



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

www.napfa.net

Please note new postal address: PO Box 4529
DUBBO NSW 2830

“Fights for fairer access to land in NSW and represents interests of prospectors and fossickers”

NOTICE OF 2017 NAPFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2017 Annual General Meeting of NAPFA will be held at:

**WATTLE FLAT RACECOURSE & GOLF COURSE, WATTLE FLAT, ON SATURDAY
THE 11th OF NOVEMBER AT 1.00pm.**

(The Racecourse and camping area is located 4 kilometres from Wattle Flat on the Limekilns Road, see map)

MEETING AGENDA

1. 1:00pm Meeting Opens
2. Welcome by President
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of minutes from last AGM
5. Report from President
6. Report from Treasurer
7. Summary of Nominations for Office Bearers
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Ordinary Committee Members x 3
8. Election of Office Bearers
9. GENERAL BUSINESS

(The Prospectors auction and draw for the door prize, a Gold Digger pick, will take place following the end of the AGM)

Stephen Reilly
Secretary
Secretary@napfa.net

30 September, 2017

Report from the President

Dear Member,

It would be great if you can make it to the 2017 Annual General Meeting at Wattle Flat. If you have not been to Wattle Flat before, this is a good reason to go. It is well located, travel-wise, and has good fossicking options. Moving the AGM there from Hill End also gives us a chance to provide a small boost to the local Wattle Flat economy, and the Progress Association that manages the area where the AGM will be.

So, mark it on your calendar now and make some plans!

HIGHLIGHTS 2017

1. **HIGHBANKING** – We have had ongoing discussions with the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Geological Survey Division) about this. At present, there's an impasse on interpretation of the regulations as they affect highbankers and other small powered equipment (excluding detectors). The Department has made it a difficult and complex issue when in our opinion it is quite simple if there is goodwill to reach a solution. Sean Ashcroft, our Public Officer, is to be congratulated on the detailed work he has done on this issue. Thanks Sean!
2. Some members want NAPFA to go public with this fight through letters, media, protests, demonstrations etc. There may well be a time for those activities. However, at the moment, we wish to hold off to give the Department the breathing space to make sensible choices without the pressure of a public campaign. But if we keep getting stone-walled, then public action may be the next course. With indications of support we've received, public action is likely to be a lot bigger than the Department might expect. There is a lot of anger among fossickers about this issue. So, watch this space please. We are continuing to work on it as best we can.
3. On a related matter, the Department (Resources Regulator) has also initiated official compliance activity for what they call 'illegal fossicking' with the use of highbankers. We are extremely unhappy about this as we see it as a hostile act when we are engaged in discussion about the very issue identified. The Department has also not met its own charter in undertaking this action. All members can be assured, we totally disagree with this action which is scheduled for the three months September/October/November.
4. **WORKING GROUP** --- Last year I advised that a Fossickers Interest Working Group had been established, with the Department taking the lead. Unfortunately, the Department has failed to live up to its promises and at this stage the Working Group can only be described as a 'flop' due to the lack of commitment by the Department. This is a very poor state of affairs, and is clearly something that has to improve.
5. **FOSSICKING DISTRICTS** --- The one bright spot in our relationship with the Department has been around the matter of additional Fossicking Districts that have been gazetted. I spent quite a bit of time this year following-up with Local Government Areas on offers that were put to them, at our request, by the Department. Some Committee members and ordinary members have also been doing their bit to lobby their local Councils, and their effective efforts are acknowledged.
6. As a result, 15 new Fossicking Districts have been declared. This is very significant as they are the first new areas to be declared since 2001. Remember, if you are in a Fossicking District you don't

need permission off mining company Exploration Lease holders to fossick. (You still can't go onto mining leases or private property unless you have permission).

7. The full list of new Fossicking Districts now gazetted in 2016 and 2017 is: Narrabri, Walcha, Guyra, Central West, Bland, Snowy Valleys, Eurobodalla, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Bathurst Regional, Upper Lachlan, Cabonne, Blayney, Bega, Tumut, Cootamundra. Others are in the pipeline.
8. **NATIONAL PARKS** -- We have been pushing the Department of Environment and Heritage to publish their Fossicking in National Parks Policy, and I am told it is "soon". Unfortunately, I've heard that before. While we won't know the final policy until it is published, we made strong and detailed representations on the content to argue for a more permissive policy. When it comes out, we will work with it and see how it goes. National Parks say they are open to review the operation of the policy in 12-months to fine-tune it. Let's see how genuine they are. The successive delays on this have been frustrating and unacceptable.
9. **SUBMISSIONS** in the past year:
 - 1) Copeland Tops SCA Review of Plan of Management (November 2016)
 - 2) Review into Travelling Stock Routes (May 2017)
 - 3) Sturt National Park Review of Plan of Management (May 2017)
 - 4) Regulation changes on Highbanking – second paper (May 2017)
 - 5) Crown Lands on charges at Tibooburra Common (May 2017)
 - 6) Cottan-Bimbang, Cells SCA and National Park Reviews into Plans of Management (August 2017)
 - 7) VEAC Central West Investigation (Victoria – to support PMAV) (August 2017)
 - 8) There is also a Plan of Management Review into Monga SCA that needs a submission by 16 October, 2017.

