

THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
WORLD  
GOLD PANNING  
ASSOCIATION

# Golden Times

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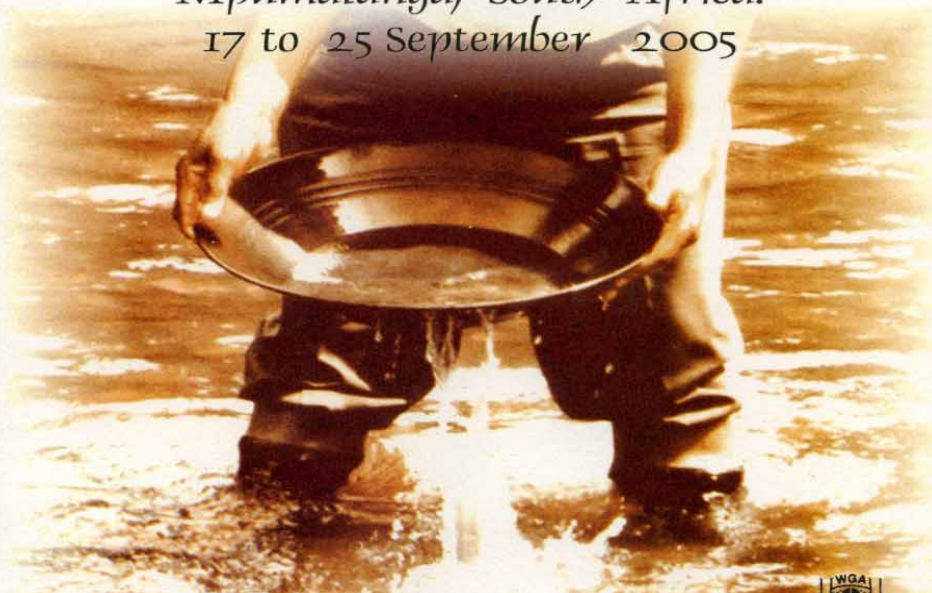
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2005 WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS SOUTH AFRICA

It is hereby certified that  
**World Goldpanner**  
has participated in the  
World Gold Panning Championships  
at Pilgrim's Rest,  
Mpumalanga, South Africa.  
17 to 25 September 2005



South African  
Gold Panning Association

*Christine Rowe*  
Christine Rowe  
Chairperson

*Vince Thurkettle*  
Vince Thurkettle  
President



World Gold Panning  
Association

## From the Editor ...



Welcome to Golden Times!

The spring is upon us now and as I prepare this issue, I know many panners are already out in the streams and preparing for the year ahead (for those that prepare for winter I hope your season was prosperous!). Following the WGA meeting in South Africa, Golden Times will now be published in a full high quality colour version, a small low quality email version and a "easy on the printer ink" version. I hope you are enjoying which ever version you are reading, if not please go to the WGA website and download another! As ever I thank the members who have sent articles and pictures, please encourage others to continue your good work. Here's to an excellent Golden year! Note: Special thanks to my Mum who helped edit GT while visiting!

**Paul Thurkettle—Editor Golden Times**



**I**sn't it interesting, the price of gold is soaring to heights some prospectors have never seen in their lives – almost \$600 /oz as I write. I have been asked many times recently if I'm pleased by this, and do you know, it is not a simple question to answer!

What is so special about the WGA is that our association consists of such a wonderfully wide variety of people. Some people, including me now, make part or

all of their living from gold. And yet I, and perhaps they, are not driven by the gold price. In modern business/advertising speak, we are 'lifestyle' driven! I was trying to explain to a man from the BBC a few days ago that we love the hunting for gold, the adventure, being in beautiful wild places, the romantic traditions and history, but perhaps most of all the good old honest love of friendship and teamwork.

In fact, sometimes a high gold price brings out those people who really do only want the money. In Britain there was no significant premium for British gold until about 15 years ago. At that time British prospectors were few and had a huge respect for the river environment, they took care not to disturb the natural places they loved. But as the British gold price rose, so did the instances of damage. The British Goldpanning Association's members now actively encourage beginners to learn and use good practices. It may be important now, in this

time of high gold prices, for all WGA member associations to try harder to promote good environmental practice and techniques to new prospectors. You probably are already?!

You will see in the minutes of the last annual meeting of the WGA's Council of National Representatives in Pilgrim's Rest that many changes were made. Some very good people stepped down, and some other very good people stepped forward to take their place: such is a healthy democracy! Learn who these people are and, if you have the skill and interest, offer to help them. We work entirely on a voluntary basis and good help is always appreciated!

