



DO

Remember safety in the bush is paramount, make sure your radio, GPS and PLB are working correctly before venturing out.

There has already been a search for one prospector and APLA has received a number of calls from people seeking contact with family members detecting in WA that have not contacted relatives for long periods of time.

eNews of the



Representing Prospectors
Since 1904

this issue

Introducing our new President **P.3**

Minelab Survey **P.5**

Industry news **P.6**

2021 AGM pictures **P.11**

Order of Australia Medal **P.22**

2021 “Changing of the guard”

At the recent AGM several positions had become vacant.

James Allison elected State President.

The State Secretary Marise Palmer after 6 years vacated her position to be replaced by **Steve Palmer**.

Les Lowe elected Vice President

Marise Palmer. elected Treasurer

There and many changes in Local Branch positions and Delegates within APLA also.

A great thanks to those volunteers leaving us and a warm welcome to the new people coming on board.

For contact information Page..2.

APLA ASSOCIATION CONTACT DETAILS:

State Delegates- admin

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Secretary. Steve Palmer sec@apla.com.au
Vice President. Les Lowe vp@apla.com.au
Treasurer. Marise Palmer treas@apla.com.au

Branch Officers of APLA

Perth Branch

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Secretary. Sue. McKenna persec@apla.com.au
Treasurer. Brad Mitchell pertres@apla.com.au
Delegates James Allison, Marise Palmer, Steve Palmer

Albany Branch

President. Gerry.Gregson albanypres@apla.com.au
Secretary. Michael McCaffery albanysec@apla.com.au
Treasurer. Bruce Smith albanytres@apla.com.au
Delegates Noeleen Smith, Gerry Gregson

Goldfields Branch

President. Tim Bates goldfieldspres@apla.com.au
Secretary. Robert Laing goldfieldssec@apla.com.au
Treasurer. Annie Laing goldfieldstreas@apla.com.au
Delegates Julie Bradley, Ziggy Wolski, Lindsay Stockdale

Mandurah Branch

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Secretary. Bob.Wilson mansec@apla.com.au
Treasurer Amanda Holmes mantres@apla.com.au
Delegates Les Lowe, John Krokosz

Southwest Branch

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Secretary. Judith.Smith swsec@apla.com.au
Treasurer. Jo Barber swtres@apla.com.au
Delegates Judith Smith, David Birch

Although there have been major changes in positions within APLA this coming year, APLA will continue to grow, function as normal and offer its members even greater support.

Our resigning President is not leaving APLA but becoming our Technical Adviser. A position well suited to Les Lowe as he has a wealth of knowledge re mining in WA.

Many new volunteers have stepped forward to fill vacant positions at State and local branch levels. They look forward to your support either as committee members or attending meetings.

From the President's Desk, Sept 2021

As I am the new incoming president to APLA and few people know my background, following is a quick breakdown of my history and experience in mining.



My grandfather was a very active prospector in the Kalgoorlie region at the turn of the last century and his name appears on many mining tenement applications to this day.

As a young person I was exposed to the activities of a prospector and the physical hardships they faced on a daily basis. Several times I attended the Warden's court with my grandfather and witnessed firsthand the workings of the judiciary system.

After leaving school I trained as an underground airleg miner and worked in Fimiston and Kambalda.

After an underground accident I left the goldfields and studied in Perth to become a civil engineer and went on the work for the Main Roads in the Kimberly region of Western Australia.

After years of constant relocations, I struck up a partnership with a fellow supervisor and we took up a tribute arrangement for the Eldorado goldmine in Tennant Creek.

In 1985 the Federal government proposed to introduce a gold tax, which was opposed on every goldfield. In Tennant Creek we formed the Warramunga Prospectors and Leaseholders Association to lobby and fight against the gold tax and I was a founding member of this association.

Years later and several mining operations later I found myself in Laverton after purchasing a mining lease where I worked this lease and another as an alluvial operation.

Later I moved to Sandstone and over several years have pegged and worked several leases using the scrape and detect method plus dry blowing. I continue these activities to this day.

I have been asked by many people who or what is APLA. I explained that all our members are APLA and APLA is the only representative body which the capacity to sit at high level departmental meetings

Moving forward we face many challenges from Native title, Aboriginal heritage, pastoralists, DMIRS to name a few but we will keep up the fight and not relinquish any of our rights and privileges granted under the Mining Act.

Volunteers are an essential part of APLA and without them we couldn't function. I would like to thank each and every one of the volunteers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our events organised and running in a proper manner.

In closing, I would like to quote from a famous American president, changing to words slightly.
"Ask not what APLA can do for you but ask what you can do for APLA."

James Allison.

Report on RICC meeting – 22nd July 2021

APLA represented solely by Vice-President, James Allison. Our usual representative, Les Lowe was sick following an COVID injection and a bad fall at home, injuring his leg.