All of these submissions, with the exception of the Tibooburra Common (5), are on the NAPFA website.

10. **Tibooburra.** In the submission (5) we worked hard to ensure that a silly proposal by the Tibooburra town Common to charge fossickers \$15 per day for the use of the Common was drastically amended. The final result is a \$10 per month charge, or \$60 per year, with improved governance by the Town Common Committee on these matters. Although not ideal, the majority of fossickers appear to accept the change. Thanks to the members who helped with this.

Membership renewals are now on

Enclosed you will also find your membership renewal notice. Renewal for the 2018 Calendar year is \$25 per person (no change from last year). This makes us a very low-cost association.

In recognition of NAPFA's achievements, and to **help us maintain the numbers we need to be a credible lobby group**, the Committee urges you to renew your membership as soon as possible using the attached form. **More than ever, with the challenges we face, we need you to renew your membership and encourage others to join.**

You can also pay face-to-face at the AGM. Please bring your signed form and updated details. New members can sign-up on the day.

As an incentive, **thanks to our major corporate sponsor Minelab**, you will have the chance to win the new Gold Monster 1000 – a ripper machine that is getting quite popular in Australia. All the details here:

<http://www.minelab.com/anz/metal-detectors/gold-detectors/gold-monster-1000->

والتش الذهب 1000
GOLD MONSTER 1000



To renew your membership please fill out the ENCLOSED membership renewal form and complete the required actions.

You need to join or renew by the end of March to be in the draw. If you join or renew before the end of January 2018, you will receive two tickets in the draw. If you join or renew in February or March you will receive one ticket. The prize will be drawn at the end of March.

Please encourage new members – families and friends -- to join NAPFA, using the online form at www.napfa.net or the one attached in this package.

Nominations for Committee

In accordance with the Rules of the Association, **all executive and committee positions** are declared vacant at the AGM and election of executive and committee members will be held.

The AGM offers a chance for members to nominate for positions. Please see the attached form. Nominations need to be in by the 6th of November 2017. Email to Secretary@napfa.net
If you want to talk over your possible nomination, please call me on 0427 587441.

If you have the necessary skills and interest to be on the committee please nominate. It is vital we have new blood coming through the committee and executive positions to remain a vibrant association. If you are passionate about your fossicking rights, then it is likely you would enjoy being on committee.

There is certainly some effort required to be on the committee, but it is not too onerous. The only practical suggestion around nomination is that you need to be competent with using a computer for things like Email or reviewing documents and are willing to meet occasional deadlines. Most of the information sharing on committee is via email. We also have telephone meetings so there is not much travel involved. It does not matter if you spend time on extended travel provided you can remain connected to the committee via internet.

Ideally, we need to have some representation in Sydney and surrounds. So, if you are in that area please consider nominating. That's all for now – hope to see you at the AGM!

Stephen Dangaard
President

NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc; Tel: 0427 587 441 President@napfa.net

YOUR 2018 Membership Renewal form

Membership renewal for the 2018 calendar year is \$25 per membership. Renew/Join between now and the end of January 2018 for two tickets in Minelab Gold Monster 1000 draw; one ticket if you renew/join in February or March. **Draw is at end of March 2018.**

Please complete this form and return with your Cheque or Money Order (please do not staple) and make payable to NAPFA and post to:

**NAPFA MEMBERSHIP,
P.O. Box 4529, DUBBO, NSW 2830**

OR

You may pay by direct deposit to the NAPFA Bank account. **If you direct deposit you MUST do the following:**

1. Deposit the correct amount into the NAPFA account. Put your surname and initials or membership number in the "Message/Reference" section to appear on NAPFA's statement (this is to ensure we can identify your payment easily. Account name: **NAPFA** Bank: **Westpac** BSB No: **032 282** A/C No: **272392**
2. Complete this renewal form and fill in transaction details.
3. Scan and e-mail to: Membership@NAPFA.net with the heading: "NAPFA renewal + your name."

