and now

Graph courtesy of Department of Primary Industries
by Peter Lalor

Peter is a direct descendant of Peter Lalor who led the miners at Eureka in 1854.

Much has been written about the 1854 uprising by the diggers at Ballarat against the Victorian Government and its subsequent effect, legacy and status in the history of Australia.

Known as the Eureka Stockade, the underlying causes were probably democracy against authority and class structures.

Specific issues since debated include the introduction of basic democratic rights and principles, respect for rather than fear of the law, multi-culturalism, republicanism and, simply, an ongoing re-enactment of Irish rebellion whether it be in Ireland itself or in Australia.

However, it is worth briefly and specifically reflecting on the legislative changes which occurred post Eureka and the effect they had on the administration of the mining industry in Australia.

At a Local Government level, the first Local Courts and Mining Board was formed in 1855 and nine of the Eureka diggers were elected to serve including Carboni. These Courts were the first fruits of the reform movement. They were presided over by Wardens of the Goldfields and the members and electors were men holding mining licences. The major error in the formation of these Courts was that their decisions were not appealable.

In 1857, the Mining Board and Courts of Mines were created which dealt primarily with legislation functions. The Local Courts were abolished and replaced by Wardens Courts which dealt with mining disputes with appeals lying to the Courts of Mines.

Subsequently, objections were raised to the number of Mining Boards and for the necessity for one uniform code of mining law for the whole colony.

Eventually, in 1865, a new court called the Court of Chief Judge of Courts and Mines to be presided over by a judge of the Supreme Court was formed. The statute paved the way for a uniform code overseen by a Court of the highest rank in the colony.

So, in a decade following the uprising, the legal principles and the administration of mining titles in the colony progressed greatly to a more democratic, judicial and transparent system.

This, arguably, was the foundation for the future judicial and administrative system applied in all States for one of Australia’s great historical industries.
Sovereign Hill and Eureka

by Roger Trudgeon, Gold Museum Curator

Gold and Eureka are the two central themes that underpin the concept of Sovereign Hill and the way it is promoted.

Sovereign Hill grew out of a realisation in the 1960’s that the early gold era in Ballarat was a remarkable phase of Australia’s past that could be effectively presented as “living history”. During almost 34 years of operation Sovereign Hill has given visitors the chance to immerse themselves in the way of life and work in 1850’s Ballarat by recreating a goldfields township. Its hallmark is attention to detail, with historians and researchers employed to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Sovereign Hill regularly conducts re-enactments during anniversary celebrations, including a famous burning of the Eureka Hotel. It supports many off-site commemorations through costumed staff dressed as troopers and miners. In 1986 the Gold Museum opened a comprehensive exhibition on Eureka that featured many original artefacts and documents and helped broaden visitor awareness of Eureka.

The story of Eureka is relived every day and night at Sovereign Hill with regular licence hunts by troopers on unsuspecting visitors gold panning in the Red Hill Gully Creek, a daily parade by Redcoat soldiers and Blood on the Southern Cross, a spectacular sound and light show that uses the latest technology and special effects to explain the nature and impact of the events surrounding the Eureka Stockade battle. More than one million people have witnessed the show, which attracted record visitor numbers of 95,000 in 2003/2004.

Sovereign Hill acquired several Eureka related artefacts for display in the Eureka Centre, which it originally operated, and today continues to loan materials from its Gold Museum collections. Research on aspects of Eureka continues at both Sovereign Hill and the Gold Museum.

The Ballarat Project Revisited

by Richard Laufmann, Managing Director of Ballarat Goldfields NL

Mining of quartz veins at Ballarat East commenced as early as 1853 and continued until the closure of the last mine in 1918. Recorded gold production from the Ballarat East quartz mines totalled 1.7 Moz at an average recovered grade of 8.9g/t. The majority of the gold from Ballarat East was derived from a series of large mines extending along strike for approximately 3500 metres and averaging 350 metres in depth, with the deepest mine extending to 490 metres.

