



NAPFA News

NSW & ACT Prospectors and
Fossickers Association Inc
Incorporation number: Inc 1200398
PO Box 2664
Carlingford Court
NSW 2118
www.napfa.net

March 2014 (Volume 2; Issue 1)

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

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

A NAPFA win -- NSW Government to look at fossicking in National Parks.

Good News!

On 6 March the NSW Parliament tabled its Committee Inquiry report on *'Tourism in local communities'* (we covered in the last NAPFA News).

NAPFA, along with other individual fossickers, made submissions to this inquiry which highlighted the potential of fossicking tourism and our problems with access. We also attended public hearings.

The good news for all fossickers in NSW is in the recommendations:

Recommendation 17

That the NSW Government investigate further opportunities for tourism development in national parks including accommodation, camping, mountain bike trails and fossicking.

Recommendation 19

That the NSW Government investigate opportunities for fossicking in national parks, a single access fee for state forests and linking information for fossicking activities on the Destination NSW website.

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The report is available on www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3 along with submissions, transcripts of evidence and other documents associated with the Inquiry.

For details on the fossicking content go to page 106 to 109 in Chapter 6.

The report and its 25 recommendations are now with the Government for consideration. The Government is required to respond to the recommendations within six months.

NAPFA will offer any support requested to the Government while it considers these recommendations.

There is no guarantee that we will get access to any of these national park areas, however we have stated our case and it has been at least noticed.

The single licence for State Forests is already in the pipeline and its release is imminent, so we can consider that one done.

Your support for NAPFA is appreciated. Thank you. You can further help us by getting other people to join and supporting our raffle. There is a good membership promo on at the moment, and we need all the members we can muster. All the details are in the last mail out and on www.napfa.net

Positive Meeting with Tourism Minister

On 6th March NAPFA had a meeting with the NSW Tourism Minister, the Hon George Souris.

During the meeting we

- Provided an overview of fossicking and its connection to tourism
- Proposed a NSW Gold Fields Tourist Route in the Bathurst Basin that would rival the Gold Fields Trail in Victoria's Golden Triangle
- Discussed the need for formal Destination NSW research on the value of fossicking in regional communities
- Briefed on Outdoor Press's progress with a NSW Gold and Gem Atlas by Doug Stone
- Sought his support for proposed fossicking areas in Kosciuszko National Park and for a general access to Sturt National Park near Tibooburra
- Discussed ways that Visitor Information Centres could be more responsive to fossicking needs.



There is a lot of follow-up work to do from the meeting including putting forward a detailed concept for the Gold Fields Tourist Route and a brief for research. We'll keep you up to date in due course. It was a good meeting though and NAPFA thanks the Minister for his time and interest in meeting with us.

NAPFA representatives were: Stephen Dangaard, President; Doug and Julie Stone, NAPFA members and Proprietors of Outdoor Press.

The meeting was also attended by the Hon. Robert Brown, MLC, Shooters and Fishers Party, who set the meeting up for us.

Remember to use your
Member number when
corresponding with NAPFA.

Annual General Meeting

NAPFA Annual General Meeting
At the Shelter Shed Glendora Caravan Park
Hill End, NSW
Sunday 6/4/2014 at 09:00am

ARRANGEMENTS

The Annual General Meeting is being conducted within the Goanna Gold Muster that is organized by Goanna Gold Detectors from Greta.

We are doing this because many of our members will be at the Muster and we have received a lot of support from Goanna Gold.

Technically you do not need to attend the Muster in order to attend the AGM. However NAPFA encourages you to join in the Muster for the social and prospecting benefits that it offers.

If you are on Goanna Gold's mailing list you will receive an invitation to the Muster from Judy Buss. Otherwise you can contact Judy by email at Bob@goannagolddetectors.com.au or phone her on **02 4938 7670** for details about the Muster.

Please note Goanna Gold has a \$10 administration fee to attend the Muster and you need to register as well.

We are sending the Goanna Gold Information and muster registration separate to this NAPFA News.

Committee nominations

Committee nominations are also being called. Each nomination should be forwarded to secretary@napfa.net or mailed to NAPFA Secretary, P.O. Box 2664 Carlingford Court, NSW 2118.

Please submit nominations by 31/3/2014. Form attached.

There are seven established NAPFA Committee Positions which must be filled but if you have an interest in helping NAPFA in any field please get in touch.

Work of committee members is not too difficult but it is essential that you are an active email user; willing and able to contribute in writing or in meetings and willing to take an active interest in understanding and promoting the goals of NAPFA among fossickers and the community at large.

We are a volunteer organisation and rely on the enthusiasm, organisation and dedication of all members of the committee to keep things moving and to share the workload.

Nominations may be invited from those gathered at Hill End but only if no nominations for those positions have been received prior. You can nominate yourself.

We need a Secretary

We urgently need a Secretary as our last Secretary stepped down for family and work reasons.

