



NAPFA NEWS

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers

Association Inc.

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www.napfa.net

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Stop Press: Membership promo page 6.

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

Progress on Crown Roads closures after recreational alliance meeting with Deputy Premier

On Thursday 11 July, as part of a joint prospectors/fishers/canoists and mountain bike riders, I met with the Deputy Premier, Andrew Stoner, to discuss concerns that the alliance has with the closure of Crown Roads.

As a result of our combined efforts, which have been strongly supported by Robert Brown, MLC, of the Shooters and Fishers Party, the Deputy Premier, has flagged a number of significant improvements to the current system of notification and processing of these Crown Roads closures.

These include the following:

- 1) A single Crown Lands website that will list all the closure proposals – anticipated to be running by October;
- 2) Along with a description of the area of the proposal, a simple user friendly map to allow members of the public to easily identify the road in question; Specifically we have asked that this also include information about mineral deposits; mining leases and links to Min View database mining leases so that you can make your own assessment about the utility of a road for prospecting purposes.
- 3) Training for Crown Lands staff about the needs of the various user groups, prospectors among them.
- 4) A 1300 number where illegal enclosure and signage of Crown Lands areas can be reported for investigation and possible compliance action.

In working with the alliance, it has underlined how useful it is for NAPFA to maintain productive links with a range of other recreational bodies so that jointly we can present a stronger case to the Government.

NAPFA appreciates the prompt action by the Deputy Premier on this matter.

Thank you Mr Stoner!

Here is the text of the Deputy Premier's Media Release:

The Hon. Andrew Stoner MP
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Trade and Investment
Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 9 August 2013

MAKING CROWN ROAD CLOSURES CONSULTATION EASIER

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner has announced that consultation over proposed Crown road closures will take a big leap forward when a new online service to aid the process goes live soon.

Mr Stoner said the new service, currently under development on the NSW Crown Lands website, would show each advertised road closure application on easily accessible, user-friendly maps.

"The information will remain online for the full 28 day submission period for each road closure application, making it easier for affected parties to access the information," Mr Stoner said.

"The roads notices will be searchable by date, locality and local government area.

"However, in the interests of privacy, the identity of landholders or applicants will not be made available." The new web-based service is being developed by Trade & Investment Crown Lands and is anticipated to go live in about two months time.

"The web service is a response to concerns raised by recreational groups following the acceleration of the Crown roads closure program to clear a large backlog of applications," Mr Stoner said.

"The government appreciates the feedback from stakeholders and is responding by making road closure information easier to access.

"The consultation process is working well, with road closures applications referenced to a range of government agencies, such as NSW Fisheries, as well as adjacent land holders and local councils and advertised in local media.

"While the government is confident this process is fair to all, the web service is a step up in making current road closure applications easier to access."

Our alliance members



PHOTO: (From left) At NSW Deputy Premier's Office: Dr Simon Kean, TrailCare; Stephen Dangaard, President NSW&ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association; Lynn Parker, President, Paddle NSW; Peter Gibson, Senior Vice President, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers; Malcolm Poole, Chairman, Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW; Don Barton. President, NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers.

So what does this mean for you?

From your individual perspective, this means it will be easier for you to assess local road closure submissions and then to lodge your own individual objections.

NAPFA does not have the resources to comb through these individual applications and to lodge objections as there are simply too many of them to deal with.

Our role has been to ensure that there will be better information available and that it will be easier for people to track where these road closures are being sought.

However if you as prospectors in various areas look at the applications, there may be some that catch your eye. In this case, you should lodge a short objection highlighting the following key points:

- **The road provides access to an area with known fossicking potential;**
- **Closure of the road would adversely impact on your ability to fossick there;**
- **Such a closure removes land from the public access which is presently available, and is therefore undesirable;**
- **Be sure to include any known gold or gem history of the area as well and information about your own individual activity there. If you have any maps etc, include those to help your case. Don't get bogged down with this though, just do what you can!**

Gemstone and mineral fossickers also take note! It is not just about gold.

