



# NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

[www.napfa.net](http://www.napfa.net)

PO Box 2664  
Carlingford Court  
NSW 2118

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

**24 January, 2013**

Dear NAPFA members,

## **December/January Update**

First of all let me welcome you as foundation members of the NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Your willingness to get behind what many consider a matter of survival for freedom to anyone who is enjoying prospecting and fossicking is much appreciated.

Over time I am sure that we will regain our rights to prospect and fossick without fear and unreasonable restriction.

All members, anywhere and anytime let's promote our Association.

As you can appreciate getting a new association up and running is not something you can do in a few days. Nor can we realistically expect instant results.

But you can be sure that members of the volunteer committee have been hard at it, within the time limitations that our lives allow.

I think we have made pretty good progress since the first week of December when we formally incorporated by getting our paperwork through the Office of Fair Trading.

Since then we have focussed on three main things:

1. Setting up the mechanics of the association (banking, postage, records),
2. Building membership and
3. Developing links to enable us to get our lobbying strategy underway.

## **Website**

In relation to building memberships we have our website up and running. I did this between Christmas and New Year, taking advantage of my downtime from work and the fact that I did not travel anywhere. It is the first website I have built and administered and it has been an interesting experience!

However I am pleased to report that the traffic to the website has been building steadily and to date we've had around 3,000 page views and about 1000 visitors. That can only improve.

The site is being updated on a regular basis with either new content or bits of it changing as we evolve ideas and strategies. It is a good front door for us and a key marketing tool.

Check it out at [www.napfa.net](http://www.napfa.net) It has yet to really register on Google (can take a while) so you will find it better to use this link or to get it through your URL bar on your computer – not Google search at this stage. Push it around to your prospector friends please

## **Dealers**

We've also written to all the major dealers in NSW, and to Minelab, to tell them what we are doing and to seek their support. Check "Our Supporters" on the website for who is doing what to help. I will be following up by phone with those who have not got back to us yet.

Support has been in cash and kind and one enterprising person is giving our membership with any new detector. Thank you!

Likewise we have written to most of the fossicking and lapidary clubs in NSW to tell them that we are here and to try to get them on board.

Goanna Gold and Minelab have given us some welcome publicity as well – thank you!

## **Building links**

I am also negotiating a series of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with different other associations in NSW and Interstate who share our goals.

The objective of these MOUs is to be able to link in a formal sense to the membership bases of those associations and thus mutually expand our spheres of influence. None have been signed yet but I am optimistic we will have several up over the next few weeks.

## **Lobbying**

We have also been developing our lobbying strategy and have discussed these with Robert Brown from the Shooters and Fishers Party of NSW. Robert is keen to help us but we need to develop some detailed documents first. They will be complete by the end of this month. Just waiting on some maps and lists that someone is helping me with.

I will be attending a meeting at the Prospectors Home Club in Sydney on 6<sup>th</sup> of February and I understand that Robert will be there which will give us a chance to work on our approach.

We are also drafting a number of letters to various NSW Ministers. These take time to get right.

However I am generally optimistic that we will get a hearing, although there are no guaranteed outcomes.

The nature of representation is that it can take time. At least we have begun.

### **Our policy priorities**

Our policy priorities centre on access – to State Conservation Areas and Selected National Parks.

However, it has become evident that we may also need to work on Crown Roads Closures; the State Forests Permit System and some of the rules and regulations around fossicking where we can use our existence to get clarification on matters that get brought to us.

### **Thanks**

I have appreciated to support to date of key committee members: John Standfort the Public Officer and Treasurer and Ernie Mollenhauer as Secretary in particular. Judy Buss and Mike and Joyce Leonard have also put in a good show. So thank you team!

### **Inaugural AGM coming up**

We are planning to have our inaugural AGM at the Goanna Season Launch Muster at the Mookerawa State Park on the Lake Burrendong backwaters on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April. So stay tuned for more on that.

Obviously positions will be available on committee and we are keen that people who are willing and able to contribute be involved. We will send out the agenda etc as soon as we can, and well before the meeting.

At this stage I urge you to keep raising access issues with your fellow prospectors, local councils and local members. The more people talk about these matters the better.

Our website lays out the sort of things we are concerned about.

I intend to put an abbreviated update of this message on the various forums, but as members I wanted you to hear in some detail about what we have been doing.

### **Other things**

Some members have asked if we can provide a card as proof of membership. In some ways this is a good idea, but it also has to be administered and incurs some costs such as printing and postage which we are trying to minimise. We will continue to think about this and it may be something we can do in the next year, being a full year. I would also like to do a 'Foundation Member Certificate' for your mantle piece, but it is not high priority just at the moment.

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We have been looking at different insurance needs but it is a complex set of choices and it will come at significant cost.

At present we are trying to keep membership costs as low as possible to encourage membership. For some members, cost is not too much of a problem but for others – even a modest fee is an extra cost on their family budget.

We are not forgetting about insurance but want to source it in such a way that the costs are very affordable -- if indeed it is possible at all. If it is not possible we will at least be able to explain why it is not viable. If we had thousands of members the premium equation may change, but we are not in that league -- yet!

### **Future updates**

It is my plan to keep you informed via email of what NAPFA is up to, and I will do that on about every two months or earlier if there is something that needs to go straightaway.

If there is something you want me to cover in messages, or you have particular questions, please email me at [President@napfa.net](mailto:President@napfa.net) I may use your question or comment in future updates.

Yours sincerely under the Southern Cross,

### **Stephen Dangaard**

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