



# 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”**

**23 April, 2013**

Dear NAPFA members,

## April 2013 Update

On Sunday 7 April at Mookerawa State Recreation Park, NAPFA held our first Annual General Meeting. About 50 members were present. Reports were provided by me as President, and also by the Secretary and the Treasurer. We also elected new office bearers – so there are two new office bearers and several new committee members. I am honoured to have been given the nod as President and I hope I can lead NAPFA to live up the high expectations that we all have of the organisation.

I did point out that getting change in the face of the massive NSW bureaucracy and entrenched protectionist agenda will not be easy. We will not have overnight results, but we will be trying our hardest to ensure that the voice of NSW and ACT Prospectors and Fossickers can be heard when rules are being developed and decisions made that affect our interests.

The balance is out of whack when families struggle to find places to prospect because of all the environmental and protected no go areas. Frankly it is grossly unfair.

Since my last email update in late February we have more than doubled our numbers to more than 300 members. That is a good result but it is just a beginning. We need all members to become advocates for membership within your friends and families. I would like to see membership around 500 by the end of June. Good numbers are essential if we are to be taken seriously. Numbers are not everything but they sure do help!

The Fabulous Membership Offer is still ongoing until Mid-May. There is more than \$7000 worth of prizes to be won by joining up and by buying additional raffle tickets.

The main prize is a Minelab GPX5000, with standard pack, (RRP\$6595 Inc GST). We also have several Nugget Finder coils as supplementary prizes.

Most of you will already have received your free tickets in the mail. **But wait – there is more!**

## **Membership fees to be rolled over until 30 June 2014**

**The newly elected Committee has made the decision to roll over all existing memberships until 30 June next year. This means that you will not be asked to pay a membership fee for 2013-14.**

The Committee has made this strategic, and no doubt popular, decision for two main reasons.

Firstly, we recognise that we are still building our credentials with you as members, and that many members have only just joined. We felt that it would not be fair to require new membership fees so soon after people have joined.

Secondly, we are keen to reward foundation members and continue to build membership through the rest of this year and next year so that we can present as a significant lobby group in terms of numbers.

This has been made possible by our prudent financial management to date, and the fact that our overheads remain low. We will however certainly require membership renewals in July next year.

## **Fundraising and Voluntary Contributions**

While we are not requiring membership renewal this year, I would urge you to support generously our fundraising activity – such as the raffle that is going on – and to promote membership to others. As they join up, their membership fees will assist our finances through the year.

Additionally the Committee asks that you consider making a voluntary membership payment for 2013-14 if you are in the position to do so. If you can afford to make a voluntary contribution, it would be appreciated. We will write to you about that in July.

## **The Website**

[WWW.napfa.net](http://WWW.napfa.net) is our window to the world. Please pass it on via your face book, friends and email. Our improvements on the site mean that people can join-up online 24/7, and pay membership via Direct Transfer. We are getting about 1000 visits a month to the site.

## **Our priorities for 2013-14**

Basically we need to fight the big fights and the small fights.

**The big fights** are those related to having fossicking included as a default allowable activity 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.

We would also like to eliminate permits to fossick in State Forests, and eliminate the excessive rule of requiring permission of an Exploration Lease holder to fossick on the area of an exploration lease where that is not in a Fossicking District.

**The small fights** relate to individual Plans of Management of State Conservation areas and any other areas where our access is threatened. For example, Copeland Tops State Conservation Area; Woods Reef near Barraba; and even Hill End where the rumours are building once again about how National Parks wishes to take over management of current accessible land.

Many Crown Roads are currently being closed and sold off to adjacent landowners which will make access a matter of negotiation rather than a right. (We have been highlighting these closures via the main internet forums over the past couple of months but there does not seem to be much expressed concern by fossickers and prospectors from the areas affected.)

## **The Annual General Meeting**

The following office bearers and committee members were elected at the AGM.

President – Stephen Dangaard (Re-elected)  
Vice President – Paul Barker (Newly elected)  
Treasurer – John Standfort (Re-elected)  
Secretary – Stefan Pelster (Newly elected)  
Committee – Bruce Wildie (Newly elected)  
Committee – Tony Batch (Newly elected)  
Committee – Mike Leonard (Re-elected)

I thank the following people for their service on the previous committee and as office bearers. Ernie Mollenhauer (outgoing Secretary – good luck on the WA trip!); Damian Alm; Joyce Leonard; Judy Buss and Corry Vaessen.)

The AGM also passed a '**Code of Conduct**' for NAPFA members. This Code is an essential step for us to establish our credentials with authorities and others and may open the way to special arrangements down the track. It is simple enough for all of us to understand at a glance. It is on the website, and repeated here for your benefit:

**Members of the NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc (NAPFA) should:**

- 1. Know and respect the regulations relating to prospecting and fossicking in NSW.**
- 2. Protect the natural environment by disposing of rubbish properly and refilling our prospecting holes.**
- 3. Ensure our own health and safety while in the field.**
- 4. Respect the property and rights of others.**
- 5. Be advocates for responsible prospecting and fossicking**

## **AGM thanks**

Within the context of the AGM, I would also like to put on record NAPFA's appreciation for the terrific support that Goanna Gold has provided to us since last year. They have helped our marketing effort a great deal and continue to assist us through promotion via their newsletter.