It would be helpful if you kept NAPFA informed by letting us know you have made an objection. It will be useful over time to understand the number of objections on the basis of impact on fossicking.

We will have follow-up stories in future issues of *NAPFA News*.

Talk to your politicians...

Also don't let a chance go by when you have personal contact with NSW politicians at either the local, state or federal level. Be sure to 'bend their ear' about the issues we face.

Use the federal election in September to engage with candidates from all parties, although we recognise rules around prospecting and mining in NSW are made by the NSW state government.

NAPFA invited to appear at NSW Government Inquiry into Tourism in Regional areas.

In the last NAPFA News you were told that NAPFA had lodged a submission to this inquiry which is focused on developing regional tourism in NSW.

In our submission we explained how fossicking had the potential to provide a boost to tourism but this was being hampered by access issues and lack of organized promotion of fossicking as a tourism activity.

I am pleased to report that NAPFA has now been asked to participate in public hearings for the inquiry in Sydney on the 26th of August.

This will provide an opportunity to further explain to the Committee concerns that we have over the access issues in NSW and their effect on local tourism. We will highlight the potential contribution of fossicking to local tourism economies.

This is part of NAPFA's work to help fossicking access and interests in NSW.

I was also delighted to see that a number of other NAPFA members, also lodged their personal submissions. In fact there were EIGHT separate submissions that covered fossicking from a total of 76 submissions, which is an outstanding contribution by the fossicking community to the inquiry. Thanks to all who contributed!

Here is a link to all the submissions, including NAPFA's (number 44) and PMAV's (number 41):

<http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/Prod/Parlment/committee.nsf/V3ListSubmissions?open&ParentUNID=F9A89E80EC796DE1CA257B630006FEF7>

Sydney's *Sun Herald* Newspaper also followed up on our submission and they published the following story which outlines NAPFA's concerns over access issues.

Be sure to check out the video links.

Many thanks to Canberra NAPFA members Barry and Gay Gardner and their grandson Tom for assisting with the story! Here is the link:

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/a-lack-of-prospects-20130720-2qawh.html>

New Member promotion for July, August, September

Memberships

A reminder that your membership is current now until 30 June 2014. You will not be asked to renew your membership in 2013-14.

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 October.

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

This is the legendary “Mallee Boy.” It has a 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 around \$140.



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



Martin has used this design to win several national panning titles and represent Australia overseas. 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, 2013) of the Minelab GPX5000 and the end of OCTOBER (Please note we extended this by one month to allow promotion to have a better impact).

The Treasurer and several independent witnesses will choose the winner in a special drawing and the winner will be notified and sent the prize.


Winners will be announced via the website and NAPFA News.


Here is an advert for Martin's equipment:

MARTIN MARKS


WINGED KEEL PAN, SUPER SLUICE & QANTA SPEED PAN

WINGED KEEL PAN
USED IN GOLD PANNING WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN:
USA - 1998
POLAND - 2000





COMPETITION QANTA SPEED PAN
410 QANTA SPEED PAN
280 QANTA SPEED PAN



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DESIGNER
AND MANUFACTURER:
M & D MARKS MR. MARTIN MARKS **M & D MARKS**
By **APPOINTMENT** Please
TELEPHONE - (02) 9838 0397

**USED IN GOLD PANNING WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS IN:**
PILGRIMS REST - SOUTH AFRICA IN 2005
TANKVAARA - FINLAND IN 2006
DAWSON CITY - CANADA IN 2007

Voluntary Contributions

While we are not requiring membership renewal this year, I urge you to support generously any fundraising activity – such as raffles when they occur – 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.

Do you live near Copeland Tops and Gloucester area?

The revised draft Plan of Management of the Copeland Tops State Conservation Area will be available soon. Your input and interest is encouraged.

NAPFA is keen that this area be available for fossicking, for the benefit of the community as a whole. We are looking for your input to representations to National Parks who are in charge of the process of reviewing the Plan of Management.