The quartz gold deposits mined at Ballarat East were of many shapes and sizes, ranging up to 50m in thickness, some of which remained open at depth upon cessation of mining. Up until 1914 most of the large quartz mines were still operating profitably. However, upon the commencement of World War One, the mines were eventually forced to close due to lack of manpower.

Regional mapping and modelling of the geology in 3D has enabled geologists at Ballarat Goldfields NL (BGF) to identify where and how the historically mined quartz deposits formed. Data was available from many sources which related to different aspects of the goldfield. A 3D computer based geological model has been constructed by BGF that incorporates data pertaining to all of the shallow alluvial and ancient deep alluvial (deep leads) workings; Geological Survey of Victoria reports; mine manager reports from each major mine; and interpretation of the reconstructed stopes that they mined.

When stepping back to look at the regional geology, a clear picture begins to emerge in regard to areas which have similar potential to those areas that were mined historically. It is the combination of all of this data that BGF has utilised to identify the exploration potential at Ballarat. However, this is not the end of the story for Ballarat and BGF is continually working to expand on its knowledge of the gold deposit types at Ballarat. As further information comes to hand it is incorporated into the geological model and later updated as part of the exploration potential at Ballarat.

Eureka 2004

by Rita Bentley

As we headed full-on into the 150th Anniversary celebrations, I took a moment to consider what impact the uprising 150 years ago had on today’s Australia. Of course it brought about significant changes to the way of life for all Australians – other writers have detailed this for you. But to me personally, what does Eureka mean?

It is the legacy of Eureka with which I feel so keenly linked and burdened. I’ll admit that at times when the battles with the bureaucracy and/or government reached the stage where I was burning the midnight oil – which occurred on many an occasion – I considered throwing in the towel. Why should I bother? Various thoughts followed – some regarding an inability to disappoint our devoted, supportive membership, but also the legacy that those at Eureka passed to us.

They risked their lives to ensure a better deal for prospectors and miners. Couldn’t I spend a few more hours working for the same aim? Have another shot of caffeine, stretch the legs, then back to the computer for more work, battling to ensure the Eureka legacy is kept intact and in a condition that we can be proud to pass on to the next generation of prospectors and miners.

Therefore we must all swear by the Southern Cross, to stand truly by each other and fight to defend our rights and liberties. Simply, we have no choice. To date, we can all be proud of what we have achieved and the high regard with which the PMAV is held. However, we must never forget the legacy that has been entrusted to us and we must be vigilant to ensure it is secured for the next generation.
The Office of the Mining Warden

by Noel Laidlaw, State Mining Warden

It was an historic decision taken in 1982 by, the then Minister, David White to reintroduce the Office of the Mining Warden. The Office had been abolished some years before, as being unnecessary and wasteful, and the jurisdiction handed over to the Magistrates Courts. This did not work. The magistrates had no training in mining and the laws relating thereto. They did not understand the matters before them.

The new setting up of the Mining Warden's position was very much a product of late twentieth century legal thinking rather than what had existed under the old Mines Act.

The position was semi-judicial, with extensive powers of investigation; the role of the conciliator was set out, as was the role of ombudsman. The new Mining Warden was given powers of recommendation to the Minister. The rules for the Wardens hearings were to be based upon Natural Justice.

This was all quite different to the formal legalistic setup for the Mining Warden under the old Act who sat in judgement of cases brought before the court.

In reviewing the activities of the past twenty years, the wisdom of the Minister's decision has been proven. The largest activity of the Warden has been in the areas of ombudsman i.e. investigating a dispute between a miner and the Department. It has given industry a method of ensuring that their relationship with bureaucracy is at the highest ethical level. It has also given the Department an audit process to help examine itself and improve its processes.

The other area of major activity is the investigation of matters referred to the Warden by the Minister or Secretary. The Office of the Mining Warden has wide powers to call on persons and papers and to compel witnesses to give evidence under oath. Through the judicious use of these powers, the Mining Warden has been able to examine a whole range of matters set before him and report the findings back to the Minister.