1. Numerous persons were not in attendance during the meeting; Ian Shipton, Michael Brady, Hayley McNamara, Claire Wilkinson, Les Lowe. Bronwyn Bell (CME) was a late entrant.
2. John Southalan (AMPLA) submitted a FOI to the DMIRS minister requesting an update on the Productivity Commissions report, but nothing was forthcoming at the time of the meeting.
3. DBCA presented an update on the current proposal for the conversion of PLH to State parks. There were 18 original proposals with 48 submissions from companies and other groups. 10 proposals consisting of 830,000 hectares are now under consideration which is down from 1.2 million hectares. Negotiations with native title holders has been slow with numerous groups not in agreement on how the parks will be managed and by whom. 7 proposals have been agreed. The biggest impact for prospectors has been and will continue to be in the Warriear/Thundelarra/ Yalgoo areas. APLA has already assisted prospectors in this area.
4. The Validation bill is in the late stages of drafting and could be presented to parliament late 2021. This bill is crucial to the WA Mining Industry and could impact recreational and lease holding prospectors if it's not passed soon. Enquiries to be made to Les Lowe for further details.
5. DMIRS indicated that their formulation of a Code of Conduct was ongoing whereas APLA indicated that their Code of Conduct was complete and all members were advised to adhere to the code when carrying out field activities.
6. The issue of carbon farming was raised with no update from DMIRS
7. The final draft for the Streamlining bill was out to all stakeholders for comments before it goes to parliament. APLA made a submission on this and has been heavily involved in the formulation of the legislation. This bill will make Environmental Assessments much quicker and will give prospectors the new and long fought for, "Low Impact Notification" (LIN). APLA has been advocating for this since 2016.
8. The issue of marking out for mining tenements and how mining registrars require physical evidence of the marking out was raised. CMEWA stated that DMIRS need to ensure all registrars have a clear understanding of the requirements and must be consistent with all districts. This is to do with providing photos or videos of the marking out when lodging a tenement application.
9. CMEWA raised the issue of negotiations with DPLH with all matters related to the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Bill and how prospectors, big and small, can get access.
10. Delays caused by Covid were discussed and any delay will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, whether being access or reporting.

James Allison on behalf of Les Lowe and APLA

Minelab Survey Report

Hi Members,

Thanks to each of the states and some of our members for taking time to assist in the development of the study. I believe that this summary of the original report will be an important resource to secure better conditions/access for the industry as we move forward.

The President Les Lowe and Delegates have worked with Minelab and BDO on this with a second round of statistical information to sure up our fight to Government to keep open access to ground and to point out our economic contribution to recreational prospecting and small scale mining. Prospectors are now able to be measured as a major contributor to the WA economy as is recreational fishing.

Minelab and BDO have produced the following information:

Establishing the national footprint of recreational prospecting in Australia

Despite the regular coverage of recreational prospecting activities in the media, there is no official or consistent national statistics on prospecting.

For the first time, through a national survey of prospectors' activity, expenditure, income and social information, this study has established first-hand information on the activity footprint of prospectors in Australia

BDO Report acknowledge the support and assistance from the following organisations and individuals for sharing their information, providing feedback and facilitating the distribution of the survey, including:

Minelab

Presidents and committee members of recreational prospecting associations and clubs:

- NSW and ACT Prospectors and Fossickers Association
- Prospectors and Miners Association Victoria
- Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association
- Prospectors and Miners Association of Tasmania
- Townsville Metal Detecting Club

The Outback Prospector.

We are also grateful to the 2,933 anonymous individuals who responded to the first survey and 4,522 anonymous individuals who responded to the second survey, who provided usable survey responses via telephone and online

Please note this is confidential and only for APLA members not for further distribution

[Click on link here.](#)

EDITORIAL

Steve Palmer. Editor

Contact: **0498353232**
aplanews@apla.com.au



From the Editors Desk

It has been an interesting few months since the last issue of the Datum Post.

Items such as the proposed new Aboriginal Heritage Bill, the APLA AGM and the changeover of Executive positions, to mention a few...

Yours truly with partner headed bush for 2 weeks on the Perth Camp and have now hit the ground running in a new position as State Secretary. That leaves the job of Datum Post Editor open to newcomers.

The post is a rewarding exercise relying on feedback from members and personal input. There are 6 editions a year and I can help with the transition period. So, if anyone feels a hidden passion for writing give me a call.

This year's AGM was a resounding success thanks to Marise Palmer State Secretary. This is her 6th year running the APLA AGM's, quite a daunting task. Well, done.

On a lighter note, we have a new president James Allison with Les Lowe stepping back but still holding a position as Technical Advisor in APLA. More input will be expected from the executive on the forward operation of APLA.

Mandatory covid vaccines are due into WA by December for FIFO workers and contract workers visiting mine sites. This could affect our members as some Leaseholders request prospectors to visit mine site to liaise with staff before accessing leases. (Bronzewing, St Barbara etc). Assess the situation carefully as you could be refused permission to enter.

Just as heads-up negotiations are underway to hold the 2022 AGM in Mt Magnet in conjunction with Astro Rocks. A camp will be held afterwards. Further info once more information is forthcoming from the Mt Magnet Shire will be in the December issue of the Datum Post.

Cel-Fi phone boosters! Better deals

Altronics, one of our major sponsors now stocks the Cel-Fi mobile phone booster system. Our research indicates they have possibly the best price in Perth. Check out Altronics across Perth. They have branches near you and very quick mail order for those of you in the regions.

