



NAPFA NEWS

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers
Association Inc.

Incorporation No: INC 1200398
PO Box 2664
Carlingford Court
NSW 2118

www.napfa.net

June 2013 (Volume 1; Issue 4)

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

Memberships

A reminder that you membership is current now until 30 June 2014. You will not be asked to renew your membership in 2013-14. Check the incentives for new members on page 9.

Voluntary Contributions

While we are not requiring membership renewal this year, I urge you to support generously any fundraising activity – such as the raffles – and to promote membership to others.

Additionally the Committee asks that you consider making a voluntary membership payment for 2013-14 if you are in the position to do so. We are an honorary and voluntary organization – not for profit.

You can do that by making a bank transfer to:

NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers
Association Inc
Bank; Westpac
BSB 032 282
Account Number: 272392

Remember to put your name and a reference to Voluntary contribution.

Or send an email to Treasurer@napfa.net telling John what you have done.

The Raffle

We were able to conclude our major promotional drive that was based on the Minelab GPX5000 and supplementary prizes.

Our grateful thanks to the principal sponsor Minelab Australia for supporting us. Thank you also to Nugget Finder Coils for coming to the party.

Results for the raffle were published in the public notices section of *The Australian* on Monday 3 June. They have also been publicized on the NAPFA website www.napfa.net and on the major detecting forums.

Thank you to the many members who bought additional tickets and to the many new members who joined as a result of the promotion. We estimate the promotion resulted in an extra 300 NAPFA members – which is outstanding.

Congratulations to Tony Trojanavic from Moss Vale who won the main prize. Tony, with his new GPX 5000 and detecting dog 'Buddy' was ecstatic with his win. Tony has been detecting for a couple of years with a Minelab 705 and is keen to get this new machine onto some good ground.



Our total membership is now about 500. I hope that will be 1000 by the end of the June next year.

We are busy processing all of the new applications and confirmation of memberships will be going out as soon as possible.

Remember, if you have family or friends who prospect and Fosdick, please get them to join NAPFA. See a deal for new members on Page 8.

Our membership fee is the lowest in Australia for such an association and over time a strong membership base will help us be heard.

With the entrenched protectionism of NSW National Parks, and the slow processes of government, it will not be a quick nor easy fight. But we are confident we will get there in the end.

However this is not a time to be sitting on the fence and leaving it to others. Now is the time to build a better prospecting future. So please do your best to spread the word.

Our website is an excellent resource and receives about 1,000 visits per month. Have a read of it to become more aware of the issues and refer it to your mates.

Also don't let a chance go by. If you have personal contact with NSW state politicians then 'bend their ear' about the issues we face. With a Federal election in September use that as well, although rules around prospecting and mining in NSW are made by the NSW state government. Still it won't hurt to discuss our concerns.

“Go Minelabbing” Day at Windeyer was a big day out!

Our presence at the “Go Minelabbing“ Day in Windeyer was a fantastic opportunity for some of the NAPFA committee to meet new and old members and to talk about the things that matter for us.

The overall weekend was a great success and a huge credit to the major organisers -- the ‘country’ retail detector shops of **Nuggets from Down Under**, based in Mudgee; **Goanna Gold**, based in Greta and **Pots’n Plants**, based in Broken Hill. Even though they are technically ‘competitors’ they came together in Windeyer for the good of the industry to showcase what it is all about.

Kim Ellis and her family and staff from the Nuggets Down Under operation were literally all over the event making sure that fun and games ran efficiently and were FUN!

Kim’s daughter Kirsty cut a dashing figure as a pirate with chocolate ‘pieces of 8’ as part of a charity event that resulted in one lucky guy winning a CTX3030. Meanwhile other daughter Kalya ran the Children’s treasure hunt with gusto.

NAPFA acknowledges and thanks Kim and her crew for their organising efforts in the lead up to the day, and on the day itself. Also for brokering the Nugget Finder raffle prizes and selling tickets.