Our fundraising efforts at the muster received an excellent boost as well from Nugget Finder Coils; Golden Triangle Tours and CC Picks all of whom donated merchandise.

All of these products are top-notch and there was spirited bidding at our Mini Auction. Andrew Greech a.k.a 'Greckie' also gave some excellent talks on detecting and took many questions in a lengthy "Q&A" session.

We also thank Ross Langlands – and his family – Son Adam and Grand Niece Bree for their most enjoyable bluegrass concert under the stars and by the big bonfire. Thanks Ross for all the effort you and the tribe put in! We loved it! Spinifex revival concert I call it.

## **Last messages**

- Promote membership and the cause of access whenever you can
- Get your extra raffle tickets now (See instructions below)
- Plan on a voluntary contribution next Financial Year

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) 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.

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

*Yours sincerely under the Southern Cross.*

### **Stephen Dangaard**

President

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

PO Box 2664

Carlingford Court NSW 2118

Email: [President@napfa.net](mailto:President@napfa.net)

Tel: 0434 605144 or 02 62589302 (AH)

## **Instructions to buy extra tickets:**

\$10 each  
\$50 for six  
\$100 for fifteen

To help the NAPFA Treasurer process both applications and money in an orderly way, please follow the instructions below exactly:

Direct Deposit your ticket money to NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc

Bank: Westpac - BSB: 032 282 Account Number: 272392

Or if you prefer, send a cheque stating the number of tickets you want. You will be sent the number of tickets that corresponds to the money you pay.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** If using Direct Deposit you **MUST PUT YOUR SURNAME AND INITIAL ON THE BANK REFERENCE AND INCLUDE THE WORD 'TICKETS'**. Like this: 'JSmith tickets'

Any money that cannot be identified will be considered a donation.

**Wait....there is more....keep going!!**

**Contribution to the next “Eureka Echo” Magazine (Published by PMAV -- Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria).**

## **NAPFA Inaugural annual general meeting**

The NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association (NAPFA) held their inaugural annual general meeting at Mookerawa State Park in April.

The meeting elected a new committee and affirmed a code of conduct for NAPFA members.

Newly elected President, Stephen Dangaard, said NAPFA had come a long way in a short time. It was set up last December and had already collected 300 members, mainly from NSW but also from other states.

“The steady increase in membership is great to see and reflects the frustration of many of us in NSW at the lack of access for prospecting in both national parks and state conservation areas,” he said.

“People want to have reasonable access to public land to pursue this healthy outdoor activity. We are not undertaking commercial mining activities and we care for the environment in the places we prospect.

“However there is a major imbalance between the needs to the ‘greenies’ and the ‘goldies’ and NAPFA is intent on lobbying NSW authorities to give prospectors and fossickers a fair go.

“This includes securing access for the purposes of recreational prospecting and fossicking in national parks and state conservation areas.

“Besides cutting some of the green tape, we also want to slash red tape. In particular the impractical and unfair burden placed on individuals to identify and secure permission of mining Exploration Lease holders in order to fossick.”

Stephen said NAPFA was carefully monitoring NSW State Conservation Area Plans of Management Reviews and had made a submission on the Tuena-

Crookwell area. It had also supported the interests of Victorian prospectors with a substantial submission to the recent review there on access to additional national parks.

“Gold knows no borders and this is something that we can support each other on,” he said.

“NAPFA has really just begun and still has a long way to go before we will see significant improvements. But we have made a start and that is a major step forward.

“Since December we have devoted considerable effort to the mechanics of getting an association up and running – from a website to banking, membership register and promoting membership.

“We now plan to focus on building our credibility and influence so that we can influence change for the better.”

Stephen said there had been also good support from NSW equipment retailers and Minelab for NAPFA including a GPX5000 promotion (see [www.napfa.net](http://www.napfa.net)).

“Without exception they all understand that the future of their businesses partly depends on people having somewhere to go to swing their detectors or to use their gold pans,” Stephen said.

“NAPFA speakers have also been warmly received at several clubs who recognise that NAPFA is complimentary to their own activities and not in competition with them for membership.

“In short when we get a win for NAPFA it is a win that benefits everyone.

“At our AGM, members also agreed on a simple code of conduct. Essentially that we will do the right thing by the rules, the environment and property.

“In time we hope this code of conduct will assist us to gain access to private land through special arrangements as well as demonstrating to the community that we are responsible in the pursuit of our chosen activity.”

**Good luck on the goldfields!!**