



NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398

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”

28 February, 2013

Dear NAPFA members,

February Update

First of all let me welcome all the new members since the last Update a month ago. By joining the NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc you are taking a positive step to protect and improve our fossicking rights.

As an Association we are now around 150 members. Pretty fair for a group like ours, but not yet a large number. However with some exciting news last week from Minelab I hope we can drive that much higher by Mid-May.

Minelab have donated a GPX5000, with standard pack, (RRP\$6595 Inc GST) to use as a membership driver and fund raiser.

Our committee agonised over how best to use this excellent sponsorship.

We decided that we would raffle it, but provide two free tickets for all signed-up and financial members, and any others who join between now and the 18th of May when the draw will occur.

We are also offering the chance to buy extra tickets. Full details of this offer are attached for your information and action.

Effectively this means either free tickets or free NAPFA membership – either way a real bargain.

With this in mind perhaps there are friends and family that you can also entice to join. Now is the time to do it and they might just win that GPX5000!

To sweeten the deal we even have runner-up prizes, compliments of Nugget Finder. These prizes are 2nd Prize 17x11" Spoked Nugget Finder Advantage Monoloop Coil (RRP \$435 Inc GST) and 3rd Prize 8x6" Sadie Nugget Finder Advantage Monoloop Coil (RRP \$290 Inc GST). So all in all a prize pool worth well over \$7,000. On behalf of NAPFA I thank these sponsors very much.

Since January we have made significant improvement also to how people can join with the creation of an online form on the website. You can join by email, mail or online.

This means that people can join online 24/7, and pay membership via Direct Transfer.

Our committee has at times been pretty frantic as we juggle NAPFA between work, family and prospecting. Be assured we are doing our best for you. We have made a lot of progress.

Check the website: www.napfa.net for full details about the raffle.

Highlights over the past month

- Attending Home Prospectors Club 6th February meeting at Parramatta where Robert Brown from the Shooters and Fishers Party gave a strong endorsement of the aims of NAPFA and encouraged Home Club members to sign up – and some of them did just that!
- Gaining Minelab’s sponsorship to boost membership and finances.
- Submission to Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to support the PMAV’s campaign to extend fossicking into additional National Parks in Victoria. Some of those parks border NSW so there is real interest for us. The arguments in Victoria are just as relevant here in NSW, so we can learn from those.
- Campaign to have fossicking written into the Plan of Management for State Conservation Areas near Crookwell. We conducted this via the forums and while the exact number of individual submissions is unknown, I believe it is around the dozen. NAPFA Secretary, Ernie Mollenhauer, lodged a submission on behalf of NAPFA and alerted a number of other interested parties about it.
- Additional support in kind from NSW retailers – including Detect ‘A’ Den (Batemans Bay where you can pick up our membership forms; Gold Quest and Miners Den Parramatta. Check “Our Supporters” on the website for who is doing what to help.
- Flagging of two lots of Crown Road Closures via Forums so that the fossicking community can identify and make comment on them. There was no feedback on those.
- Continued research on insurance options for NAPFA and its members. This has yet to be resolved but we are working on it as quickly as we can. We 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!
- Continued work on material to present to NSW Ministers at the first opportunity.
- Developing contacts in other NSW organisations who share common goals with us.
- Draft NAPFA Code of Conduct (on the website).

- Preparations for the AGM on Sunday 7 April at the Mookerawa State Park as part of the Goanna Gold Muster weekend.

Website

We have had nearly 1000 website visitors in the past month and around 2000 page downloads taking our totals since the website went live to around 2,000 visitors and 4,000 page views. 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. I have been given permission from Marco Nero of Nero Design to use some of his photos, which has livened it up with some nice gold pictures. Thanks Marco.

Check it out at www.napfa.net

Push this website around to your prospector friends please. If people want to know about NAPFA it is best place to get comprehensive information.

Our priorities

New members and some old members will ask ‘What does NAPFA want to do?’

In developing our lobbying materials we have been able to refine our priorities, as:

National Parks

- Inclusion of fossicking as the default option in National Parks, State Conservation Areas (SCA), Regional Parks, and Community Conservation areas. We are not seeking open slather to all areas of national parks, and accept that some specific areas would remain off limits for unique conservation or heritage reasons. These exclusions should be signposted and notified online.

