



NAPFA News

NSW & ACT Prospectors and
Fossickers Association Inc
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NSW 2118
www.napfa.net

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*****Please use your membership number
when communicating with us*****

****GPX5000 raffle – get your tickets now****

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

Good News on access liability

After a sustained representation effort, NAPFA is pleased to draw your attention to a new posting on the Department of Resources and Energy Website about “Landholder Indemnity”. See the text and link below.

In plain English it means if you have permission of a landholder to fossick on the land, then the landowner can't be sued by you or as a result of something you do or don't do.

This will help you to get permission off landowners who we all know often say “no” because they are scared of getting sued if you injure yourself.

It is interesting that this clause has always existed in the legislation but has not been identified or understood by fossickers.

What NAPFA has done is to confirm that fossicking is in fact covered by the Indemnity (this was not clear), and to have it put in a prominent place on the Resources and Energy website.

It is recommended you print it out and show it to landholders if they are concerned about liability.

Note that it does NOT provide you with any liability protection or insurance. But it is a very welcome ruling for us.

<http://www.resourcesandenergy.nsw.gov.au/landholders-and-community/fossicking-in-nsw>

Landholder indemnity

Fossicking is a lawful activity under Section 12 the *Mining Act 1992* (the Act). The Act states the following under section 383C General immunity of landholders:

(1) The landholder of land within which any person (other than the landholder) is authorised to exercise any power or right:

(a) by or under this Act, or

(b) by any authority, mineral claim, opal prospecting licence or permit under this Act,

is not subject to any action, liability, claim or demand arising as a consequence of that person's acts or omissions in the exercise, or purported exercise, of any such power or right.

(2) In this section, landholder includes a secondary landholder.

NAPFA submission to NSW Crown Lands Review highlights risks, opportunities

NAPFA provided comprehensive comments last month to the NSW Crown Lands Legislation White Paper about matters that are of concern to our members and indeed all fossickers in NSW. The White Paper sets out a range of intended changes in the way that Crown Land is managed in NSW.

By way of background, Crown Land in NSW covers 33 million hectares or 42 per cent of the state. It does not include national parks and state forests. Around 30 million hectares is in the Western Division of NSW which incorporates around 6,500 Western Lands Leases. Town Commons are also included.

The changes seek to simplify the management of Crown Land in NSW and to make sure that a modernised approach to Crown Lands continue to benefit the people of NSW.

However, NAPFA identified a number of important risks which included:

- additional ownership rights to Western Lease holders – which could make access by fossickers to these areas even more difficult than at present;
- potential to get rid of Town Commons – which could have a detrimental impact on access in places like Hill End, Tibooburra and Stuart Town just to name a few;
- more involvement by local councils who could act parochially and limit access.

Our comments went into detail about these matters, and highlighted some of the potential economic benefits for regional areas from fossicking tourism. At some point the NSW government will make all the submissions public, at which time we will provide NAPFA members with a link to our full submission.

It was pleasing that a number of other fossickers put in individual submissions to let the powers that be know how people feel. Stay tuned.

Please get behind Vic petition

There is an online petition, created by 'Prospecting Australia' forum, to support sluicing in Victoria. "Ryan Smith: Refuse the proposed ban on sluicing in Victoria" on Change.org.

It's important. All NAPFA members are encouraged to sign it. Here's the link:

http://www.change.org/en-AU/petitions/ryan-smith-refuse-the-proposed-ban-on-sluicing-in-victoria?recruiter=125573065&utm_campaign=signature_receipt&utm_medium=email&utm_source=share_petition

Reminder about NSW State Forests Permit change

For the benefit of new NAPFA members and those who may have missed it, NSW State Forest has made some excellent improvements in their State Forest Permit System.

This was largely a result of NAPFA representations to Forest Corporation of NSW.

Fossickers can now apply at www.forestrycorporation.com.au for a single 12-month permit that allows them to fossick in approved areas of State forests throughout NSW, replacing the old system that required people to obtain permits on a regional basis.

Regional permits that are currently valid may be used State-wide until they expire, providing the holder visits the FCNSW website to review any updated conditions and download the most up-to-date maps showing where fossicking is permitted.

The new annual State-wide permits will cost of \$25 plus GST in 2014, with the cost to increase incrementally to \$35 plus GST in 2016.

The permit fees allow FCNSW to cover administration costs. The small increase recognises that the new permits are valid across NSW and will represent a saving for people fossicking in more than one region.

In addition, FCNSW has expanded the permit to allow a family group with a maximum of five people (2 adults and 3 children under 18 years of age) to fossick under a single permit.

If you are fossicking in a group or club, each member or family group must hold a permit.