<https://www.altronics.com.au/>



One Day
Courses



We're coming to the Big Smoke!

Training days for Prospectors held in Mandurah, WA.

If you're just starting out or been in the game for awhile, these one day training courses are for you.

Be a Better Prospector

ONE DAY COURSE

Sat 4th or Sat 11th Dec 2021

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

- Where can I go prospecting
- How to get onto the right ground
- Using a Minelab metal detector
- Secrets of finding gold regularly
- Getting home in one piece!
- Finding your way around the bush.

Making a living out of Gold

ONE DAY COURSE

Sun 5th or Sun 12th Dec 2021

Time: 8:30am to 4:30pm

- Ground acquisition
- Working the ground
- Tenement expenditure and paperwork
- Advanced research methods
- Pegging a lease
-and much more.

Cost per person \$275 inc GST. Includes morning/afternoon tea. Access to 6500 ha of active mining tenements around Leonora for up to 3 months during the 2022 season.

Training Days to be held at: Mandurah Business Development Centre, 10 Lively Place, Mandurah WA.

For more details Phone 0418 277 861 or email admin@goldtalkleonora.com.au

Experience using the GPX 6000

"It is advisable that people prospecting beside a GPX6000 remain at least 20mts from other detectorists because of EMI interference. The new GPX6000 is very sensitive if using the mono coil. For those that can use the DD on highly mineralised ground that will eliminate the problem. The 14" that comes with the Detector is quite heavy for some members. Despite correct harness and Guide Stick.

Apla. Rules of Conduct state..

- "Members will display courtesy and consideration to other prospectors in the field and maintain a respectable distance from their activities."

Royalties transfers to RevenueWA

In June 2021, the WA State Government* approved the transfer of the mining and petroleum royalty collection and administration function from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) to RevenueWA (part of the Department of Finance).

The move is in keeping with New South Wales and Queensland who in recent years have moved their royalty collection and auditing responsibilities from mining and industry related departments to their State Revenue agencies.

Integrating the existing knowledge and expertise of DMIRS' royalty collection and administration functions with the specialised information technology systems, knowledge and information sharing networks of RevenueWA will enhance royalty collection and auditing.

DMIRS Resource and Environmental Compliance Executive Director Karen Caple said: "DMIRS and RevenueWA have been working together closely to implement this transfer and to ensure a seamless transition for all royalty payers.

"Given the need to undertake legislative amendments, there will be no change to the royalty payment process at this stage. WA royalty payers will continue to follow the same processes and use the same Royalties Management System from 1 October 2021.

"There will also be no change in personnel. All emails and phone numbers will stay the same, even though the respective staff will be located at the Department of Finance's offices from 1 October 2021," Ms Caple said.

System changes and legislative amendments are required to enable a full transfer to the Department of Finance, and these will be progressively implemented. Details on any future changes will be outlined clearly to stakeholders in advance.

For questions specifically related to royalty matters please email royalty.returns@dmirs.wa.gov.au or contact your Royalties Assessment Officer.

EYE ON IT

DMIRS have on the bottom of their website page a box entitled.

Subscribe to updates.

The department provides a range of newsletters and information products to keep you up to date. Subscriptions to the latest DMIRS news services of your choice are available.

They are free to the public and cover a wide range of articles and information.

Click and keep yourself informed.

COVID-19 vaccine required for workers in the resources industry

- New public health advice makes COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for FIFO and other resources sector workers from December
- Resources workers, workers in remote operations or working in rural and remote locations must be fully vaccinated by January 1
- Move based on public health advice to protect workers, Aboriginal communities, and the wider community, and follows mandates in place for other industries

FIFO and local workers on Western Australian mining and resources sites, and people who work in remote operations or run critical infrastructure including remote train and port control must have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by December 1, 2021 and be fully vaccinated by January 1, 2022.

The new directions will address the risks posed by movement of resources sector workers, including mining and oil and petroleum operations, to and from regional and remote locations in WA, with many sites and operations located at or near remote Aboriginal communities.

The mandate, based on the latest health advice, applies to any FIFO worker in WA, in mining, oil and gas and exploration, visitors to these operations, as well as all resources sector employees who work at regional and remote mine sites. It will also include workers at other mission critical operational locations including remote operations, for example, a Perth-based remote operator of a Hedland mining train.

Western Australia has mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for its resources sector with workers required to receive their first shot before December.

Key points:

- Mining and resources workers the latest WA industry to be given a vaccine mandate
- The mandate covers about 100,000 people
- They will need to have get their first jab by December 1

Premier Mark McGowan said the requirement would apply to about 100,000 people, including FIFO and other workers in mining, exploration, oil and gas, and resources sites.

"That means, to work they will be required to have received their first COVID-19 vaccine by December 1," he said.

Mr McGowan said they would need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by January 1, 2022.

He said the rule would also apply to any visitors to mines or oil and petroleum operations.

The Premier said the timeline had been decided in consultation with the resources sector, unions, and health representatives.

WA resources sector's biggest year ever powering nation through COVID

DMIRS news release

Western Australia continues to carry the national economy in the face of COVID-19 with the State's resources sector delivering a record \$210 billion of sales and its highest-ever job numbers over the past financial year.