PLEASE check your name, contact details and email address below are up-to-date:

**First name, Last name,
Address, City, State, Post Code,
Member number, Phone number, e-mail**

ONLY COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO YOUR DETAILS

Name			
Address			
City		Postcode	
Contact Phone No:			
Email (essential if you have one)			

ALSO PLEASE COMPLETE PAYMENT DETAILS BELOW

I have paid \$25 by cheque or money order dated	/	/
OR		
My direct deposit transaction of \$25 was made on	/	/

By renewing your NAPFA membership you agree to abide by the NAPFA code of conduct. NAPFA reserves the right to refuse any renewal. A full refund will be given if that happens.

NAPFA Committee Nomination Form 2018

NB: Please use a separate form for each position, if nominating for more than one position.

I (please print name) _____

wish to STAND FOR or NOMINATE (circle one)

(Insert name) _____ for the NAPFA committee position of
(circle one only one position per nomination form)

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Committee Member (X3)

Self-nominee or nominated person to sign here to accept the nomination:

_____ Date _____

Tell us about yourself or the person you have nominated

Positions all require a nominator and a seconder who are also members of NAPFA. If you nominate other people they have to sign (above) to agree to be nominated. If you do not live near a member who can second a nomination, contact the NAPFA committee through the President on 0247587441 or President@napfa.net

Nominated by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Now scan and send your nomination to secretary@napfa.net

or mail to **NAPFA Secretary, P.O. Box 4529, DUBBO, NSW 2830**

NOMINATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY NAPFA ON OR BEFORE 6th November 2017

PLEASE DON'T 'HOLD BACK' IF YOU WANT TO NOMINATE.

2017 NAPFA AGM WEEKEND INFORMATION

VENUE INFORMATION

This year's AGM is being held at the historical gold mining village of Wattle Flat between Sofala and Bathurst. The AGM and camping venue is the Racecourse and Golf Course complex located 4 kilometres from the village centre on the Limekilns Road. (See attached map)

The complex offers a very large flat camping area among bushland, with plenty of room for caravans. The site has no facilities except toilets and tank water. Caravanners/campers can use generators & shower tents but we ask that you set up some distance from the main meeting shed. We intend to have one or two communal campfires at nights (fire conditions permitting). The site has a shed with power that will be a central point for the weekend and used for the AGM in the unlikely event of rain.

The venue also has a couple of dams containing yabbies if anyone wants to drop in a couple of hoop traps.

The cost of camping/caravans for the weekend is \$5 per night per car. The fees are used by the Wattle Flat Progress Association to maintain the sporting facilities around town.

There is pub, Motel and B&B accommodation located near Wattle Flat and at Sofala & Hill End. A web search will reveal options.

Two stores are located in Wattle Flat where basic goods, pies, hot food and coffee is available. The town of Sofala, containing many historic buildings, pub and general store is located 6 km north of Wattle Flat and is a great spot for a counter lunch or coffee if you have not been there.

PROSPECTORS' AUCTION

An auction will be held following the AGM. This is a NAPFA fundraiser and a bit of fun as well! Up for auction will be a range of items useful to the prospector or outdoors person.

We are approaching potential sponsors for some high-end items.

We welcome members to donate goods to the auction. So, if you have anything (products, goods, services – even not fossicking related) that you would be willing to contribute, please contact President@napfa.net or call on 0427 587 441.

Our major corporate sponsor Minelab has come to the party with the following items for the Auction.

GPX 4500

http://www.minelab.com/files/f/258514/4907-0824-2%20Brochure,%20P%20GPX-4500%20AU_WEB.pdf

GPZ7000 19inch coil

<http://www.minelab.com/anz/accessories-1/gpz-19-1>

Pro gold (panning kit)

<http://www.minelab.com/anz/accessories-1/pro-gold>

AGM LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Each NAPFA member attending the AGM will gain a ticket in the draw for a Gold Digger Pick kindly provided by the manufacturer (and NAPFA member) David Dench. The winner win be drawn following the AGM and Auction.