Before writing this piece I sat quietly with a cigar and glass of red wine and thought about how wonderful the Championships in South Africa were. And then I re-read the last issue of Golden Times – I enjoyed it so much, as much as at first reading! We have created such a special WGA 'gold world'. The people and memories are priceless – I take nothing for granted and adore it and will work to keep it healthy and alive. I am old enough (50 now!) to know that everything changes in time, but if so let it change for the better. I know of no organisation on earth like ours – bloody wonderful – I hope you too have a head full of the dearest memories. And what about those memories we have yet to make!!

This is a special year as we are set to gather in the far north, at the home of the WGA and world gold-panning competition: Tankavaara, Finland. Two years ago when I asked everyone what you liked about the WGA and what changes you would like, the answer was – 'you pretty much like it as it is!' So we are in for a treat, as I'm sure Tankavaara will deliver a world championship of the very best quality, pretty much exactly as you like it!

**Vincent Thurkettle**  
President





I was born in the south-eastern part of Finland, from 1978 I have been living mostly in Lapland and have made occasionally some prospecting of gold during my summer holidays without any big success if we are not counting the fact in that I found the greatest gold nugget of my life near the Ivalojoki-river in 1988. She and I got married the next summer, and since then she has been my dear wife Eija.

Some positions of trust I am proud to have in the Lappish Goldfields:

- 1) Vice President of the Gold prospector Museum Association
- 2) Vice President of Gold prospectors Association of Finland
- 3) Member of the executive committee of the Friends of Lapinkulta association
- 4) Treasurer of WGA since Willisau 2003

Sinettä Apr 24th 2006

#### VICE PRESIDENT

ARTURO RAMELLA

42 (1963), FROM ITALY.

FOUNDER MEMBER OF THE BIELLA GOLDPROSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION OF ITALY AND ITS PRESIDENT SINCE 1991, RE-ELECTED 8 TIMES!

UNDER HIS GUIDANCE AND THANKS TO HIS COOPERATION MANY GOLDEN DREAMS HAVE COME TRUE IN ITALY:

- THE REALIZATION OF VICTIMULA, THE ITALIAN GOLDPANNERS' VILLAGE,
- THE SETTING UP OF THE "MUSEUM OF GOLD AND THE BESSA",
- THE INTRODUCTION ANNUALLY OF HUNDREDS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN TO THE ACTIVITY OF GOLDPANNING,
- THE ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS RANGING FROM THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2001 TO THE ANNUAL, FRIENDLY "OR ALP", RECENTLY EXTENDED TO INCLUDE FOUR NATIONS,
- THE CONTINUING PUBLICATION OF THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER "LA PICAJA".

ARTURO REPRESENTS HIS ASSOCIATION AND HIS COUNTRY ON ALL LEVELS AND HAS A TRULY GLOBAL VISION OF THE GOLDPANNING WORLD.

DURING HIS TERM AS SECRETARY OF THE W.G.A. ARTURO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WRITING A NEW FLAG PROTOCOL AND HE CONSISTENTLY COLLABORATED WITH HIS FELLOW COUNCIL-MEMBERS ON VARIOUS ISSUES.

IN SOUTH AFRICA '05 HE SUCCESSFULLY WON THE BID TO HOST, TOGETHER WITH THE ITALIAN FEDERATION, THE WORLD GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ITALY IN 2009.

ARTURO IS CURRENTLY HARD AT WORK ON THIS BIG PROJECT.

MOREOVER, HE IS BEHIND THE IDEA OF THE IMMINENT TWINNING OF THE TANKAVAARA MUSEUM WITH THAT OF THE MUSEUM OF GOLD IN VERMOGNO-BIELLA.

#### !Ana Maria Santiago Menendez—Secretary



Hi! My name is Ana, although most of you would know me as the "Spanish interpreter". I was born and raised in Asturias, in the north of Spain. I moved to England in 2001 and I have been living in Sheffield since then. I am a teacher of Spanish in a secondary school and in the University of Sheffield. My first introduction to gold panning was the world gold panning championship of the Czech Republic in 1999, where I met so many friendly panners for the first time. After such an enjoyable experience, I became addicted to the championships and the true friendships, which make me travel across the world year after year. I admit, I make no effort whatsoever to kick that habit... **Ana**



## Rules Committee of 2006

**W**hen I was asked if I was interested in the work as new Chairman of the Rules Committee, during the championship in Pilgrims Rest. I must say I was of course flattered, but at the same time also a little bit afraid. How could I replace Mike Gossage, who has done so much good work for the WGA? But then, when I had thought about it for a while, I realised it's not one mans work, it's the teamwork of the committee that counts.

