



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

www.napfa.net

PO Box 2664

Carlingford Court

NSW 2118

JANUARY 2015 --- STOP the PRESS!

“If we cannot fill our committee then NAPFA may well cease to exist.” – See Page 3.

President will not seek re-election - See Page 5

MUST READ THIS PLEASE! ADMIN ISSUES!

- You now have a Member ID card with a unique number. Please you **MUST** use your ID membership number for NAPFA Correspondence or making payments.
- Newsletters we send out by email are on the website www.napfa.net If you think you are not getting messages from us, you need to check ‘large files’ or ‘junk’ in your email first, and then get in touch.
- If you change your email address – or you get one for the first time -- then send details to Secretary@napfa.net so it can be actioned. Members without email are encouraged to get online.
- NAPFA uses email as the primary communication channel. We do this to keep NAPFA operating costs low and to minimise committee administration. For this reason, the AGM notification is being done mainly by email. Only those members for whom we do not have an Email address will be sent a printed copy.



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January 2015

Dear Members,

Please take the time to read the material in this letter carefully. It contains:

1. Highlights since our last AGM (April 2014).
2. Notice of our upcoming Annual General Meeting – to be held at Hill End on Saturday 14th February, 2015.
3. Nomination form for committee positions.

Remember to always use your member ID number in your communications with NAPFA.

Please also bring your card to the AGM.

*****If you attend the AGM you will be in a free draw on the day for a Mini Gold Concentrator valued at \$295. Manufactured and donated by Cresswell Engineering*****

HIGHLIGHTS SINCE OUR LAST AGM

1. Membership has increased steadily to about 950 and we are financially sound.
2. We had one resignation from the Committee (Public Officer and Treasurer – John Standfort) since the last AGM. NAPFA thanks John for his work and wishes him well.
3. It is of great concern that we have not yet been able to replace John as Treasurer despite an appeal in the last newsletter in early December.
4. The strength of our Association will be tested at the next AGM when we must have sufficient nominations for committee positions. While being on a committee might not be for everyone, those who are capable and interested – PLEASE consider nomination. **If we cannot fill our committee then NAPFA may well cease to exist. We have come a long way to establish effective representation and it would be a shame if APATHY won out.**
5. Lobbying efforts continue. Since April we have met with the Minister for Resources and Energy, Anthony Roberts, to press our case for removing the requirement for Exploration Lease holder permission to fossick in land in non-Fossicking Districts. The Minister gave us a good hearing and as a result we were expecting declaration of new Fossicking Districts in NSW, essentially covering various Local Government areas by Christmas. This would have removed the EL requirement in those areas without legislation. Unfortunately, however this has now been stymied by the NSW Election and won't occur before then. If there is a new Minister we may be back to the drawing board.
6. We have identified a significant potential problem with regard to sluicing with the aid of pumps and will seek to clarify the situation around sluices and to represent the needs of sluicers. The problem relates to how the regulations are being interpreted now, as opposed to how they were interpreted in the past. In all likelihood regulations

need to be changed. Unfortunately in the 2010 review of the Mining Regulations fossickers were not effectively consulted and no individuals showed any interest either following newspaper advertising in Sydney about the new regulations which are not favourable for sluicing with pumps. We have set up a sluicing sub-committee to identify the problem and potential solutions.

7. One of our members, Doug Stone, has published the first *NSW Gold Atlas* which was launched by Minister Roberts in November. The Atlas will do a lot to encourage fossicking tourism in NSW and to help the newbies at least be in the right area. Congratulations Doug! Job well done!
8. We provided a range of information to NSW National Parks as they consider recommendations from last year's NSW Parliamentary Committee inquiry on regional tourism. We highlighted the benefits of fossickers to the regional economy and detailed the difficulties in access that we face in NSW. We are seeking fossicking access to many areas that are currently out of bounds. These areas are all over the state and cover about 1.5 million hectares or about 20 percent of NSW's national parks. Most of the areas are former mining areas or state forest and are not pristine wilderness. This will take some time, possibly years to resolve but at least we have started.
9. We also made a brief submission to the NSW biodiversity legislation review which emphasised that recreational fossicking is a low impact activity and should be permitted as widely as possible. There is not much in the findings for fossickers, but our voice has been registered. If you want more information about this review you can find it at: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biodiversitylegislation/review.htm>.
10. We maintained effective links with the major retailers of metal detectors and prospecting equipment. For the second year Minelab Australia supported us in a major way with a GPX 5000 as part of our

2014/15 membership drive and fundraiser. The promotion nearly doubled our membership and helped our bottom line.