The remarkable results defy the economic turmoil seen around much of the world and emphasise the significance of the State's work to keep the sector running safely throughout the pandemic.

Minerals and petroleum sales in WA grew by \$38 billion to \$210 billion from 2019-20 to 2020-21.

Jobs supported by the sector increased from 135,000 in 2019-20 to 149,400 in 2020-21.

These results follow the State's strong economic performance throughout the pandemic, where WA's domestic economy has grown by 5.7 per cent between the December quarter 2019 and the June quarter 2021.

This is the strongest of the States and almost double the rest of the nation when WA is excluded (2.9 per cent).

Western Australia accounted for well over half (56.2 per cent) of national goods exports in 2020-21.

Iron ore sales reached a record \$155 billion. **Gold sales were valued at \$16.6 billion, up four per cent from 2019-20**, while nickel sales were valued at \$3.5 billion - the industry's highest sales value in seven years.

Comments attributed to Mines and Petroleum Minister Bill Johnston:

"Never has the importance of the sector's economic contribution been so clearly demonstrated than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While other major mining jurisdictions suffered protracted shutdowns, WA's miners operated and traded uninterrupted throughout the crisis.

"The sector's success in trading, largely uninterrupted by the pandemic, has enhanced our global reputation as a reliable and safe supplier, and is set to position WA with a significant competitive advantage as the world's economy recovers."

PROSPECTORS TOLD TO "CEASE WORK IMMEDIATELY!"(by Mining Company : -re Heritage act extract from APLA FaceBook 11/10/2021

Other Prospectors and I -whom have valid "P.O.W's" upon Mining Company (Mining Leases) -situated aprox 18 kms East of Kalgoorlie -were instructed to "Cease All Ground Disturbing activities" as of 10am Last Thursday -due to 'Heritage Act issues'. We All have valid/approved DMIRS Work Programs in place, have Active Low Impact Operations("Pushed up") and we're not even allowed to Rehab! (Mid-way through Operations). We're told this may take at LEAST Six Months to resolve! (Do we Now Go to Centrelink and join the Que???) WTF is happening to this once Great Country???

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Whether you're detecting on land or in water, our NOX metal detector coils make it easy to cover more ground, go deeper and get into even the tightest spots. So you can discover more hidden treasures.

Fully Minelab approved and available in three sizes, they simply plug-and-play into your 600 or 800 Minelab Equinox detector.

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10x5" NOX coil

When you need to manoeuvre tight spots and detect in high trash areas, this little coil offers superior sensitivity and pinpointing ability.



14x9" NOX coil

With an elliptical shape and great depth, pinpointing and sensitivity capability, this robust coil is ideal for detecting in water and open fields.



15" NOX coil

The largest and deepest searching coil for Equinox detectors, this one's built for the serious treasure hunter. It covers more ground and detects targets other coils can't.

Want to learn and understand more about Geology.

Possibly pinpoint new gold deposits.

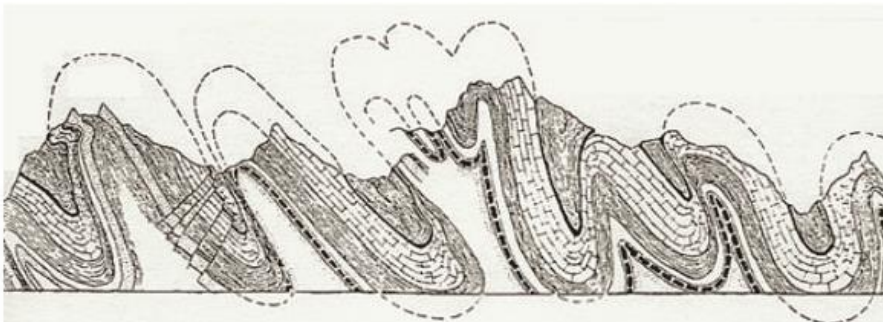
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With an additional 20 chapters on prospecting & small-scale mining. Activate the web page link now for more details & to download an example chapter.

Winners , Grinners and Sponsors at the 2021 AGM



Tony Peskitt winning Vanquish detector as door prize



Dick Smith with Reeds door prize



Winner of the GPX6000 at the AGM kindly donated by **Minelab**.

Lesley Roberts an Albany Branch member.



Part of the Reeds Prospecting raffle prizes



Minelab live vision by P Beck

Another successful AGM organized by our State Secretary Marise Palmer.

A big thank you to various volunteers on the day .. Dick Smith, Dennis Rawson and Mon, Graham Dungey, Barry Main, Greg Young, Martin Todd, Paul Babakon, Ziggy, Judith Smith and all the delegates and Executive and a big thanks the Garry Carroll webmaster.



State Secretary M Palmer introducing speakers at the AGM



A great attendance and captive audience



Bruce Smith – Albany member



Retiring President Les Lowe receiving a life membership award.



Retiring Treasurer Kurk Brandstater receiving a life membership award.



Winner of the Coiltek coil door Prize



The APLA AGM was well attended and once again our sponsors came forward with some wonderful raffle prizes. Minelab, Coiltek, Reeds prospecting along with Branches donation prizes from Prospectors Pick Bunbury and Finders Keepers Kalgoorlie. Also a live presentation and QI from Phillip Beck, Minelab representative.