Lands

- Preservation of Travelling Stock Routes (TSRs) and Crown Roads and remnant lands for the enjoyment of prospectors, fossickers and other users. There are presently moves in NSW to sell a lot of these areas off. That will remove the right of access for fossickers (and indeed other public users).

Department of Trade and Investment, Regional Infrastructure and Services - *Division of Resources and Energy*

- Ability to fossick and prospect on areas that are covered by Exploration Leases without permission of the respective mining companies. Many of these leases cover vast areas of land including many old goldfields that are suitable for recreational purposes. ELs can be speculative or involve geological sampling and remote sensing – in other words very little activity on the ground. While in theory it is possible to track down the EL holders, practically for recreational fossickers it is very difficult to identify who these companies are and the areas covered by their leases and even to communicate with them.

It can turn ordinary people into unwitting lawbreakers, which is not right. We accept that we would need to continue to seek permission of private land owners as required

under the Mining Act. (However we would like some kind of appeal mechanism if permission is denied.) .

- That fossicking representatives from NAPFA are invited to participate in the next review of the Fossicking Regulations.

Tourism (Destination NSW)

- Active encouragement of local government to dedicate suitable areas in their shires as fossicking areas, along with promotion of these areas by Destination NSW. This will do something to keep NSW fossickers in NSW and to attract interstate visitors.

Forests

- Agreement to enable a state-wide Special Purpose Permit to fossick in NSW State Forests. At present there is an impractical and inconsistent system that requires separate permits (at \$22 each) for each forest region. If there has to be a permit at all, then it should be like a fishing licence. One licence for the whole state. There needs to be a permit for clubs as well. At present individual members are required to hold permits for club outings which is onerous and expensive. There should be an online permit system, similar to fishing licences. At present it is phone and paper-based.
- Consider eliminating the permit as it probably costs more money to collect and issue than it actually raises.

Important information about the Annual General Meeting

- We are scheduling the inaugural Annual General Meeting Preparations for Sunday 7 April at the Mookerawa State Park as part of the Goanna Gold Muster weekend.
- The Secretary, Ernie Mollenhauer, will notify all members on the books shortly, but this is an early ‘heads-up’.
- **A vital part of the AGM is the election of the Association’s Office Bearers and Committee Members. All positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Officer and three committee positions are up for election.**
- **Ernie will shortly send out a nomination form for the positions, with the notification.**
- **However please begin to consider if you are willing and able to take a more hands-on role in NAPFA at this important time in its history.**
- From our experience since December, the following key points will help you to consider serving the association:
 - You need to believe in what NAPFA is trying to do.
 - You will require some time you can devote to committee work. Realistically, you need to be able to put in approx four hours per week at this stage. Sometimes you may need to do more; sometimes less.
 - You need to be computer literate and willing to work online and by phone to communicate with other members of the committee.
 - You will need to travel, at your expense, three or four times a year to attend face-to-face meetings. (If we were a big company we would pay for your travel – but we are not!)
 - You need to be able to work with others and have generally sound judgement.

If you can answer 'yes' to these questions, then you are a potential candidate and WE NEED YOU.

There are no 'perks' in the work, but you will have the satisfaction of contributing to a better future for fossickers and prospectors in NSW.

If you want to talk to existing committee members, you can call me on 02 62589302 (AH) or 0434 605144; Ernie Mollenhauer (Secretary) (02) 9629 1039; 0416 335 576; John Standfort (Public Officer) 0409 674 507 or Judy Buss at Goanna Gold (02) 4938 7670.

Thanks

I have greatly appreciated the support of committee members: John Standfort the Public Officer and Treasurer and Ernie Mollenhauer as Secretary in particular. Judy Buss has been terrific at encouraging memberships and Mike and Joyce Leonard have also done what they can. So thank you team! Thank you also to members who are beginning to spread the word and encourage others to join. Keep it up and push hard please!

Staying in touch

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

Please do your best to advocate the goals of NAPFA in your interactions with any who have an interest.

If there is something you want me to cover in messages, or you have particular questions, please email me at President@napfa.net After canvassing our Committee, I may use your question or comment in future updates and indeed we may be able to work on the ideas you raise.

- If there are things you really want NAPFA to do; tell us.
- If there are things you want us to not do or that you disagree with; tell us.
- If you know people who have alternative views on what we do; encourage them to communicate with us.
- If there are things you want to raise at the AGM, tell us.

Also feel free to write in our Guest Book on the website.

Yours sincerely under the Southern Cross.

Stephen Dangaard

President

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