I believe that history will view the decision to bring back the Mining Warden as good government. For all parties, there exists a process to bring forth and examine any matter relevant to the mining industry. This has and will continue to give confidence to all participants in the mining industry in this State.

Eureka in the 21st Century

by Ian Aitken, National Marketing Manager, Minelab Electronics

This year marks the 150th anniversary of an event in Australia’s history which has had long-lasting ramifications, even to today. The Eureka uprising changed the social structure of Australia and initiated the changes that have made Australia the free and classless society that it is today.

It would be too simplistic to say that Eureka was just the Ballarat miners revolting against the high cost of the Gold Licence and the tyranny of the troopers. These may have been the most obvious irritations of the miners but their underlying demands were for a change to the social structure of the country, the ability to vote and have representation in government and the ability to purchase their own land.

The colony of Victoria in the 1850’s was very class structured, modelled on the class based society of Britain, but here in Victoria the ‘ruling class’ were the squatters and land owners. With few exceptions, land ownership was out of reach of the general public and to magnify the situation, the right to vote was restricted to the ownership of land.

The ramifications of the Eureka uprising were many fold; the subdivision of the huge properties into smaller holdings accessible to the general public, improved representation in government and the review of the mining laws were only a few. A direct outcome of Eureka was the replacement of the Gold Licence with the newly legislated “Miners Right” with all the new rights associated with it.

It is from this original Miners Right, that our current Miners Right has evolved. Over the years, numerous governments and anti-prospecting lobby groups have sought to alter and dilute these rights and it always needs to be remembered that those rights were awarded to the prospectors and miners of Victoria after the struggles of our forefathers.

You and I are the modern custodians of the Miners Right with a precious heritage to maintain and be proud of. Whether we are the modern day prospector swinging a metal detector or the small-scale miner seeking permits to drop a shaft or a drive into a hillside, the ghosts of Lalor, Carboni, Hayes and Sorenson walk beside us and the Oath of Eureka whispers in the trees.

Lets take a moment to pay homage to these early miners, the names we all know and the hundreds of others who have been lost to history, say thanks to them for their courage and willingness to stand up to injustice and demand their rights.
Association News

East Gippsland (Stratford) Branch Report

Over the past year, we have attended displays at Lardner Park, Noojee and Gippsland Heritage Park. All were successful and proved popular with the public and also, surprisingly, with media photographers as we appeared in several newspapers and at least one national magazine. Rob's sluice box was the most featured of our display items - must be something about running water that attracts people.

Field trips continue to be well supported and remain the main focus of our branch activities. Trips to Bendoc / Bonang, and Mt Wills proved especially interesting and although not a lot of gold was found, more prospecting is certainly warranted in these areas. The Bullumwaal area was again visited a couple of times through the year and produced some gold and some interesting trips. A trip to the Russell's Creek area after the bushfire was certainly interesting but unfortunately didn't produce more than a few specks of gold. Our June long-weekend trip to Maryborough and the Central Victorian goldfields produced a few grams of the yellow stuff. Surprisingly most gold was found using the GP 3000 and flogging old patches that have yielded well in the past. It makes one wonder just how much gold is still out there awaiting the newer and even better detectors.

The prospecting course still continues as our theme for meetings and, although there hasn't been a great increase in gold found, we are hoping that the big strike is getting closer. We have eliminated a lot of not-very-productive ground so must be gaining on the elusive big strike.

Meetings have been fairly well attended through the past year.

Once again I would like to thank all members for making this branch the success that it is. Your continued support makes this branch easy to organize and makes my job relatively easy.

May your pans be filled with gold.

Cheers

Steve Dingwall - President – East Gippsland Branch

Central Victorian (Maryborough) Branch Report

As this is a special edition of the Eureka Echo it would seem appropriate to give a brief summary of the background to the formation of the PMAV Central Branch....

In 1975 the first of the ground-cancelling metal detectors, which were suitable for locating gold nuggets, appeared in the Australian goldfields.