New executives were elected notably James Allison as President, Steve Palmer as State Secretary , Les Lowe Vice President and Marise Palmer as Treasurer.

A great effort in running another successful AGM by our State secretary at the time Marise Palmer. A lot of time, organisation and preparation goes into this event. It is not done overnight.

A timely reminder to members about snake bites from member John Hein
An article by **Rob Timmings**

SNAKE BITE

Stats

- 3000 bites are reported annually.
- 300-500 hospitalisations
- 2-3 deaths annually.
- Average time to death is 12 hours

Basic overview

There are five genus of snakes that will harm us (seriously), Browns, Blacks, Adders, Tigers and Taipans.

When bitten, a snake injects some venom into the meat of your limb (NOT into your blood).

Venom cannot be absorbed into the blood stream from the bite site.

It travels in a fluid transport system in your body called the lymphatic system (not the blood stream). Now this fluid (lymph) is moved differently to blood.

Your heart pumps blood around, so even when you are lying dead still, your blood still circulates around the body. Lymph fluid is different. It moves around with **physical muscle movement** like bending your arm, bending knees, wriggling fingers and toes, walking/exercise etc.

Now here is the thing. Lymph fluid becomes blood after these lymph vessels converge to form one of two large vessels (lymphatic trunks) which are connected to veins at the base of the neck.

Back to the snake bite site, when bitten the venom has been injected into this lymph fluid (which makes up the bulk of the water in your tissues).

The only way that the venom can get into your blood stream is to be moved from the bite site in the lymphatic vessels. The only way to do this is to physically move the limbs that were bitten.

Stay still!!! Venom can't move if the victim doesn't move.

Technique:

Keep them still.

Step 1:

Apply a bandage over the bite site, to an area about 10cm above and below the bite.

Step 2:

Then using another elastic roller bandage, apply a firm wrap from Fingers/toes all the way to the armpit/groin. The bandage needs to be firm, but not so tight that it causes fingers or toes to turn purple or white. About the tension of a sprain bandage.

Step 3:

Splint the limb so the patient can't walk or bend the limb.

SNAKE BITE cont.

Do not:

- Do not cut, incise, or suck the venom.
- Do not EVER use a tourniquet
- Don't remove the shirt or pants - just bandage over the top of clothing. Remember movement (like wriggling out of a shirt or pants) causes venom movement.
- DO NOT try to catch, kill, or identify the snake!!! This is important.

In hospital we NO LONGER NEED to know the type of snake as now our new Antivenom neutralises the venoms of all the 5 listed snake genus, so it doesn't matter what snake bit the patient. Polyvalent is our one-shot wonder, stocked in all hospitals, so most hospitals no longer stock specific Antivenins.

Australian snakes tend to have 3 main effects in differing degrees.

- Bleeding - internally and bruising.
- Muscles paralysed causing difficulty talking, moving & breathing.
- Pain. In some snake's severe muscle pain in the limb, and days later the bite site can break down forming a nasty wound.

Allergy to snakes is rarer than winning lotto twice.

Final tips: not all bitten people are envenomated and only those starting to show symptoms above are given antivenom.

Did I mention to stay still?

Quad bike roll bars now mandatory on all new and imported second-hand bikes sold.

- It is now illegal to sell a new or second-hand quad bike unless a rollover protection device is fitted
- There are big fines for selling non-compliant quad bikes
- The ACCC says that Workplace Health and Safety regulators govern the safe operation of quad bikes in work environments including farms.
- Businesses may be held liable for incidents involving a quad bike where reasonable preventative measures and training have not been provided.

BRANCH NEWS

ALBANY BRANCH

Meetings held 3rd Saturday of every second month.
Each meeting consists of general Branch business and a guest speaker to assist members. Meetings are held at the Albany Men's Shed behind 77 Sanford Rd, Albany at 4pm.

APLA Albany Branch Camp 2021

The Albany Branch conducted a social camp in Cue this August 2021.

Around 19 APLA members and spouses attended the 10 day event. The weather was bright and sunny the whole time. Aaron and Craig from 'Reeds Prospecting' (Perth) arranged the live lease areas from

Victory Goldfields (VG) of Cue. At first VG were okay with the camp then changed their minds until Aaron stepped in to persuade approval again. So the camp was on again and everyone arrived on Friday 20th August for the induction and camp briefing.

The event was managed by Gerry Gregson (President), Michael McCaffery (Secretary) and Bruce Smith (Treasurer). Thanks also go to Natalie Rudling, Practising ED nurse for acting as our Safety First Officer.

After the induction on where to go and the camp rules, Aaron began courses for detector fine tuning training. His idea of tuning in the SDC's by the 'V' method proved invaluable for, I would say, everyone. I could not believe how simple and easy was it tune our detectors to the soil conditions.



After the SDC tuning, Aaron went on to advise on model GPX4500 & 5000 fine tuning. An obvious message I learnt, but didn't know is that tracking was set by the 'green' button, so you never need to set the detector switch to 'Tracking', because this is what the green button does. So set it to 'Fixed' and press the 'Green' button when fine tuning. Lots of other ideas were given too.

