

• Minelab • Times •

We hit it with both barrels

A tale of two timings



Mick holding the 54oz nugget

I had spent the last week in April getting all things ready for my annual trip in the Pilbara, specifically Nullagine.

The trip North is usually a month or more depending on gold. I chose to leave a little earlier this year to give the GPX 5000 a good test on some familiar ground to me, where good gold had come before. Also the fact that my prospecting mate was busy in the East, and was not able to join me for a few weeks.

Upon reaching my first spot late afternoon, I set up camp and prepared for the next day. I set the detector up with my mono coil as I prefer to work mono coils. I find the GPX 5000 to be really good in 'Fine Gold Timing' but when areas become very mineralised a simple change to 'Enhance Timing' really has the edge.

I was picking up consistent gold in some of my old areas; pieces up to six grams. While detecting these areas I was thinking of any

spots where in the past the ground was noisy and showed depth.

I was happy with my first weeks results and remembered an area that I had been over previous years and managed to always get pieces with each new model of detector. The area has seen a lot of detection and had been pushed with machinery numerous times.

This area had deep noisy ground and in the past I had unearthed pieces up to 15oz.

It was a nice morning for detecting and I was at it early, taking my time to slow down and listen for any change. The area is small, so to grid and investigate any threshold change is essential.

After an hour or so investigating a few possible targets that were quickly dismissed, I got a slight threshold change that made me stop and test from a number of directions. The faint but consistent response from all sides gave me the confidence to take a few

inches off the top. The target response did not improve but it was still there to my ears and still in the same spot.

I then, thinking it may be a ground noise, dug out about six to eight inches and widened the hole. At this point checking the signal, I became confident as the signal in the same spot became a definite solid signal.

After numerous digs with the pick and checking the target it was apparent I needed the crowbar and shovel. An hour of toil saw the nugget out – 54oz in my hand.

The GPX 5000 in 'Fine Gold Timing' had produced my largest nugget, in an area that new technology keeps producing, the hole depth was about two and a half feet. I was keen to tell my mate so I went back into town and phoned him – he was as excited as I was.

I detected a few other areas and then had to head back to pick up my mate who had just flown in to spend the rest of the trip detecting with me. He really wanted to go and see where the 54oz piece came from so we headed back.

When we set up camp, we sat back and chatted about the options on the GPX 5000. The discussion got around to 'Enhance' mode

and how it handles very noisy ground. At that point we went back to the noisiest area on the pushed ground – dark red chocolate patch is the best way to describe it.

I switched to 'Enhance Timing' with a few other adjustments, balanced the machine and slowly worked the defined area. Checking each variation in ground, a scratch, then move on. I then had a noise that needed investigation. I called my mate over and asked him to listen. He said "gotta check it - there is something there". Out of curiosity I flicked back to 'Normal' and was not as confident a signal was there.

We both dug, detected until it was clearly a target. We used a pin-pointer to locate the target as again the hole was over two and a half feet deep. To our amazement we uncovered a 60oz nugget, just solid – our excitement was unbelievable.

The options on the GPX 5000 made this possible to pull these pieces off flogged ground.

By Mick Clark



Pulling the 60oz nugget out of the ground

State Reputations are now in dispute



The AusRox Nugget: 23.26kgs found in WA - displayed at the Melbourne Museum

Never has the crown for which state produces the biggest nuggets been more fierce.

Since detectors were first being used in the search for gold nuggets, the disputed crown for the biggest nugget has been largely between Victoria and Western Australia. Over the years there have been numerous 100oz plus nuggets detected in both states but the "Hand of Faith" found in Victoria in the early 1980's has ruled supreme. The "Hand of Faith" nugget weighs in at 27.2kg (or 876 troy ounces).

However, now there is another nugget that doesn't quite beat it, but by golly it comes close.

Currently displayed in the Melbourne Museum is the "AusRox" nugget weighing a mammoth 23.26kg (or 748 troy ounces). This nugget was found in Western Australia last year and has now caused the rivalry to be raised once again.

The finder of the Ausrox nugget has chosen to remain anonymous as is the location of the

find. All that has been divulged is that it was somewhere in the Eastern Goldfields of WA.

If you're in Melbourne the AusRox nugget is on display at the Melbourne Museum until October 2011.