11. We have issued regular newsletters to members and maintained and improved our website. Committee members have also tried to be present at major gatherings of fossickers and have supported groups and online forums where possible.

12. IN CLOSING: Please note that I will not be seeking re-election as President of NAPFA. After two busy years and the hard yakka of getting the organisation off the ground, I believe it is now time that someone else stepped-up to take the association forward as the President. Two years ago there was no fossickers' voice in NSW. We now have a voice, and a viable association that is making a difference and achieving recognition. Time to pass the baton!

I intend to support NAPFA but not in such a direct role. I thank all members for their faith in getting behind NAPFA, and trust you will continue to support it.

Best wishes & hope to see you at the AGM.

Stephen Dangaard

President

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc

President@napfa.net Tel: 02 6258 9302 (AH)

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Official notification NAPFA Annual General Meeting

The AGM for the membership year 2013/14 will be held at the

- Shelter Shed, Glendora Caravan Park/camping area Hill End, NSW
- Saturday 14th February at 2:00PM

Please bring – your membership card, a chair and a cool drink.

Note this is the same location where we held the previous AGM.

Committee nominations are also being called.

Use the form that is enclosed.

Positions that must be filled are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Ordinary Committee Members x 3

We are a volunteer organisation and rely on the enthusiasm, organisation and dedication of the committee to achieve our goals.

If we cannot fill the committee, then NAPFA may cease to exist.

So if you have the capability to help, now is the time to Step-Up.

Normally work of committee members is not too difficult but it is important that you are an active email user; willing and able to contribute in writing or in meetings and willing to take an active interest in understanding and promoting the goals of NAPFA among fossickers and the community at large.

It is essential that committee members be able to work tactfully and constructively with other committee members and conduct themselves in a proper way.

Nominations may be invited from those attending the AGM, if no nominations for those positions have been received prior. You can nominate yourself.

NAPFA Committee Nomination Form

NB: Please use a separate form for each position.

I (please print) _____

wish to STAND FOR

(or NOMINATE _____ to) the NAPFA committee

position of (circle one only 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 nominate

Positions all require a nominator and a seconder who are also members of NAPFA. If you cannot access a nominator or seconder, the current committee can endorse your nomination. So please don't be shy about nominating yourself! If you nominate other people they have to sign (above) to agree.

Nominated by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Now send your nomination to secretary@napfa.net

or mail to NAPFA Secretary, 65 Gullies Road, Moonbah, NSW 2627

NEEDS TO BE RECEIVED BY 5TH FEB.

Background on the different committee positions

The work of the committee is very much determined by the committee itself. The activities of President, Vice President and Committee members are identified via the committee process and the effort will vary depending on the work and the timeframes needed.

The key administrative roles are those of the Secretary and the Treasurer. These are both critical positions and the association cannot function without them.

The Secretary:

- (a) Keeps records of all appointments of office-bearers and members of the committee as well as minutes at committee meetings and general meetings
- (b) Undertakes communication to and from the membership via email and post
- (c) Supports membership processes and keeps membership records up to date.

The Treasurer:

- (a) Ensures that all money due to the association is collected and received and that all payments authorised by the association are made, and
- (b) Ensures that correct books and accounts are kept showing the financial affairs of the association, including full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the association.
- (c) Needs to do some basic banking and record keeping. The role requires an understanding of basic financial controls and procedures. A book-keeper is in place to assist so you don't have to run accounting software. You do not have to be an accountant, although that skill would be highly useful.

All positions require you to work constructively within a team environment and to communicate effectively, mainly by telephone and email.

The pay is the satisfaction of helping our great cause! GET INVOLVED IF YOU CAN!