By 1979, as the gold price increased and metal detector technology improved, the use of these 'gold' detectors as a prospecting tool became more popular - a modern day electronic gold rush had begun.

During the 1980's thousands of ounces of gold was unearthed in the Victorian goldfields with detectors.

With large nugget finds regularly reported in newspapers and magazines Australia wide, thousands of gold-seekers flocked to towns like Dunolly, Tarnagulla and Wedderburn to prospect for gold.

As happened in the early gold rush days many of the successful modern day prospectors wished to progress to the next step, mining. Because detectors had limitations in their depth capabilities and nuggets could be found at varying depths, the pegging of 'Miners Right' Claims became popular in the 1980's. The majority of these mining operations were 5 hectares or less and were generally known as 'doze & detect' operations.

As is the situation today, back in those early years the small scale miner had to contend with numerous mining regulations and issues. Access to land held by large mining companies and rehabilitation bonds were common problems. It was with this background that the PMAV Central Branch was founded mainly by local people with a shared interest in detecting and gold mining.

Monthly meetings were generally an informal affair with well known prospectors Kevin Hillier, David Watters and Bill Mitchell presiding over the meetings in the early years.

Central branch members have always been a very pro-active group within the PMAV. Over the years they have been involved in many successful fund raising ventures, public rallies etc. and have always promoted the Association and what it stands for.

While in recent years very few of our local members are still actively involved in mining, attendance at our meetings has been excellent. Gold is still being found in the region and as new detection equipment becomes available in the future there is little doubt that the Central Branch will continue to be an integral part of the PMAV.

The next meeting of Central Branch will be held at the Coiltel Gold Centre, Maryborough on Monday, 31st January, 2005. Start 7.30pm. Be there!


Central Branch meets last Monday, every second month at Coiltel.

Melbourne Branch Report

Field trips this quarter have been to Heathcote, Redcastle and to Creswick where we focused on panning and sluicing. It was truly gratifying to see six different combinations of motor, pumps and hibshankers all thumping or screaming away at different times and at some (deafening) times all together.

We had a most interesting speaker from the Metropolitan Ambulance Service address one of our meetings to talk about first-aid in the bush and we are going to continue the theme by conducting first-aid courses early next year. For those branches scratching their heads for guest speakers, this is a win-win idea as it may save a life and it solves your problem of who to invite.

Our last meeting for the year will be on Tuesday 14th December and then we will have a rest until February. See you at the Annual General Meeting in Ballarat.

Geoff Strang – Melbourne Branch Coordinator.

Branch meets Miners Den, Mitcham – 7.30pm second Tuesday of each month.

THE EUREKA ECHO—December 2004
Association News

North East (Yackandandah)
Branch Report

At the September meeting, the attendance was again respectable with most of our nomadic winter prospectors returning from the fabled north lands with tales of large nuggets and perfect prospecting weather. However, we seem to be missing a lot of the newer members. I would just like to remind all our members in the North East that, if they wish to stay up to date with the goings on in the branch, they should try to attend the meetings. If this is not possible, give me or our secretary - Bill - a ring for an update. (Jeff Kennett 02 6027 3412) (Bill Gleeson 03 5744 1263)

On a sad note, I wish to inform the members of the passing of our branch member and friend, Mr Ralph Pitman. Ralph passed away suddenly at his home near Beechworth. Ralph loved to get away with the branch on field trips and enjoyed the fun around the campfire at night. He was also a dab hand in the camp kitchen and probably saved our secretary Bill from starving or resorting to cornflakes for tea on more than one occasion. Rest in peace Ralph.

I have been requested to notify members of the untimely death of Mr Luke O’Connor, owner of Mt Poole station, Milparinka, NSW. I would ask that anyone wishing to prospect on Mt Poole be mindful of the changed circumstances within the O’Connor family and make inquiries accordingly.

The only field trip this quarter was held at Butchers Gully, Inglewood. Full marks for perseverance must go to Ian, who left camp with detector in hand every morning at 5.30am and didn’t return until well after lunch. Ian managed to find his first nugget on one such foray. Well done Ian.