On Saturday morning, everyone followed Aaron & Craig to another live site where they conducted a geology course in terrestrial fault finding. They stood on the fault lines showing where and why the mining companies dug holes at these spots. He showed us dirty quartz, another indication of where to find gold, which was not the clean bright white quartz I was expecting.



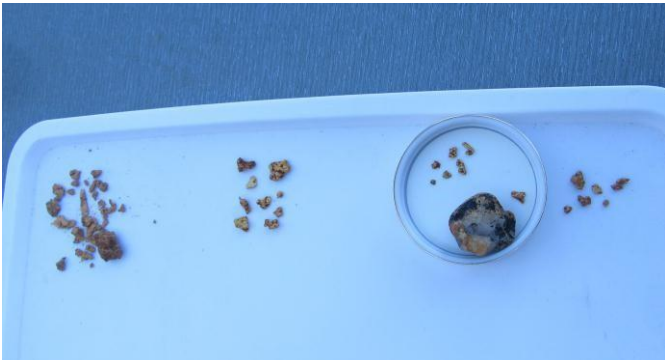
After this, everyone was off, checking out the ground for good locations.

Later, when we returned to camp, he went through fine tuning for the 6000 and 7000 models.

We ran a vehicle tag on-off board for personal safety reasons, which fortunately allowed us not to lose anybody. Over the days a small number of reports of gold finds come in. Most gold found was very small. One piece by Irene Smith could not be weighed by itself because it would not register.

The biggest piece was found by Anthony D'Addario, it weighed 3.8gm . Anthony was a first time prospector, new member of Albany Branch and the first time he found gold. Everyone was pleased for him including his Dad, Mario.

Other members found many gold pieces as shown in this photo.



As can be seen, some specimens were also found.

On Friday we began selling \$10 tickets for prizes donated by Minelab and Reeds Prospecting. We raised exactly \$500 for the club.

The major prize was an 'Equinox 800' detector, kindly donated by Minelab. Minelab also donated harnesses, pointers and other items as can be seen in the photo below.



The 'Equinox 800' was won by Dave Anderson (red cap). Our President Gerry Gregson did the presentation.



Other prizes were for the most pieces found, which was won by Joe Hetherington. He found 15 pieces.

Other prizes were for the most pieces found, which was won by Joe Hetherington. He found 15 pieces.



Joes gold of 15 pieces including 1 big speci.

Members who won by raffle ticket in the Minelab prizes are shown below.



Members who won Reeds Prospecting prizes are shown below.



If I can report on the number of 'thank you' I received I would declare the camp a great success for this year.

We all, want to thank Aaron & Craig (Reeds) for arranging the perfect spot 7km out of Cue for our camp and for the around \$500 in prizes donated. Many thanks to Minelab also, for the very expensive prizes they donated.

Without naming anyone, Wilbur, Mike and myself came away without a find this year, better luck next time. Also, thank you Irene Smith (no relation) for supplying some of the photos.

B. Smith. Treasurer Albany Branch.



GOLDFIELDS BRANCH UPDATE

Meetings are held at the Regency Room at the Tower Hotel Crn Maritana and Bourke st Kalgoorlie meetings on the **last Thursday of every second month.**



MANDURAH BRANCH

Meetings held at, 2 Leslie st Mandurah. See APLA website for date

SOUTHWEST BRANCH UPDATE



PERTH BRANCH UPDATE

Recently Perth Branch under Greg Young's leadership with helpers Steve and Marise Palmer and Sue McKenna held a 10 day camp near Wiluna.

The weather was perfect, with the usual wind and flies. Most were experienced prospectors but as usual you have to walk over the gold with 2 rookies who had owned 2 secondhand detectors for about a week found over 10oz of gold.



Part of the 10 oz find





Where did you find it? Oh, just north of Albany!!!



Some of the finds

Damper night drew contestants out of the bush



Petra best standard Dampier



Even the men got into the mix. Brett led the way as “damper extraordinaire”.



Sue Mackenna made a mean desert one !



Lined up ready to go Best Savoury Dampier, olives cheese capsicum



Taste testing



“Old Men of the Fire” Barry Main and Kevin Brice

Greg Young OAM

(A Gold Fever Article)



In the recent Australian awards published on the 14th June this year, our Greg Young was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to veterans and their families and whilst many in the APLA family would have been aware of Greg's veteran's advocacy, most would not have been aware of the depth of this service nor the depth of his service to other areas of his community.

Whilst the majority of members, most of whom are around Greg's age although it would be doubtful if many are older, would be familiar with the Imperial Award system, how many are fully cognizant of the current Australian Honours and Awards system, which by 1975 had replaced the Imperial system?

So, before delving further into Greg's award, let's look briefly at the current system which has been established to recognise ... "Australians who have demonstrated outstanding service or exceptional achievement"¹

There are four levels of awards:

Companion of the order of Australia (AC)

Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

Member of the Order of Australia (AM) and

The Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)¹

The process in reviewing and vetting a submission can take between 18 and 24 months. It is an extremely thorough process and whilst criticism has occasionally been raised about the system favouring those in powerful positions, no such criticism can rightly be levelled at Greg whose selflessness was recognised by the Australian Awards Committee with the subsequent recommendation to the Governor General that he be awarded an OAM.

