



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

www.napfa.net

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

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

Dear Member,

1ST September, 2016 – Update

1. Early ‘heads-up’ Annual General Meeting Hill end on 12th November.

An early notice for you that the 2016 NAPFA Annual General Meeting has been set for 12th November at Hill End, Glendora Camping Ground.

This is the same location that we have used for the past couple of years. It is pretty central for everyone and provides a chance to do some fossicking over the weekend.

You will be sent a formal invitation by the Secretary in due course.

But in the meantime please schedule it in now!

We are planning to have a “Prospector’s Auction” as a fund raiser.

So if you have anything (products, goods, services – even not fossicking related) that you would be willing to contribute, please contact me by email President@napfa.net or call me on 0427 587 441.

This was a very popular activity last year and some real bargains were ‘snagged’.

We are also investigating getting a gold buyer along like last year; but more on that in due course. Hobo’s Gold will also be there to melt your finds into ingots.

I hope to see you there!

2. NAPFA wins new Fossicking Districts in NSW

Since our last newsletter we are happy to report that four new LGA Fossicking Districts have been gazetted – the first new ones since 2001.

These are Narrabri, Cootamundra, Upper Lachlan and Guyra.

Bathurst and Walcha have also been approved will be gazetted any day now.

Temora, Mid-West, Tumut and Snowy River are ‘interested’ but awaiting council amalgamation settlement before final commitment.

The Department of Resources and Energy say this brings the area covered by fossicking districts in NSW to 8.8% of the area of NSW. This compares favourably with mining Exploration Leases which cover around 10% of the state.

This means that you can fossick in these areas without the permission of mining company Exploration Lease holders.

You still need permission of land owners.

NAPFA is continuing to lobby to further increase the number of Fossicking Districts which support NSW regional ‘geo-tourism’ and local economies by making it simpler for us to go out there and fossick.

3. National Parks draft policy

National Parks are currently considering responses to public consultation on a draft Fossicking in National Parks policy.

We appreciate the personal contributions that some members made in response to the process. We also received support from the PMAV; so thanks to Rita Bentley in particular for that.

The length of time this has taken (we started three years ago) is quite frustrating but the good thing is we are moving forward and at least there is now a draft policy in existence – for the first time.

It is too early to predict what the ultimate outcome of all this will be, but we hope we will be better off than we are now.

Should the outcome be unreasonable then NAPFA will need to consider a different approach.

Here is the link to the draft policy (not yet amended following consultation):
[http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/polic ... policy.htm](http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/polic...policy.htm)

4. **SLUICING.**

We are still awaiting feedback and action from the Department of Resources and Energy (DRE) following a meeting in February about the use of motorised sluices/highbankers.

We have provided detailed technical information to DRE to address their areas of concern.

You can see a copy of the main paper on the NAPFA website under 'Submissions'.

In the meantime, NAPFA stresses that in the field it is critical fossickers follow directives from staff of any NSW government agency regarding their activities until such time as the issues are resolved.

Please advise us the details of any such incidents.

5. **CROWN LANDS ISSUES.**

NAPFA has achieved a number of positive outcomes recently around the planned sale of Crown Lands in the Central West area.

This means that Crown Land or access roads that were to be sold will remain Crown Land.

NAPFA's interest is only in relation to land that provides access or opportunities to fossickers.

In principle, we really have no problem with the sale of Crown Land provided our fossicking rights and access is maintained in any transaction.

We are continuing to work with the Crown Lands Department so they are better educated as to the type of sales that are likely to be a concern to us.

If you see Crown Land for sale in your local paper – and fossicking is negatively impacted – then please alert NAPFA as soon as possible.

You should also make your own submission to the relevant Crown Lands Office!

If you also see Crown Land that has been illegally enclosed (e.g. locked gates, fences), thus denying members of the public their legal right to access that land, then please provide full details to NAPFA.

We need exact GPS location; photos; precise and accurate explanation of the problem and impact on your fossicking access.

Our contact for this correspondence is: Secretary@napfa.net

6. NEW POSTAL ADDRESS.

Please note that we have a new postal address:

PO Box 4529
DUBBO NSW 2830

So if you are sending us mail for some reason, please use the new address and always use your membership number.

Cheers,

Stephen Dangaard

President

NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc

Tel 0427 587 441 President@napfa.net