The Hand Of Faith nugget: 27.2kgs found VIC in the 1980's

Bruce Candy wins ATSE Clunies Ross award



On Thursday 19th May 2011, Minelab's Dr Bruce Halcro Candy was awarded the 2011 Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) Clunies Ross Award for Leadership in Technology.

Since its establishment in 1991 by the Ian Clunies Ross Memorial Foundation, the ATSE Clunies Ross Award has become one of the pre-eminent awards for scientists, technologists and innovators across Australia. The Awards focus on the application of Australian technological science and engineering for the benefit of the community. They highlight ATSE's commitment to fostering innovation and commercialisation and honouring the work of those taking the

nation's leading technologies to the market place.

Bruce is one of the world's leading experts for the development of high performance, affordable and practical hand held metal detectors and has been the key innovator and technologist at Minelab for 25 years. His theoretical and practical understanding of metal detecting in highly mineralised soils and other difficult conditions is unmatched anywhere in the world. This award is a well deserved recognition of the key contributions Bruce has made to the advancement of hand held metal detection technology and the success of Minelab.

Bruce is an inspirational technologist and his work will benefit the industry for decades to come, including the deminers who are lessening the landmine menace worldwide, the gold prospectors who have generated wealth both here in Australia and worldwide and the archaeological community who benefit from the many finds by detectorists who search for old coins, treasure and relic antiquities using his technologies.

Minelab congratulates Bruce on this award and his many outstanding achievements over the last 25 years – Congratulations Bruce!

To watch the video interview with Bruce Candy visit www.minelab.com/videos

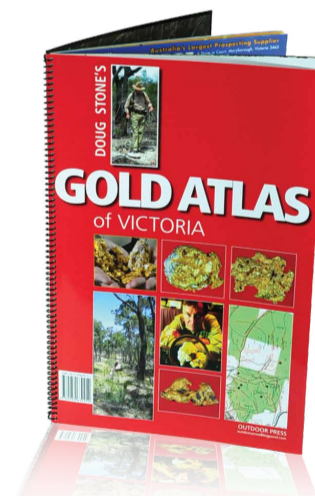
✕ marks the spot on the map

Just released from Outdoor Press is "Doug Stone's Gold Atlas of Victoria". This spiral bound, full colour, Atlas of Victorian Goldfield maps is a complete compendium of all the 'Gold and Relic site maps' that have been available as individual fold-out maps.

The size of the Atlas is ideal being 265 x 400mm. At this size it is excellent for easy reading while not being unwieldy even in the confines of the car or vehicle capsule. The metal spiral binding allows for full fold-back access to the map without folding the page or breaking the spine as can happen with other publications.

As with all the Gold and Relic Site maps, each map in this compendium gives roads and tracks, crown land, private property, gold reefs and alluvial diggings, and even the location of recorded large nugget finds. Buildings, ruins, surface workings and other points of interest such as historic gully and reef names are shown for easy reference.

The atlas covers 28 goldfield maps covering most of the areas in Victoria that are popular for detecting. Most maps are double-page spreads and along with additional tourist maps and information pages, the whole atlas becomes a valuable resource you'll keep in the vehicle whenever detecting in Victoria. (Available at most detector shops).



GPX 5000 – 12 Tips to help you get the GOLD



If you wish to find gold on a consistent basis, you should concentrate on targeting the most common size available, i.e. smaller gold. There are two reasons why small gold is much more common than larger gold: 1. there are naturally more small nuggets and fine gold compared to larger nuggets, and 2. larger gold in the first foot of soil were easy targets for previous detectors. However, these older detectors were far less capable of detecting smaller gold, particularly in higher mineralised soils, but the GPX 5000 is well up to the task. Here are 12 random tips for GPX 5000 users, to help you find gold more regularly.

1. Pick the right Soil/Timing (Timing) for the soil you are working. Start in Sensitive Extra, and if you are experiencing too many ground signals, then go to Fine Gold. If it is still too noisy, switch to Enhance. Remember that if you wish to search in one of the Special Timings found in the menu, (i.e. Fine Gold, Sensitive Extra) the front panel switch needs to be in Special.

2. Where possible use Audio Type – Deep but if the Threshold is too unstable, use Audio Type – Normal. Deep Audio tends to work well with a Stabilizer setting of 7-9, but with Normal Audio use a Stabilizer setting of 10-12.