Alternatively, clubs may contact their local regional office to apply through the Forest Permit system for a permit to cover single events.

When in State forests, fossickers must adhere to all relevant legislation, guidelines, permit conditions and excellent maps showing where they can and can't fossick. This information is available online.

This is a very good outcome for fossickers in NSW and shows the benefit of supporting NAPFA.

Your Committee plugged away on this issue for about 12 months pointing out the obvious deficiencies with the old system. About 350 permits have been issued since March.

If enough people make enough noise then THINGS CAN CHANGE.

Apathy, however, won't change a thing!

AGM went well – thanks to all who attended

We had a good turnout – about 40 -- for the Annual General Meeting which was held at Hill End on Sunday 6 April.

Members elected our new Committee and I am honoured that I am once again the president of NAPFA. I aim to serve you well! The 2014-15 committee is:

President – Stephen Dangaard

Vice President – Paul Barker

Public Officer/Treasurer – John Standfort

Secretary – Peter Olinjink

Committee Members

-Bruce Wildie

-Tony Batch

-Sean Ashcroft

I also had a chance to highlight our significant achievements since last year.

Lobbying successes

- recommendations from a NSW Government White Paper that the NSW Government look at ways to include fossicking in the National Parks Mix; and a
- change in the way State Forests operate their permit system – now state-wide and online, with good maps.

Membership growth

- more than doubled to almost 700 (at the time of the AGM) – and financial stability.

Making friends

- We have developed effective links with the major retailers of metal detectors and prospecting equipment. For the second year Minelab Australia are supporting us in a major way with a GPX 5000 as part of our 2014/15 membership drive and fundraiser. The promotion we ran last year was very successful.
- We have maintained effective and helpful liaison with interstate counterpart organisations, such as PMAV in Victoria. This included a submission to the Victorian Government in support of improved access in Victorian Alpine areas near the NSW border.

Communication

- We issued six newsletters to members and maintained and improved our website. Since April last year our website has recorded 11,400 visitors and 18,000 page views, which is not bad at all. All newsletters are on the website www.napfa.net
- Committee members have also tried to be present at major gatherings of fossickers and have supported groups and online forums where possible.

Wanted: Treasurer's Assistant in Sydney

A plea for someone in Sydney to help out our highly productive Treasurer.

This is not a Committee position but is there to provide some support and back-up to our Treasurer. Some face-to-face contact with the Treasurer will be required (located at Carlingford).

MYOB skills are highly desirable and basic desk top publishing would be a big plus. However if you do not have MYOB then John will be able to teach you as he is a 'master' of the MYOB. We estimate approximately up to three hours per week on average.

Please contact John Standfort, Treasurer, on 0409 674 507 or via email at Treasurer@napfa.net to find out more about this.

Memberships now until 30 June 2015

The NAPFA Committee has determined to roll over all current and new memberships until 30th June 2015. You will not be asked to renew your membership until that time. But please support our raffle.

Voluntary Contributions

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

Additionally the Committee asks that you consider making a voluntary membership payment for 2013-2014 if you are in the position to do so. We are an honorary and voluntary organization – not for profit.

Contact Treasurer@napfa.net if you want to make a donation.

Fill in your holes

It is vital that all fossickers fill in their detector holes and any other digging holes.

If you have fossicking mates who are a bit slack, please remind them that greenies will use any excuse and trick to discredit fossickers. In Victoria recently greenies misrepresented to media diggings from the 1800s as modern day fossicker damage!

When NAPFA seeks access to other areas of land – such as the State Conservation Areas and some National Parks – it is essential that all fossickers behave in the right way.

Sluicers need to be very careful as well not to undermine vegetation or dig into creek banks.

Please do your best to educate newcomers.

Members on WA goldfields

I spent five enjoyable weeks in Western Australia in May and June and signed up about a dozen new NAPFA members. We now have members in New Zealand and Sweden!

A core part of the trip was a “Tag-a-long” tour with Gold Prospecting Australia run by Mark and Ronda Hyde who have been NAPFA members for almost a year.

Mark is very supportive of NAPFA (and other state associations) and encourages all his clients to join their local associations.



Above: Ron and Beryl from Toowoomba – proud NAPFA members.



Above: 'Wolfie' and Pam a.k.a 'Digger' – NAPFA members from Holbrook, NSW.



Above: Mark Hyde from Gold Prospecting Australia – a keen NAPFA advocate. Gary – new NAPFA member from New Zealand. And Michael – our only NAPFA member from Sweden.



Above: NAPFA Brothers Dave from Canberra and Darren from Sale finding a piece and Phil from Victoria – long standing NAPFA member. Looking for new ground!