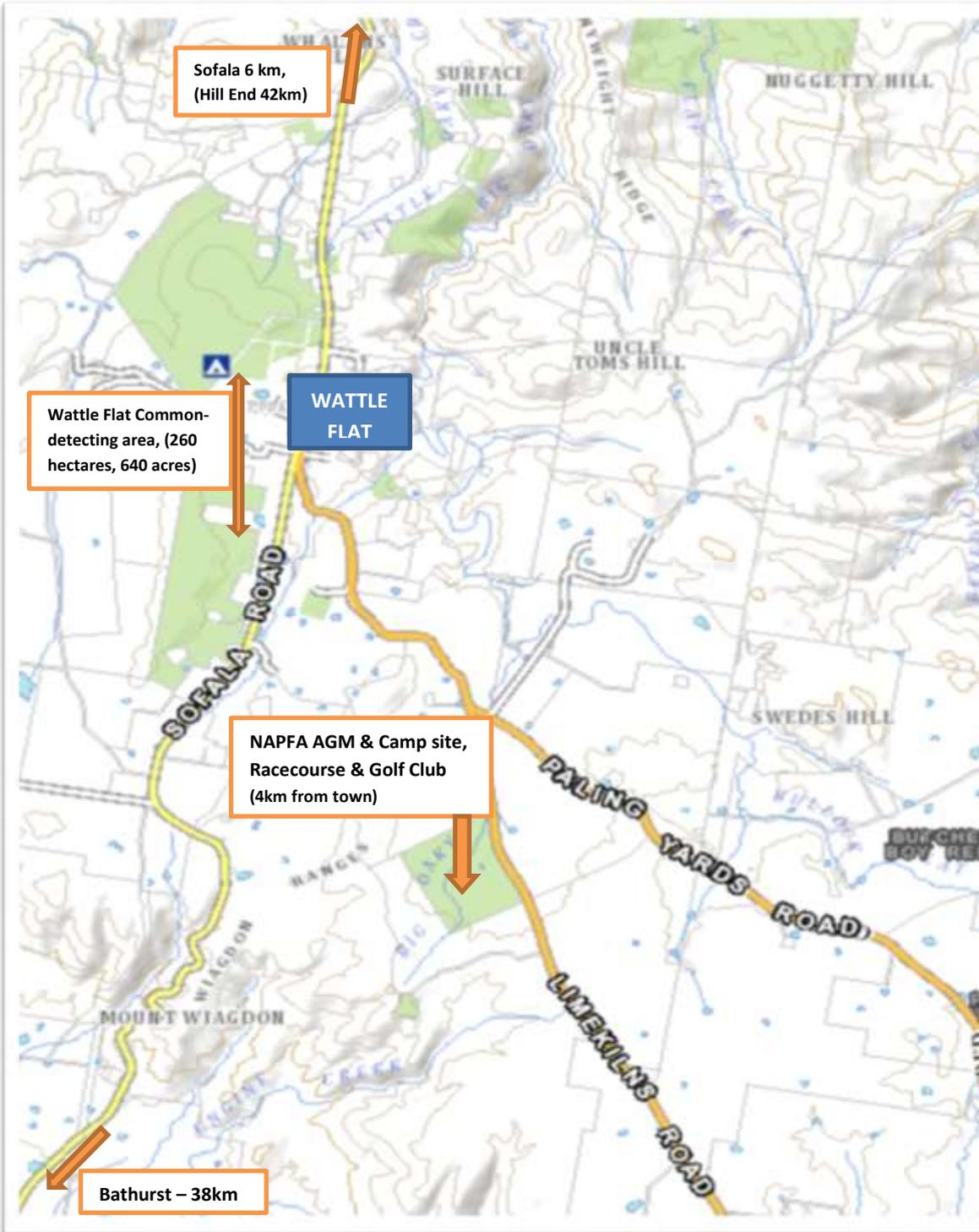
FOSSICKING

There are detecting areas in and around Wattle Flat and Sofala. The Wattle Flat Common is 640 acres in size (split into two parcels) and contains many shallow mines, surfaced areas and mullock heaps. Although there is a fair share of trash targets present, nuggets are regularly found on the Common. (The Common can be accessed off Thompson Street). Dams on the common and the Turon River at Sofala offer sites for panning. Hill End is a 35-minute drive from Wattle Flat if you want to detect there. A small area of diggings at the AGM site can also be detected. The racecourse and golf course areas at the AGM site cannot be detected on. (Advice and directions on local detecting areas will be available at the main shed at the AGM site).

The Wattle Flat Common is also a bush regeneration area and it is important members do not disturb shrubs and as always... fill in all detecting holes.

CHECK OUT THE MAP ON THE NEXT PAGE

To help our administrations please always use your membership number if you contact NAPFA by email or post! Thanks!



SPECIAL THANKS TO MINELAB

– OUR MAJOR SPONSOR



Minelab is our major corporate sponsor and we are very grateful for their support.

They simply make the best metal detectors in the world.

So, if you are putting in your time out there, give yourself the best chance!

Check out your local dealer for the best price on their products.