3. Experiment with different Audio settings using a small 0.5 gram nugget, and find the best combination to suit your hearing. If detecting for extended periods, it is good

to slightly change your Tone setting to help reduce ear fatigue. When you get a faint signal that you suspect may be a small nugget, play with the audio controls and see if a few small tweaks will improve the signal response.

4. Stay close to old diggings - the old timers nearly always threw some gold on the heaps. Many would argue that the old diggings have been well worked over, but no one gets it all. At least you definitely know that gold was found there.

5. If you are right on the diggings, the gold could be anywhere, so don't try to cover too much ground at once. Methodically working a small area is generally more productive than just wandering around. If there are logs, branches and large rocks covering the ground, take a few minutes to clear them out of the way as this is often a spot where a few targets will be hiding. Just put everything back after you're done.

6. If the ground mineralisation is quite variable it is best to search in Tracking ground balance, but try to stay in Slow or Medium Tracking Speed.

7. Have your threshold at the lowest possible SMOOTH setting – too low and it may become erratic and you will miss faint targets.

8. Turn the detector on while you are walking out to your spot, so that the electronics have

a few minutes to stabilise.

9. Always TUNE the detector after you have chosen your settings, and if there is no interference, you can TUNE with the coil parallel but 40cm above the ground.

10. Dig every target, and ALWAYS investigate any "iffy" signals by removing an inch or two of soil, and rechecking. Pay attention to repeatable one way signals!

11. If operating in Fixed, be aware that the detector can still be running smoothly even if the Ground Balance is slightly out, which will lose you depth. So re-balance often by pumping the coil up and down, while holding down the Quick-Track button.

12. The last and most important tip is to have a positive mind-set. Don't look around trying to find "better spots" – do your walking around with the detector switched off. When detecting, keep your eyes peeled to the ground below your coil, and LISTEN! Be prepared to stop and investigate any slight change in the threshold, and think that your next signal will always be a nugget!

Best of luck!

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Technical Sales Representative Minelab

FREE X-TERRA eBook Available Now!



Want to learn more about the Minelab X-TERRA series and how to get the most out of these detectors? If so, then the new eBook "Understanding your X-TERRA" is just what you have been waiting for! Written by Randy Horton, or 'Digger' as some of you may know him better, and made available by Minelab, this eBook is a comprehensive guide to better understanding your X-TERRA.

'Digger' has been metal detecting in the Central US for nearly 40 years and has a passion for finding old coins. In addition to performing field tests on various detectors (including the Minelab X-TERRA series), he also serves as Moderator on the X-TERRA forum at Find's Treasure Forums. 'Digger' has written several articles for magazines, and enjoys sharing his thoughts and tips on various aspects of the hobby. His detectors of choice include the X-TERRA, E-TRAC and Musketeer Advantage. The team here at Minelab are all very appreciative that Randy has taken the time to share his knowledge of the X-TERRA series with the detecting community by writing this eBook. We have enjoyed working with Randy to make this eBook come to life and we hope that you enjoy reading it!

There is a preview you can view at www.minelab.com and the complete eBook is available to download in PDF format in the www.minelab.com/members section. If you are not a member don't worry – registering is quick, easy and free. For those that prefer to read ink on paper over pixels on the screen, be sure to use the A4 format for printing in Australia.

You'll never know for sure... unless you read it! Download your copy of "Understanding your X-TERRA" now.

Exciting changes to Minelab warranty

Exciting changes have been introduced for all Minelab products purchased new after 1st July 2011. If you are selling your used Minelab detector and you bought it from an Australian Authorised Dealer, after the commencement date of 1st July 2011, it will now be possible to transfer any remaining warranty entitlements, to a legitimate subsequent owner, within the country of the original purchase. For the point of clarification please understand these very important points:

- Warranty transferability only applies to new detectors purchased from an Authorised Minelab Dealer, by the customer after 1st July 2011;
- Warranty transferability only transfers to a second owner, if the second owner resides in the same country as the original sale was transacted.