The submission to the Honours and Awards committee included testimony from two prospector associates and from Greg's wife, as well as the names of four referees whose testimonies, apart from one, are unknown. It is now that this article turns its attention to the 4 known testimonies, which paint a telling picture to the depth and dedication that led to the submission in the first place.

Award Nomination Reference for Gregory Ross Young by Gregory J. Eller

The first time I met Greg Young, which to the best of my memory was May 2014, was whilst attending a meeting for APLA (Amalgamated Prospectors and Leaseholders Association).

APLA, which has the ear of State Government, is a voluntary organization established in 1905 to look after the interests of prospectors and small leaseholders and like so many other voluntary community organisations with which Greg Young has been involved, he has served its members (mainly mums and dads) in a number of ways holding down various key positions.

As the APLA secretary, Greg ran the meeting and whilst listening to him addressing the attending members, it soon became evident that he had an overwhelming passion to help others who required guidance as newcomers to the world of Prospecting.

Following the meeting, Greg came over and introduced himself realizing that I was a newcomer to APLA. We discussed the organization and the method he had adopted to train and familiarize those who were new to the world of prospecting.

Later that year, he explained, APLA were to hold an annual camp out in the WA gold fields where training and familiarization were a part of the camp's purpose, along with social gatherings around a camp fire at night for personal interaction and the chance to meet prospective prospecting partners in order to minimize the number of people wandering about the outback alone.

During this first camp I attended, I noticed that Greg Young was continuously on the phone taking messages and entering notes in a dairy. My inquisitive nature soon had me mention to him that APLA kept him extremely busy and it was at that moment that Greg explained to me his involvement with DVA as a Delegate looking after Veterans' personal affairs.

Being an ex-service man, I understood what the DVA was about as I had a few claims in the system from my military service.

During this first APLA camp, Greg approached me about the option of becoming more involved and helping him out with the running of training for those who would benefit from it. Upon return to Perth, I was invited to his home to discuss some options for the future.

Our first meeting at his home was continually interrupted by phone calls from veterans and in a one-hour period two veterans turned up on scheduled appointments to run through or to sign paperwork. The dedication, workload and effort that Greg Young obviously gave was not just admirable but an extremely rare situation to witness.

During one of the beforehand mentioned personnel appointments, I left Greg's office and spent 10 minutes talking to his wife, Evelyn; a truly caring and lovely woman who explained to me that this was how Greg and their life has been for the past 20 years. It was also evident that Evelyn totally supported and loved the fact that her husband Greg was helping and dedicating his time to veterans who required help and turned no one away. She further explained that he would often go to the veteran's abode if, for whatever reason, the veteran could not come to him.

Over the next several years Greg Young and I went into the outback prospecting and running camps for the APLA membership and during every one of these trips, Greg would continually be on the phone taking messages and arranging appointments for when he would return home.

Greg also helped me out with claims I had from my service background, so I became even more aware of exactly how much work, dedication and knowledge that Greg possessed to affect the positive results that he did. I was completely taken back by the level of understanding and commitment that he showed to the help Veterans.

I can honestly state that I had never met a person more deserving of receiving the highest of award available for the dedication and self-sacrifice this man gives to all ex-service personnel, their spouses and the public in general.

Award Nomination Reference for Gregory Ross Young by Frederick J. Roberts

I also met Greg Young at the APLA meeting in 2014 and hold similar memories of that meeting as well as subsequent association with Greg through my prospecting activities and eventual friendship.

My initial impression was that he was a brash person who brokered no dissent to how he ran the meeting and to his proposals and policies raised for consideration. In short, I thought he either failed or did not attend Protocols 101!

Subsequent interaction and observations proved just how wrong I was for the man has a heart of gold and a burning desire to help others – mainly but not exclusively ex-servicemen and women and like Greg Eller, it was through prospecting activities that I became aware of this altruism.

Initially, it was how he looked after newcomers often sharing his patches (areas where he had found gold) a consideration that most, including myself, would never contemplate but very quickly, having had an armed forces background myself; it was obvious this care he showed towards new and inexperienced amateur prospectors, was overshadowed by his care for veterans through his DVA advocacy.

The kernel for nomination came from discussions with Greg Eller, who himself was assisted by Greg Young to lodge a claim, around the campfire when we were together out detecting for gold with our discussion leading to the realization just how deeply and how long Greg Young has been and continues to be involved in helping ex-servicemen and women – an involvement and dedication succinctly encapsulated in the following letter penned by his wife, Evelyn:

Greg's devotion to Veterans goes way back, remember being on a signals river boat trip, where Greg spent most of his time talking to Vets and filling out forms for them, everywhere he went, ~~he~~ he took his briefcase in case he ran into a vet that needed his help. Over the years he has done many, many, ~~home visits too~~ numerous to mention, home visits helping with welfare and doing their claims, same for hospitals ~~pk~~ psych wards etc. then the visits to country areas from Esperance to Marble Bar and anywhere in between, he has been there to help a veteran in need even holidaying in Kalbarri turned into helping Veterans, even talking to veterans while overseas, ~~its give~~ its, "here's my card give me a call when I get home." He has been and still is on call 24 hours a day, with people ringing even 10 o'clock P.T.O.