Our next meeting will be held at the Yackandandah Senior Citizens Hall 7.30pm Wed 12th of January. 2005 Please note, this is a departure from the normal date.

Until next time Happy Hunting
Jeff Kennett – President, North East Branch
Branch meets Yackandandah Senior Citizens, Wellsford St Yackandandah, bi-monthly 3rd Wednesday.

South West (Ballarat)
Branch Report

As the anniversary of the Eureka Stockade nears, being so close to where it took place gives us an additional connection with those events of 150 years ago and detailed knowledge of the changes to this city that was built on gold. Today, one of the last things on the City Council’s mind is gold and after 150 years prospectors and small-scale miners are still doing battle, albeit without guns. Today it’s a paper war, fighting legislation and trying to get local and state governments to understand that there are still people out there who love to dig for the yellow stuff. This branch tries to spread the word in our area that we still go out with our detectors in the hope that we will find the odd nugget and that we do. We are very privileged to have our meetings in the Old Colonialists Building in Lydiard St, because where we hold our monthly meetings is no less than 150 metres from where the original Eureka flag is lovingly housed. The Ballarat Fine Art Gallery is just a few doors from the Old Colonialist Club.

We have been out on our monthly outings to the usual places Talbot, Creswick, Beaufort and many other places in the golden triangle. We have welcomed a number of new members and had different speakers with lots of interesting topics. Some of us attended the PMAV Central Victorian Branch meeting in Maryborough and were surprised at the large turnout. Those who had attended the executive meeting in Melbourne explained what the PMAV has planned for the Eureka celebrations. It was a great night and we hope to go there for their next meeting to talk about gold prospecting in New Zealand.

We had our meeting this month at the Mechanics Institute, which has just gone through a restoration period. We must look after our heritage as well as our future and we must protect our right to prospect for gold, for that right is our heritage.

Keith Roberts – President South West Branch
Branch meets Old Colonists Club, Lydiard St, Ballarat – 7.30pm, 3rd Wednesday of each month.

West Gippsland (Drouin)
Branch Report

Over the last few months we have spent a lot of our time detecting at Patrol Road because the fires had burnt out a lot of the undergrowth, revealing the old diggings in the area.

Quite a lot of nuggets have been found. Sizes varied from reasonable to small, but a nugget is a nugget whichever way you look at it.

Unfortunately with the recent lovely weather, the underbrush has been growing back fast so it is becoming increasingly hard to swing a detector.

Some of our members went to Dunolly for a few days and found about a dozen nuggets. The next field trip is back to Patrol Road and an extended trip to Heathcote.

A safe and Happy Christmas to all and happy prospecting.

Colin Johnson - President - West Gippsland Branch
Branch meets CWA Hall, 10 Sinclair St, Drouin - second Thursday of each month.

Grampians
Branch Report

Things have become a bit stagnant with yours truly being hampered by work commitments lately.

The field trips have not been possible because I don’t have any weekends anymore! I am hoping that others will fill the void and organise one this month. Keep your eyes peeled to the PMAV website for locales and dates. Our membership numbers have levelled off with no new members for a couple of months now. The new year may offer new opportunities for me to actively seek ‘new blood’ by way of more widely advertising our field trips and being seen at Stawell Gold Mines open days.

A few small nuggets keep turning up as usual but no big ones of late. The Eureka 150 Nugget keeps eluding us all!! On a brighter note, our meeting with local head Ranger, John Harris, was quite an eye opener. Members John Kelly and John Tottenham both gave sterling input to Mr Harris to put our position across.
The ban on prospecting within the Deep Lead NCR has been clarified. It seems that over two thirds of the available ground is still actually open to us despite rangers being instructed to clear prospectors out! Very cheeky! The DSE and Parks Victoria have conceded that it was only a recommendation that prospecting be banned within the whole NCR and that no formal enactment has taken place. Most of our public land within the Stawell area is still therefore open. The ban is still in force within the flora reserve in the Ironbarks State Forest.