Whilst we hope that any new Minelab purchaser is so satisfied with their detector that they do not wish to on-sell it in a hurry, there are times when this need arises. We

would encourage you to feed through to Minelab any change of ownerships so that the new purchaser's details can be added to our warranty database. This needs to be provided by email as the online warranty database only accepts the first owners details

For complete details please see the Limited Product Warranty Conditions (Warranty Card) supplied with all Minelab products and also available online at: www.minelab.com/warranty-registration/limited-product-warranty-conditions.



New catalogue & new website



Have you been to www.minelab.com lately?

If you haven't, it's well worth the visit. We've recently reorganised our product categories and introduced colour coding to make it easier to find what you need. In exciting news we are now accepting video Success Stories! There are a couple of video Success Stories on the page for your viewing pleasure already, so why not check it out or even submit your own. As always we have our Treasure Talk blog posts and News items regularly added to the website so there's something new to see each week!

We have also redesigned the Minelab catalogue using the same product categories as the website. Not only is it easier to read - but there is also plenty of handy hints making it more informative than ever before.

For your free copy of the new Minelab catalogue phone 1800-637-786 or visit www.minelab.com/contact-us-3.

The secret is out... STABILITY = GOLD!!

As most successful detector operators will tell you, the key to hearing faint target signals is to have a very stable threshold. A smooth, steady threshold allows you to stop and investigate any faint repeatable variations (possibly deep gold) that would otherwise be lost or ignored in an erratic threshold. The GPX 5000 has had some circuitry changes, improving the ground balance, and generally making the unit run quieter and smoother, improving your ability to hear faint target signals. The addition of new soil timing and an expanded Rx Gain range has really added to the performance capabilities of the GPX 5000.

The range of adjustments now available, allows you to run the detector as smooth or as "pushed" as you like. Motion, Audio Type, Timings, Coil selection, Rx Gain and Stabilizer can all affect how erratic or smooth your detector runs, but the last two have caused the most confusion - mainly in what they actually do, and how to set them correctly. First of all, Rx stands for Receive not Transmit, so a higher Rx Gain doesn't pump more power into the ground, which is a common misconception. What determines the depth you're likely to see targets at is your Timing and coil selection. However, setting the highest useable Gain will improve performance, but too much Gain can work against you by providing an increase in ground response, causing faint signals to be lost in all the noise. Or think of it this way, a small fish in clear water is a lot easier to see than a crocodile in muddy water!

So what does the Stabilizer do? The Stabilizer actually sets the baseline level (noise floor) at which faint audio variations begin to be heard. Turning the Stabilizer control up improves sensitivity, but going too far and you will increase any background chatter. By turning it down will smooth out the Threshold, as it

will mask out the background chatter. This in turn can allow you to run a slightly higher Rx Gain, but this can lead to a few problems:

1. Random noises and spikes will sound louder, which will fatigue your ears.
2. You run the risk of overcompensating for the effects of a high Rx Gain, and end up with a Rx Gain of 18, and Stabilizer of 4.
3. Very low Stabilizer settings have the effects of masking faint responses, causing a loss of depth on small gold.

If you have a spread between the Stabilizer and Rx Gain greater than 6, i.e. Stabilizer 7, Rx Gain 15, then chances are you have pushed the Rx Gain too far. In this example, you will experience better performance by having Rx Gain 13 and Stabilizer 9. However, this doesn't mean that in very quiet conditions you shouldn't run a Stabilizer of 11 and Rx Gain of 19, if the conditions allow. The main point is to not reduce the Stabilizer too far from the Factory setting, particularly if you want to maximise your chances at picking up really faint signals.

IMPORTANT: Set your Rx Gain correctly first, then adjust the Stabilizer!

To get the very best from your detector, you need to understand how the various functions interact with each other, so that you can optimise for the soil conditions and the size/depth of targets you are after. If you use the latest technology and tools to your advantage, and with a bit of skill and patience you can still find your share of the yellow stuff on a regular basis.

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Technical Sales Representative Minelab



Do you have a Minelab Success Story?

If you have made a great find, why not submit your story, photos or even video to www.minelab.com. By submitting a story you enter Minelab's Find of the Month competition with the chance to win a \$250 Minelab voucher and more!

Minelab reserves the right to respond to ongoing technical progress by introducing changes in design, equipment and technical features at any time. Certain descriptions and illustrations may differ from the exact model purchased.

Your local dealer is:



World's Best Metal Detection Technologies