at night from South Australia
 or Queensland doesn't matter
 he will answer the call and give
 help and advice. The amount
 of veterans over those many years
 that have rang, and sent cards
 or letters to say, without your
 help and encouragement I would
 not be here today. I would have
 "of service".
 He even does telephone conferences,
 with large antennas out in bush
 because he doesn't want to inconvenience
 the veteran and then contacts them to
 let them know results immediately. so
 topped my self long ago so it
 is ~~the~~ his devotion to veterans
 that has been so important to
 many in the veteran community
 giving a solid 22 years.

to spare them of extra anxiety.
 he always has ~~that~~ ^{puts their} interests first.

It would seem crystal clear that Greg Young's service to the community has made a significant contribution to the well-being of over a thousand veterans over the past 22 years and this service continues to this day.

Combined with his service to the Returned Soldiers' League as well as other activities connected to the community at large, I am sure the Review Committee will have no other choice than to recommend Greg for an award within the Order of Australia that is commensurate with the service he has provided over this lengthy period.

Your Faithfully
(Name deleted)

The following was written by one of the four referees contacted by the Honours and Awards Committee:

Award Nomination Reference for Gregory Ross Young by Jann McFarlane

My family, including our 2 children, moved into the City of Stirling in 1991: for the past 20 years I have lived in Scarborough. During this time, I have known Gregory Ross Young and been involved in various capacities and jobs with referring veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans to him for assistance with veterans' claims, appeals/reviews and support.

In 1991 I was Manager of People with Disabilities WA Inc: a peak body advocating for and with people with disabilities in Western Australia. As a volunteer I was involved with the schools attended by our 2 children.

I then became involved with the local neighborhood centre: West Stirling Neighborhood House. Through that involvement I met Gregory Ross Young when I attended the local Community Policing (Neighborhood Watch) consultations and events: During that time Greg became Chairman of the Stirling Area Community Policing Committee.

On becoming aware of the assistance Greg was giving to returned service personnel, especially Vietnam Veterans, with their pensions and claims, I would send Vietnam Veterans to Greg for assistance with paperwork and advocating for their claims

From 1992 to 1998 I was Manager of Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service (W.R.A.S.), a community legal centre funded to provide assistance with income support issues and appeals/reviews to individuals and families in the Northern suburbs of Perth and some regional areas i.e. Wheatbelt, Kalgoorlie and the upper North West.

When W.R.A.S. got requests from Vietnam Veterans with claims we lacked the experience, knowledge and skills to assist them and would try to refer them to Anzac House for assistance. The Vietnam Veterans were reluctant to seek the assistance available in Anzac House so we started to work with local Returned & Services League (RSLWA) Sub-branches on their claims. The sub-branches had the experience and understanding of the veterans but not always the skills to advocate as the Dept. of Veterans Affairs legislation and procedures were complex.

Through this work we continually came across Greg Young: he would take on the veteran's claims, especially the Vietnam Veterans, and assisted with paperwork and advocacy. The veterans trusted Greg as over the years he kept doing courses and building his skills and had a high level of success with his advocacy. Plus Greg has the ability to encourage them to pursue their claims: a difficult task as many veterans suffered depression and found the system very complex.

After I left the position as Manager of the community legal centre, I continued to work with Greg and his kind and caring wife Evelyn from 1998 to 2006 as they both understood the veterans and their issues. By 2002 Greg built his skills with courses and became a Level 4 Tribunal Advocate.

Greg also provided some basic training on veteran's appeal/reviews process. free of charge – to people I worked with. He was generous of his skills, his time and his networks and would not accept any kind of reimbursement for some costs involved. Again, Greg has the integrity and good sense to see that any payment might create a poor impression for any person, family or group that he was assisting.

AS well as personally assisting veterans, Greg was involved with 2 RSL Sub-branches – Osborne Park and North Beach. He also became involved with the Innaloo Sportsman's Club Inc: where again he took a leadership role and helped the Club develop its programs and services to be more relevant in the local community.

I was aware that Greg used his training skills to assist other small groups and local clubs where the committees' lacked skills.

I became aware that Greg often used his own money to pay for items the veterans needed for their claims i.e., medical reports, practical aids, household items, etc. A group of us offered to do some fund raising to pay for these items but Greg and his wife Evelyn refused our offer – their integrity would not allow it and they did not want the individual veterans to think or feel they were charity cases. Greg's instincts were correct – as we realised that fund raising for veterans would deter many from asking for the advocacy assistance they needed.

I have great admiration and respect for Greg Young's diligence, persistence and caring concern in being critical to him with helping many veterans, their families and the local community. By giving so freely of himself, he has made our community a much better place to live in, and the people, families and groups he has assisted have benefited in immeasurable way.

CONCLUSION

So many veterans and community residents assisted over so many years has led to this recognition – a recognition for which all APLA members should be justifiably proud and they can show their pride (and the fact that they have actually read this article) by congratulating our OAM winner, personally.

The proud family, Greg, Evelyn and son





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