A request for a review concerning this ban has only recently solicited a reply which states that the ban stays despite all of the evidence which suggests there is little need for it. Typical government ignorance! Information provided by Mr Harris proves that much of the flora that the ban was meant to protect may not even exist anymore!! The PMAV’s resident field naturalist, local member John Kelly, found it most interesting and even surprised Mr Harris with the obvious ludicrousness of it all. John Kelly’s knowledge of flora is amazing (he came armed to the teeth with heaps of books to the meeting!)

He is a real asset to the PMAV.

I would also like to thank John Tottonham in particular for his great support of me and for standing in for me at the last exec’s meeting.

I’m looking forward very much to seeing everyone at Eureka 150 and the AGM in December.

Andrew Overton (Pennyweight)
Geographical Branch Convener
Branch meets 7pm third Friday, every second month at the Great Western Hotel.

PMAV Committee Activity Report

While much of our time over the past three months has been devoted to ensuring the 150th Eureka Anniversary is appropriately recognised, there has been a lot of other work to do.

We have lodged an excellent and comprehensive submission to the State Government’s Victorian Competition and Efficiency Commission’s Inquiry into Regulatory Barriers to Regional Economic Development – thanks to Allan Rossiter and Rex Motton. To read a copy visit: www.vcec.vic.gov.au and follow the links to the Inquiry.

The Small Miners Action Group met with Executive Director of Minerals and Petroleum Victoria – Richard Aldous – to discuss the state of the small-scale mining sector and what to do about it. A follow up meeting with the Director of Minerals Regulation, Phil Roberts, was also held in November.

We met with Midland Insurance to progress the vexing insurance issue for small miners. There is a glimmer of hope on the horizon.

Rita visited the Bendigo Prospectors Club as their guest speaker and attended a Public Land Council of Victoria meeting on our behalf.

We played an important role in the organisation of the Inaugural Eureka Forum, continued to support the Bush Users Group, took endless phone calls, answered immeasurable correspondence from the bureaucracy, put lots of time into working through the Demands with Government, attended a meeting of the Extractive and Mining Industry Advisory Board and lots, lots more.

As usual, we worked hard on your behalf. At the time of writing we still don’t know how successful we will be with our Demands. This is likely to be a lengthy process, which we will have to continue to devote significant time and resources to. However, our fingers are firmly crossed and our resolve hasn’t diminished!

Park Planning

The Draft Plans for the Greater Bendigo National Park and the Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park are due for release in December.

It is expected that there will be a period of 90 days of public consultation. All members with an interest in these areas are advised to obtain a copy of the drafts from Parks Victoria and make comment. Both parks cover important goldfields.

The PMAV will be making a submission on both but please don’t leave it to us. Remember the success we had with Box Ironbark, it was because we worked as a team – a rather large team! Those preparing the Plans will need to know that prospecting is an important activity for many people and providing realistic opportunities for prospecting in these parks is mandatory.


Water Licences

As a consequence of the passage of the Water (Irrigation Farm Dams) Act 2000, some previously unlicenced water use at mines needs now to be licenced. Mine operators will have received a letter from DPI to this effect.

A licence is required if water is taken from a waterway and used in a mine. A licence is also required if water from a mine is taken or used. This includes long-term mine dewatering, the primary purpose of which is to lower surrounding groundwater levels.

A water licence is not required for tailings dams, settling ponds and dams in which recycled processing water is used, provided these dams are designed to exclude surface run-off. A licence is not required if water entering an excavation is from direct rainfall.

Mine operators have until 31 December, 2004 to apply for any required water licences. If operators are unclear about their licence obligations they should seek the advice of their local Water Authority.

This will be the last opportunity to easily retain access to water on your Licence – we urge you to act on this immediately.
Prospecting Club/Association Contacts

Prospecting club meeting dates are available from the clubs directly, as follows:

Victorian Seekers Club
meet at Mulgrave
phone: 03 9728 1146

Victorian Fossickers Club
meet at Lilydale
phone: 03 9736 3325

Geelong Prospecting Club
meet at Hamlyn Heights
phone: 03 5241 8024.