The area used to be a major gold producer area but has been locked-up to fossickers even though it remains available to mining.

NAPFA's Vice President, Paul Barker, is keen to hear from NAPFA members interested in getting access to this area.

Please contact Paul ASAP by email: paulwb@internode.on.net

First Goanna Gold GPX Mastery...sold out...but more on the horizon

Goanna Gold Detectors & Andrew Grech of Golden Triangle Tours have sold out their first GPX Mastery Event to be held later this month.

However due to the strong demand, Goanna will be organizing some follow-up courses, so if you are interested get in touch with Judy Buss on 02 4938-7670 or check website details:

<http://goannagolddetectors.com.au/index.php/blog/gpx-mastery-13/>

Andrew is Australia's premier teacher & lecturer on Mastery for the Minelab GPX range of metal detectors.

As attendees at the Goanna Gold Muster and the Go Minelabbing Day discovered, Andrew is a whiz on the GPX machines, so if you really want to learn how to get the best out of your machine, this is a good chance. Even if you think you know your GPX inside out, Andrew may well surprise you. Think of him as a detecting Yoda!

The photo below shows Andrew presenting at the Goanna Gold Muster in April. NAPFA also held our inaugural Annual General Meeting at that muster.



NAPFA attended the Mudgee Small Farm Field Days 12th & 13th July

At the invitation of Nuggets From Down Under, NAPFA Committee members dropped into the Mudgee Small Farm Field Day. We met some of our members and signed up some new members.



Photo: Stephen Dangaard, NAPFA President; Kim Ellis Owner, Manager Nuggets from Down Under; John Standfort, NAPFA Treasurer and Tony Batch – NAPFA Committee Member.

NAPFA also waves the flag at Miners' Den Open Day in Canberra

NAPFA was pleased to be able to make a pitch for our goals to attendees at the Miners Den Canberra Open Day on 22 June. About half a dozen people signed up there and then.

The event, which was attended by about 30 people, was held at the Dinosaur Museum at the Gold Creek Village in Canberra.

If you have not seen the Dinosaur Museum – make sure you drop in. They have an excellent collection of fossils, rocks, gems, meteorites and well worth the stop.

Dave Watters from Miners Den said they were looking to set up a retail outlet in Canberra soon – so if you live in the ACT – stay tuned.



PHOTO: NAPFA waves the flag in Canberra at the Miners' Den Open Day. Check out the dinosaur! Not the one in the straw hat on the left...

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, 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 where it relates 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 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 on public land.

Improvements take time – like prospecting you need to do the ground work to get a good result!

Committee member profile

Paul Barker, Vice-President

Location: Charlestown, NSW.



I first became interested in gold prospecting more years back than I care to remember; my first colour coming from the Hanging Rock gold fields, before the pine plantations were planted.

Back in those days a couple of gold pans were the tools of the day for me. The passion ebbed and flowed over the ensuing years with little and mostly no success! With retirement came a renewed interest in the yellow metal, better gold pans and a river sluice started to produce fairly regular colour in small amounts.

Three years back I took the plunge and invested in a Minelab GPX5000 that gave rise to a more serious approach to prospecting.

Being my first metal detector the learning curve was fairly steep, however with some sound advice and many hours of practice and experimenting, the first small piece of gold was unearthed exactly one week after purchasing the detector.

This first find really got the dreaded gold fever established, though it was about six or eight months and many trips before the gold really started to be uncovered all be it in small but much appreciated amounts.

These days living in Newcastle, the NSW Central West, and the New England gold fields along with the Golden Triangle in Victoria are the areas that I frequent.

Contact Details. PH 02 49437462; Mob 0412 437462; Email: paulwb@internode.on.net

A reminder that NAPFA has a Code of Conduct. Stay safe and find plenty!

‘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.**

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

Visit to website and refer your friends to it please.

Also feel free to write in our Guest Book on the website. In fact it would be good if you did!

Yours sincerely under the Southern Cross.

Stephen Dangaard
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