Kim put up an excellent photographic coverage of the event on the gold detecting and prospecting forum: <http://golddetecting.4umer.net/t13650p30-go-minelabbing>



Back Row Left to Right- Douglas Stone-Outdoor Press, Wal Ellison- Nuggets From Down Under, Kim Ellis- Nuggets From Down Under, Bob Buss- Goanna Gold Detectors, Andrew Greckie- Golden Triangle Tours, Greg Spangler-Pots'n'Plants & Prospecting Supplies, Gary Frame- Dubbo, Stephen Dangaard- NAPFA

Front Row Left to Right

Gary Shmith- Minelab General Manager (Asia Pacific), Kalya Ellis- Nuggets From Down Under, Kirsty Ellis- Nuggets From Down Under, Judy Buss- Goanna Gold Detectors, Hayden Vine- Greg Spangler-Pots'n'Plants & Prospecting Supplies, Martin Foran- Minelab Technical Sales Representative, Rohan Johnson - Nugget Finder Pty Ltd & Dawson the dog from Nuggets From Down Under

(Photo credit: both these Go Minelabbing Day photos were supplied by Nuggets from Downunder.)

The day was a bit of a who's who in the detecting game.

The 'Star' line-up for the weekend included:

- Minelab's General Manager for Asia and the Pacific, Gary Shmith;
- Minelab's Technical Sales Rep, a young Irishman named Martin Foran, fresh from training on the gold fields of Africa;
- Andrew Grech – leading trainer and tour operator from Victoria;
- Rohan Johnson – the chief of Nugget Finder Coils;
- Kim Ellis – Nuggets from Down Under
- Bob and July Buss – Goanna Gold
- Greg Spangler – Pot 'n Plants
- Doug Stone (and Julie Stone) – mapmakers and author of Detecting for Gold and Relics in Australia;
- Martin Marks – of Quanta gold pan fame;

Attendees spent several hours listening to a range of technical discussions and practical demonstrations

about how to get the most out of the gear that we have.

People new to detecting had ample opportunity for some hands on demos run by representatives of the shops. The members of the Windeyer Endurance Club kept the catering coming all day long.

It was really good to see so many young people and families at the day, because above all the day was a chance for people to come and get a taste of metal detecting. If you ever get a chance to one of the "Go Minelabbing" events then do get along because you won't be disappointed.

The town of Windeyer put on a good show for the visitors as well – a comfy caravan park at Bushlands and even a bush dance! The pub also did a roaring trade on the couple of nights we were there. Similar to an Easter Weekend I was told.



NSW Tourism Inquiry open for submissions: Closes 28 June

Seeing the impact that the “Go Minelabbing” event had on Windeyer has been a stimulus for NAPFA to prepare a submission to a NSW Government Inquiry into Tourism in Regional areas.

This is something that you as individuals could contribute to as well. You have until June 28 – so not a long time. Sorry for not alerting you earlier.

You don't have to make it a big document, even a couple of hundred words is helpful, but more if you can.

Just use your own personal experiences and your local knowledge to explain to the committee in your own words how important tourism is to the regional economy of NSW and in particular how you think prospectors and fossickers can contribute to that process. And how things could be made better for prospecting 'tourists' or visitors.

Use examples of where you know it has worked well -- including interstate. And also examples of where it is not working well and why not.

Tell them how much money you spend in regional areas chasing gold. If you go to WA or some other state, tell them why.

The NAPFA submission will be put on the website after June28.

Full details here:

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/Parlment/committee.nsf/0/F9A89E80EC796DE1CA257B630006FEF7>

Basically we will use the inquiry to highlight the benefits that fossicking brings to local areas and the need from that to improve access, facilities and information for the NSW and ACT prospecting fraternity.

Victorian Inquiry into extending prospecting in National Parks

NAPFA made a submission to this inquiry, which reported early in June. Essentially the inquiry recommended extension of prospecting into some areas of some national parks where access was sought – but with the likelihood of restrictions..

NAPFA has been interested in the Victorian inquiry because the arguments there will be the same here in NSW when we eventually get Government to consider this seriously.

It is interesting to note that unfilled detector holes and what was presented as damage from sluicing were singled out as issues of concern for any extension of prospecting rights by the inquiry. No complaint about any natural landform change though, or rubbish dumpers.

The inquiry also expressed the general concern about what they saw as incompatibility between National Park objectives and potential damage by fossickers. Sluicing was put under the microscope, in particular the use of river sluices and high-bankers with pumps.