Victorian Metal Detector & Prospecting Association
meet at Dandenong
phone: 03 9382 7044

Ivanhoe Fossickers Club
meet at East Ivanhoe
phone: 03 9841 8412

Moorabbin Prospecting and Camping Club meet at Moorabbin
phone: 03 9543 4024

Sunbury Metal Detecting Club
meet at Sunbury
phone: 03 9308 3364

Bendigo Prospectors Club
meet at Bendigo phone: 0409 188 138

Peninsula Metal Detecting and Prospecting Club, phone: 03 5982 2625

Central Coast Prospecting Club
phone: 02 4373 1900

Canberra Lapidary Club (fossicking group), phone 02 6231 6967

Brisbane Metal Detecting Club
phone: 07 3882 0342

Hunter Valley Fossicking Club
phone: 02 4956 8575

Amalgamated Prospectors & Leaseholders Association, Western Australia phone: 08 9091 8878

North Queensland Miners Association
phone: 07 4081 0241 or 0428 163 176

PMAV
phone: 0408 176 496

Please send additions or corrections to this list to GPO Box 1706P Melbourne Vic 3001
or email to: pmav@pmav.asn.au

Important Contact Details

Minerals and Petroleum (03) 9658 4000 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria 13 1963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au DSE 13 6186 or visit www.dse.vic.gov.au

Bush Telegraph 13 2874
PMAV 0408 176 496

Detector Jamboree

The annual Wedderburn Gold Detector Jamboree will be on again over the Labour Day weekend in March 2005 at the Hard Hill Tourist Reserve.

The 2005 event will focus on gold and the heritage and history of the goldfields. Events and entertainment will provide something for the young, and young at heart.

The activities will include the annual token hunt with more tokens and lots more prizes for the lucky winners.

There will be a junior gold panning competition, live entertainment on both Saturday and Sunday nights, a talk on Saturday evening by Coiltek’s John Gladdis plus lots more.

The major prize is a Minelab GP3000 detector donated by Minelab. Members should note that PMAV members have won the GP3000 for the past two years.

The event is supported by Minelab Electronics, Coiltek and the Loddon Shire.

For further details and competition terms visit: www.wedderburnonline.net or phone 03 5494 3517.

Dates to Watch

December 4th
PMAV Annual General Meeting in Ballarat

5th January 2005
150th Anniversary of the naming of the Miners Right

March 12th –13th
Wedderburn Gold Detector Jamboree

For a free listing of your event in this column contact Rita on 0408 328 640 or email pmav@pmav.asn.au

Letter to the Editor

I am unable to attend meetings as yet, however I wish to express my appreciation to the full committee for the wonderful job they do for us members. God help prospectors, fossickers, miners – big and small, amateur or professional if we ever lose the PMAV.

Keep up the good work and thankyou.

Ern C. Doncaster

Vale

It is with sadness we advise that PMAV Life Member, Dick Crimeen, recently passed away. Dick was a founding committee member of the PMAV and a strong supporter, particularly in our early years.

Bill Kyte wrote the following upon hearing of Dick’s passing.

I was on that first Committee. At the time, people thought that we were a bunch of radicals going nowhere. Mining was drummed up to be a dirty word. Dick Crimeen went to Doug Kemsley with the story that the mining industry needed to take immediate action against the attempts of the Land Conservation Council, with the support of the Mines Department middle management, to limit mining in Victoria to five companies and no small miners. Dick lent the Committee a fairly large amount of unsecured initial operating capital with which to start the PMAV. (The money was re-paid).

His sheer personality won many friends and admirers.

Our sympathies to Dick’s wife Noreen and family.

Getting on with Business

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Fossickers, Prospectors & Clubs welcome.
Located in historic nugget country.
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(03) 5438 7329
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Email: minersdenmelb@bigpond.com

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