Ideally you would be in Sydney or Canberra (but not essential if you can work effectively from a distance).

You need to be able to put in on average approx 5 hours per week and be responsive to email correspondence. Sorry – there is no pay. However direct minor costs will be reimbursed.

Duties will include:

- Keep minutes of meetings (main decisions only);
- Coordinate NAPFA information and correspondence on our data base;
- Organise our meetings (mainly phone hook-ups);
- Draft content and helping mail-out of NAPFA News;
- Contribute to the work of the Committee.

Essential skills are:

- Being personally organized;
- Very good computer skills (MYOB/ Excel / Word would be ideal);
- Must be on the internet;
- Strong written and spoken communication skills;
- Able to work well in a team.

More information?

Please contact Stephen Dangaard, President, on 02 62589302 or via email at President@napfa.net

And a Treasurer's Assistant in Sydney

We also need someone to help out our highly productive Treasurer in Sydney.

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 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.

More information?

Please contact John Standfort, Treasurer, on 0409 674 507 or via email at Treasurer@napfa.net

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.

Join NAPFA now for chances to WIN GPX 5000

Minelab Australia has generously come to the NAPFA cause for 2013/14/15 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 we need you 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.

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

Minelab's lead has been supported by "Nugget Finder" High Performance Metal Detector Coils who have also donated:

- 2nd Prize 18" Round Advantage (RRP \$530.00 Inc GST)
- 3rd Prize 12"x7" Advantage Monoloop Coil (RRP \$320.00 Inc GST) and
- 4th Prize 8"x6" Sadie Monoloop Coil (RRP \$295 Inc GST)
- **ALSO the winner of each coil will receive a voucher for a heavy duty Nugget Finder skid plate – their choice of size!**
- *This makes a prize pool of over \$7,700 (or approx **five and a half ounces of gold**).*

HOW TO GET YOUR TICKETS

Join NAPFA now and receive TWO FREE tickets (value \$20).

You can join online at www.napfa.net or print out a PDF membership form and send it in with a cheque.

Please Note: Only new members and those who have joined since 18th of May 2013 will be eligible for free tickets. Existing NAPFA members (who were in the draw last time) will NOT receive free tickets.

Extra tickets can be purchased for the flat rate of \$10 each. There is no limit on the number of tickets you can buy.

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

Joining members: Join online at www.napfa.net and follow the instructions.

Existing members – Direct Deposit your ticket money 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 SURNAME AND INITIAL ON THE BANK REFERENCE AND INCLUDE THE WORD 'TICKETS'**.

Like this: 'Jason M Smith 10 tickets' Any money that cannot be identified will be considered a donation.

Non-members wishing to join – Complete the online application form at www.napfa.net and make the \$20 payment for the membership. Memberships remain financial until 30th June 2015.

Or if you prefer, send a cheque and you will be sent the corresponding number of tickets.

Make the cheque payable to NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc and send it to:

The Treasurer
PO Box 2664
Carlingford Court
NSW 2118

Tickets will be sent out progressively from 31 July, 2014 and will be sent to the address on the membership registration.

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)**

Crookwell Reserves Update

National Parks are still working on the new Plan of Management for the Crookwell Reserves. These cover about 2800 ha of prospecting ground around Tuena. Maybe we will have a result in a few months but with constantly slipping deadlines it could be another six months!

It is presently being prepared for the relevant Advisory Council which has required the chasing-up of more information about its fossicking history and the potential impacts of fossicking and how they could be managed.

The fact that it has required more information is encouraging but it is still unwise to predict the outcome to the whole process at this stage, so I won't try!

In my opinion the hoops that are required under the Plan of Management process demonstrate the strong bias towards 'protection' in the system and result in SCA's being managed as National Parks when that was never the intention of that class of reserve.

If you have a chance to talk to Members of the NSW Parliament about your hobby and these issues, then please do so. The only way that such bias can ultimately be overcome is through political action.

You can be sure that Protectionist Greenies will be presenting doomsday scenarios if fossickers are allowed anywhere. **Wasn't it Hanrahan that said: "We'll all be rooned!" ?**

I hope some common sense prevails.

Background

The area used to be available for fossicking, as it is Crown Land, but this right was extinguished unilaterally by NPWS in 2010 in order to expand the protected areas under the Goulburn Comprehensive Regional Assessment.

Since that time it has been illegal to fossick in those reserve areas even though fossicking has traditionally occurred there.

Fossickers lodged almost 20 individual submissions as well, and the matter was discussed via internet forums. Since the submissions closed in February last year, NPWS has been evaluating them and considering them as they develop a draft Plan of Management. The long delay has occurred due to change of responsibility in NPWS, bushfires and bureaucracy.

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 2013-2014 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.

Martin Byrne flies the NAPFA flag at country shows in NSW and Victoria

Getting the word out to fossickers throughout the community about NAPFA is a never ending task and one that relies on initiative and generosity.

Martin Byrne who is the owner of “Experience Treasure Panning” is a regular on the NSW and Victorian country shows.