Raffle for GPX 5000 and other prizes – how to enter

Minelab Australia has generously come to the NAPFA cause with the donation of a new GPX 5000 as a membership promotional prize and fundraiser.

This special raffle will be drawn on the NSW Go Minelabbing Day 1st November 2014. Location to be advised. The winner will be notified by phone or email and the result also published on the website www.napfa.net and in *The Australian*.

The Recommended Retail Price of the GPX 5000 is \$6,595 (including GST)



Standard inclusions are:

- 11" Commander Monoloop coil
- 11" Commander Double-D coil
- Li-Ion battery pack
- Harness & Bungy cord
- 12v and Mains plug packs
- Heavy Duty power lead
- Koss UR-30 Headphones
- Straight shaft assembly
- Instruction Manual
- FREE training day in selected goldfield locations

What to do now

1. Join-up your family and friends so they can support our cause and be in the raffle
2. Tell your prospecting friends about this excellent promotion
3. Support us with Ticket purchases. See order form in this newsletter.

Remember: NAPFA is a lobby group and the more members we have the more chance we have of convincing Government that there is an active and concerned fossicking community.

Be active please – this is not a time to sit on the fence! We need your help.

There is a total prize pool of over \$9,400. This includes the GPX 5000, an X-terra 705, nugget finder coils and training days.

Do you want to win a GPX5000?

Our major fundraising raffle has a Minelab GPX5000 as the major prize.

There are also other prizes for a prize pool of more than \$9,400.

Tickets are \$10 each and all NAPFA members are encouraged to buy tickets.

You can buy tickets face-to-face at:

- **Goanna Gold in Greta;**
- **Detect a Den in Canberra and Bateman's Bay;**
- **Central West Prospecting Supplies in Mudgee;**
- **Miner's Den in Parramatta and**
- **Pots and Plants in Broken Hill.**

Or use the form below.

WE THINK YOU HAVE MUCH BETTER ODDS WINNING THIS RAFFLE THAN FINDING A BIG FAT NUGGET SO GIVE IT A GO.

THERE ARE VERY FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO WIN A GPX5000 SO YOU SHOULD GET ON BOARD WITH THIS ONE.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Minelab; Nugget Finder Coils; Central West Prospecting Supplies (formerly Nuggets from Down Under); Goanna Gold; Detect a Den; Golden Triangle Tours; Coast to Coast Prospecting Tours and Training and CC Picks.



Ticket order for 2013/14 Raffle

Note: Raffle will be drawn early November, exact place and time to be advised. If you win we will contact you. No mail order tickets after October 27. So act now! Details on www.napfa.net

(Print) Name.....

If NAPFA Member your member number (on back of your card).....

Address:.....

City.....

Post Code.....

Your phone numbers: Home.....Mobile.....

Your email address:.....

NUMBER OF TICKETS YOU ARE YOU BUYING (\$10 EACH).....

HOW TO PAY

Send this order form and your cheque payable to NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc to

The Treasurer
PO Box 2664
Carlingford Court
NSW 2118

You can also Direct Deposit/EFT to:

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

VERY IMPORTANT:

If using Direct Deposit you **MUST PUT YOUR MEMBER NUMBER ON THE BANK REFERENCE AND INCLUDE THE WORD 'TICKETS'.**

Like this: 'Member - - - tickets 10' Any money that cannot be identified will be considered a donation.

If not a Member include your surname and initial: "Smith, J.M. 10 tickets"

Any questions, please email: Treasurer@napfa.net

As a LAST RESORT you can call John Standfort Treasurer on 0409 674 507 (Including weekends during business hours)

Events for your calendar

Laanecoorie Gold Bash – 10th, 11th, 12th October

Yes it's in Victoria but NAPFA will be there to wave the flag and support this charity event.

Last year 30 people signed up to NAPFA and we had a good ideas swap with PMAV. Remember the problems for fossicking don't stop at the border!

**This year's Charity will once again be the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation
<https://foundation.petermac.org/>**

The primary contact for the Bash is Bill "Wombat " and he can be contacted through the Gold Detecting and Prospecting Forum or on Mobile 0419 008 548

**The location is the Laanecoorie Lakeside Caravan Park 03 5435 7303 or
<http://www.laanecoorie.com.au>**

So give them a call right now and book your Cabin or Site as these did book out rather quickly last year.

NAPFA raffle tickets will also be on sale.

‘Code of Conduct’

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.**

How you can help the cause

- Join up a friend**
- Support Vic petition**
- Buy some raffle tickets**
- Use your Member Number if you contact us**
- If you dig a hole fill it in when you are finished!**

Stephen Dangaard

President

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