



October 2024

NEWSLETTER

PROSPECTING COMMUNITY EVENTS IN OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

1. Laanecoorie Gold Bash 11-13th October

The PMAV donate \$1000 every year to this important fundraiser.

We will have a marquee onsite for the three days and NEED assistance. It's a great social weekend, so if you can help for an hour or longer contact Jason on 0408 176 496.

What to expect (from Laanecoorie Facebook page): Prospecting Prospects: Even if you don't find real gold, there's a 100% chance you'll find golden memories (and probably

someone who claims they "totally found something shiny").

BBQ Bonanza: Our food stalls will make you feel like you've struck culinary gold. (Or at least like you've found the best sausage sizzle in the land.) Golden Games: Trivia night (Friday night), think you can wield a pickaxe? Try your luck in guess the weight, stake your claim and the token hunts and show us your skills in panning and guessing the weight of gold nuggets. Market Day on Saturday and remember Cash is King at our shindig.

2. PMAV 43rd Annual General Meeting Saturday 26th October

The 43rd PMAV Annual General Meeting will be held at the Dunolly Town Hall from 10.30am.

FREE Entry per membership*

* Club membership - Six adults, Family members –

Two adults, Concession – One adult entry.

Additional entry (non-members) \$15.

- The AGM will include the following:
- Catered for lunch (sandwiches, hot food, tea/coffee/water) in adjoining Rene-Fox Gardens
- Presentations on; Update on VEAC/State forest access/Mines and prospecting issues etc



- Slideshow + videos on full audio/AV setup.
- Past guest speakers – Neville Perry, Andrew Bales, Brent Shannon, Doug Stone, John Tully, Ian Holland, Mick Spiteri, John Harris, branch presidents + MORE! Line up to be announced.
- New Committee Members Election for 2024/2025
- PMAV and branch awards.
- RAFFLE Tickets available – Prizes TBA
- PMAV merchandise on site.

The AGM is a chance to join the main PMAV committee and make a change for the better. We need the following;

- General committee. Passionate and want to make a difference? Be involved with ideas how to move the PMAV forward.
- Events/merchandise/fundraising coordinator. The many events we setup marquees at - Wedderburn Minelab detecting, Victorian Gold panning Association, The Australian Gold Prospectors Expo, Laanecoorie Gold Bash, Vibes on Broadway - Dunolly Street Festival etc
- Treasurer.

Please contact Jason if you have any questions or you'd like to nominate, we will send you a nomination form pmav@pmav.org.au or 0408 176 496.

3. 'VIBES on Broadway' Sunday 27th October - Dunolly main street.

Goldfields Music Club is running this a massive street party with Music - Main & Youth Stage, Gold Panning, History Tours (john Tully), Parade, Art Display, Food/Coffee vans, Dunolly Country Market, retail and MORE! FREE EVENT

The PMAV will have a marquee in Rene Fox Gardens (next door to Town hall) and will run the gold panning, raffle and retail sales. If you can help – Jason 0408 176 496 .



4. SALE SHOW Celebrating Gippsland's Golden History 1st – 2nd November 2024.

The PMAV will have a stall and showcase some working equipment + Bairnsdale's School of Mines mineral & photo collection + token hunt (for prizes) + merchandise etc.



If you can assist, please contact John Munn (East Gippsland President) on 0457 047 309



5. The Recovery of the Wattle Gully Gold Mine 'Level Indicator Gauge'.



The Wattle Gully Gold Mine was first worked in 1853, with a major ore body discovery in 1937 reviving Victoria's flagging goldrush days. It closed in 2015 when the existing mining company went into liquidation. The Mine is a Heritage site and listed on the National trust.

Since last year Jason Cornish (PMAV President) has been working with the 'Friends of wattle Gully Goldmine' to get more action from the three government agencies to protect and preserve the mine from further theft, vandalism and disrepair.



<https://castlemainemail.com.au/latest-news/2023/09/29/locals-push-for-action-on-wattle-gully/>

The biggest concern was the 'Winding room' which still housed a lot of 19th century equipment such as the 'Indicator Level gauges'.

The PMAV offered to pay and install security cameras and bollards. All offers were rejected by government agencies.

10th August, the locks were found to be cut and gates open. **13th August**, Peter Panozzo (field officer of ERR) replaced the missing locks and repaired a fence. After this date, Michelle Ross (Goldfields Guide) who is also part of the WGGM committee, was sent some images from an 'urban explorer' who had visited the site and taken some photos of the winding room.

Michelle noticed that one of the gauges was missing from the winding room and she confirmed this with a site visit on 18th August. Michelle notified the committee and PMAV this had been stolen and we in turn organized meetings and permission to remove the remaining gauge and secure it at the

Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum.



Glenn Braybrook and Tim Brown (local WGGM committee members and ERR ranger Nick, assisted Jason in removing last gauge off site and safely secured at the museum.

Once this was done the PMAV posted on Facebook and numerous sites around the goldfields, a \$1000 reward for the return of the stolen gauge.

\$1000 REWARD

FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO
RECOVERY/CULPRITS



Stolen from a Heritage Listed Gold Mine in
Castlemaine

'Indicator Level Gauge'

Please call, text 0408 176 496 or email Jason
pmav@pmav.org.au

Any information leading to identification of thieves is confidential



If you want a reminder of why we need members and donations-this is one of them.

SO PLEASE RENEW, JOIN or DONATE! www.pmav.org.au

Four days later and Jason received a call from Nick Smith and Gareth Walton, prospectors up from the Yarra Valley who spotted the stolen gauge dumped on the side of a track. Again with Glenn Braybrook and Tim's assistance, we recovered it and took it to the Maldon museum for safe storage!



Again government departments were contacted to help pay for the reward. One agreed - ERR agreed to pay \$500 towards it with the rest supplied by PMAV.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with the recovery. The government agencies are still being pushed by the *Wattle Gully Goldmine Committee* to secure and protect the site. Cameras and bollards are only now being discussed by these agencies!

Due to the reward and recovery costs and past refusal from the 'governing' agencies, Jason withdrew the PMAV offer of cameras and bollards and expects the agencies to cover these costs now. Will they? Probably not..until something else is stolen??

6. ABC Ballarat radio interview

One of the many media interviews Jason has done. Listen from the 1hour 43min mark. Join and help protect our forest access. <https://www.abc.net.au/.../ballara.../breakfast/104317716...>



7. Victorian Environment Assessment Council

Greta Raadsveld PMAV Vice President and Jason Cornish President fresh out of a meeting with Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Environment Minister's office.

VEAC top of the conversation.

PMAV will now be officially included as 'stakeholders' in present and all future 'investigations' into land status change.

The minister will reply to our documentation soon with a promise to investigate and respond to our official complaint on VEAC.

COSING SOON - the ePetitions that are being sponsored by Melina bath MP and Wayne Farnham MP. ALL family can sign regardless of age.

Upper house <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/.../stop-the-creation...>

Lower house <https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/.../national-park...>

The petitions call on the state government to keep the Victorian forests open for all users and to not create any new national parks.

They are the only types of petitions which parliament will debate and currently set to break the record for the MOST signatures! So join history and add your details!

Thank you to everyone who supports the PMAV! If you have friends who are not members please encourage them to join!

Jason Cornish (President)

Greta Raadsveld (Vice President)