Martin is a former Committee member of the Prospectors and Miners Association of Victoria and is also an avid NAPFA member. He has a deep and instinctive understanding of the problems that NAPFA is trying to address as a lobby group.

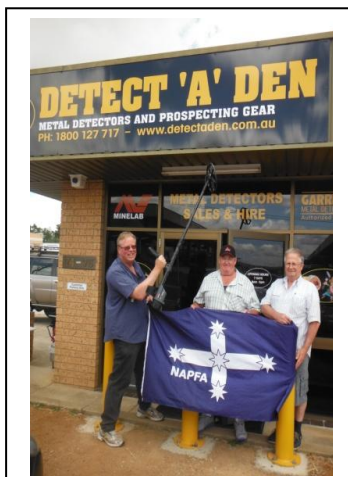
Through his show work, where he introduces panning to newbies, Martin is a true NAPFA ambassador. He talks to people about us, and gives them Membership forms as well.

NAPFA thanks Martin for his work. So if you see him around the shows, be sure to say Hello and tell him you are with NAPFA.

Picture shows Martin at the Canberra Show in February.



New detector shop in Canberra



NAPFA congratulates Detect 'a' Den on opening in Canberra in early December. Terry Lemon, the owner, is a NAPFA member and alerts customers to our presence.

They have a great set-up including a Test Bed for detectors.

You can buy raffle tickets for our GPX 5000 promotion there, and pick up membership forms for your mates.

Committee meets NPWS at Copeland Tops to look at the SCA there

At the beginning of February the NAPFA committee went to Gloucester to inspect the Copeland Tops SCA in preparation for our submission when it comes up.

When we were there we met with the local NPWS Ranger and the District Manager to discuss our intentions to put in a submission in due course.

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

NPWS uses the SCA and the Mountain Maid mine as an education centre for school groups. There are excellent facilities, built at considerable cost, and the kids learn about the gold history of the area and try their hand at panning in plastic tubs (unable to go in the gold bearing creek because of liability concerns).

The SCA is quite rugged and if we are able to get access there would require a good degree of fitness to be able to move through the terrain.

NAPFA's Vice President, Paul Barker, is keen to hear from NAPFA members interested in getting access to this area. Some have already contacted him, and if you have done that he has your details. Please contact Paul ASAP by email: paulwb@internode.on.net

A couple of photos here from the visit.



Typical Stamper from the area and committee member Bruce Wildie points out the 'no fossicking' sign at the car park of the SCA. "Looke but no touchee!"



Warning signs for visitors and Vice President Paul Barker reading the guide map.

NAPFA attends Prospecting Australia forum meeting at Nundle

In January, I had the pleasure of attending a Prospecting Australia forum get-together at Nundle.

There was about 50 people there – keen panners and sluicers and even a few detectorists.

I was lucky enough to detect three small nuggets for a total of 1.3grams up on the Hanging Rock area, so I was happy about that. Even found a few little crystals but the sapphire's eluded me.

Prospecting Australia is one of the newest forums on the block but has quickly developed a following. It is Run by Matt – a.k.a Nugget -- and some hard working moderators. Check it out on <http://www.prospectingaustralia.com.au/forum>

All the forums are a bit different and NAPFA's position is that you should look at them all and participate where you feel comfortable and well informed. We support all forums and the main ones now carry a section on NAPFA where NAPFA posts occasionally.

At a member raffle around the Prospecting Australia campfire, Gavin Stain and Brian Rourke were lucky enough to win complimentary NAPFA memberships. Welcome aboard gentlemen!



Happy campers at the Prospecting Australia event.

Dubbo Prospecting Club

There is an active prospecting club in Dubbo run by Brian Walters and we have put a link on the NAPFA website. The club has about 3,000 members including some NAPFA members.

Check it out

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DPFCClub/>

<http://brianjwalters.wix.com/dpfcclub>

‘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.**

Last Words

- See you at the AGM**
- Join up a friend**
- Use your Member Number if you contact us**
- If you dig a hole fill it back in when you are finished!**

Stephen Dangaard

President

NSW & ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association Inc.

PO Box 2664

Carlingford Court NSW 2118

Email: President@napfa.net

Tel: 0448 353 885 or 02 62589302 (AH)

Nomination Form

I (please print).....

wish to stand for the NAPFA committee position marked below.

(One position per form. Use extra copies for extra nominations.)

| | | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------|--|
| President | | Vice President | |
| Treasurer | | Secretary | |
| Committee Member (3) | | | |

Acceptance of nomination (nominee): _____ Date _____

Positions all require a nominator and a seconder who are also members of NAPFA.

ANY current NAPFA member wishing to fill a committee role and completing this form WILL BE nominated and seconded by the current committee.

So please don't hesitate to nominate yourself as the section below will be completed for each nominee if you are unable to provide a nominator and seconder:

Nominated by: _____

Seconded by: _____