While the Victorian Government will need to respond to the inquiry in its own way, from my reading of it, there is a chance that detecting and panning only could be allowed in some new areas, including some that are in the Alpine area on the Victorian side of the NSW/Vic border.

However it is unlikely that sluices and high bankers will be allowed in because of the inquiry's judgment that they have potential to cause damage.

For me the inquiry underlined the need for all of us to prospect according to the regulations – that means filling in detector holes – shame on the lazy people who don't – and restoring any areas that have been sluiced, even in creek bottoms.

It also confirmed why it is critical that we maintain and update as necessary our NAPFA Code of Conduct.

I urge you to read the inquiry's findings yourself. There is also discussion on the forums about it.

Here is a link to the report for more details.

http://www.veac.vic.gov.au/documents/VEAC%20Prospecting%20Report_int.pdf

COILTEK Gold Centre joins our supporters offering NAPFA memberships if you buy a detector

I was down in Victoria for the long weekend – but found no gold at all – better to stay in NSW!

When I was in Maryborough I spoke with Andrew Gladdis the owner of the store there and he has agreed to offer free NAPFA membership for anyone in NSW who spends \$1000 or more on a detector.

I will write that up more fully on the supporters section of the website. He will also carry our membership forms in the store which is extra exposure for us.

A reminder also that **Nuggets From Down Under** will provide free membership with any Minelab GPX5000 purchase.

Goanna Gold is also providing membership with any detector over \$1000 until the end of September.

So if your non-NAPFA member friends are in the market for a new detector, please keep these offers in mind.

NAPFA would like any other NSW retailers who read *NAPFA News* to think about jumping on-board with including membership as part of their sales activity.

New Member promotion for July, August, September

When you are passing on the word about NAPFA membership, I am pleased to say that we have a couple of incentives for anyone who joins up between now and the end of September.

First prize: a genuine handcrafted prospecting pick from a NAPFA member.

The is the legendary “Mallee Boy.” It has a high quality synthetic handle and is made from a high tensile steel plough disc. This pick will cut it wherever you have to dig a big hole! And the yellow handle means you will usually be able to find it if you happen to walk away from it. If you buy a commercial pick similar to this it will set you back at least \$140.



Second prize: for the panners. A genuine Martin Marks Qanta gold pan.

Martin has used this design to win several national panning titles. It pans material very quickly without the need to sieve it. These retail for around \$100.

Only new sign-ups will be eligible for these prizes and there will be only one chance per new member. It will apply for anyone who signs up between the Windeyer draw (18th May) and the end of September.

The Treasurer and several independent witnesses will choose the name of the person in a special drawing and the winner will be notified and sent the prize. Winners will be announced via the website and NAPFA News.

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.

We also need to be involved in a meaningful way in any reviews of the Mining Act and in particular the bits of it that relate to fossicking.

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. We also need to make sure that Hill End remains accessible.

Strategy

The Committee recognizes that 2013-14 will be an important year for NAPFA.

We recognise that our strategy will broaden from membership development to more active engagement with NSW Government and politicians to pursue our case.

As a volunteer organization, our capacity to do this is limited so we will need to devise some smart ways to do it.

We will also continue to explore 'special access arrangements' for NAPFA members, potentially with private landowners. This approach has a lot of possibility, and will help to extend areas for access while the slow wheels of Government inch forward.

Please email me at President@napfa.net with any feedback and suggestions. NAPFA is your organization so be sure to have your say! 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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Carlingford Court NSW 2118

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‘Code of Conduct’

A reminder to all that the AGM 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.**

NAPFA to wave the flag at the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days 12th & 13th July

At the invitation of Nuggets From Down Under, NAPFA, more specifically your President 😊, will be at stand 304 to sign up new members and to talk to existing members about the issues we face.

The Mudgee Small Farm Field Days have been held since 1977 and are the premier educational field days in the Central West of NSW.

Since their beginning, the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days have delivered an outstanding range of free educational seminars, talks and displays to compliment the commercial exhibitors.

If you are at the field days, drop in to stand 304!

More information at:

<http://www.arec.com.au/about-the-mudgee-small-farm-field-days.html>