As Mike had told me, it's you as Chairman that puts the new committee together, with the people that you know that you can work together with. That makes the decision a lot easier.

As I had been working in the committee for 5 years, I knew the other members quite well.

And I asked them all if they accept to stay in the new committee, with me as the Chairman.

So please, let me introduce to you all the new Rules Committee: Permanent members,

**Chairman, Ken Karlsson-Sweden, Cecile Thibaud- France, Ana Santiago- Spain,**

**Eugene Swanipole-South Africa, Ulla Kalander-Karlsson -Sweden.**

**Temporary members, Pirjo Moutkajärvi- Finland, David Millar - Canada.**

During this winter we in the Rules Committee have been mailing and talking about our role in the WGA and particularly our role during the championships, as we have realised that the different organizers have different needs of us as Rules Committee.

Some organizers have a lot of practical needs, and some other more of consulting of rules?

The Rules Committee has therefore decided to offer the upcoming organizers for the next 2 years world goldpanning championships a temporary membership in the Rules Committee, just to make it easier for the organizers to follow what happens in the "world of rules", right now that is Finland and Canada.

We are also convinced that our role during the competitions is to make them run smoothly, fairly and following the rules. And also of course solve all kind of problems together with the organizers, before, during and after the competitions, always in the spirit of honesty and friendship. And we will always correspond with the coming organizers, in what way they like or need our help.

Although, there are some things that we think we always should have or do. We should have full access to the competition area, and we should, together with the Chief Justice make an inspection tour of the competition area before the start of the competitions. We should also have a committee member in the counting area, in case of opening the tube, and also in charge of the briefing, before each heat.



*The rules committee South Africa 2005*

Supervising the pools and running of the rounds, well if the organizers need us, or if we think it's necessary.

Finally, if you have any questions or ideas of changing rules, please let me know. My email address [ken.karlsson@telia.com](mailto:ken.karlsson@telia.com) phone 0046 580 13187 or you can look at [www.guldoaventyr.com](http://www.guldoaventyr.com)

Looking forward to see you all in Tankavaara,  
**Ken Karlsson.**



## A Wedding Filled with Gold

**T**his ceremony happened for the first time in our community. The marriage of our sister Magda to brother Zbyszek from Poznan, Poland. Of course, we had our envoy there and he recorded for us the most important events and kept an eye on everything so that all should go according to plan.

So let us start from the beginning. Here is sister Magda just before the wedding ceremony. She is chaperoned by brother Roman and, despite the fact that our brotherhood is famous for its beautiful



girls, this one is especially popular and the brotherhood is extremely proud of her. Although it was difficult to see it clearly, Zbyszek was very impressed with Magda and sought to gain the trust of the brotherhood and brother Roman and sister Irene. This

he achieved and received their blessing as well as impressing the respected people in the brotherhood.

On the wedding day, however, before the wedding ceremony, Zbyszek had to undergo a final test and the certainty of the wedding depended on the result of this test. Under the very sharp supervision of brother Roman and the Gold Diggers Slawomir and Kuba, the groom's mastership of the goldpanning skill was tested.



For the test the two gold wedding rings were hidden in the sand and Zbyszek had to find them using the goldpan. The bride was obviously nervous and we could see fear in the bridegroom's eyes because if he did not find them ..... it

was very scary! So, wholeheartedly she coached him, and then he bravely with no obstacles passed the test. His success was confirmed by the brother and the photographs taken by our envoy.

After the wedding ceremony another important trial test was conducted. Guests showered the newly weds with gold coins and then carefully watched to see whether the young couple picked up every single coin. Happily, as you will see from the photograph the gold coins finally landed in the brides hands! This was a very important fact as it proved that although



our most popular sister had fallen in love, she will always keep an eye and a hand on their gold.

The whole

**"The groom's mastership of the goldpanning skill was tested"**

brotherhood believes that if the couple passes such a difficult test, they will live in common understanding and happiness all their life, so we add our best wishes for their future together. Moreover, we will be expecting that in a short time our brother-

hood will get younger and the couple will get the best treasure of all - many children!

The wedding of course was very eventful and great fun and its success was confirmed by the fact that our envoy was unable to take any more photographs !! We sincerely hope that brother Roman's



gold collection of many years was not too depleted by the event.

In closing may we once more wish to Magda and Zbyszek Beyers all the best and to go on living their lives as proudly as they did on this special day!



Submitted by:

**Nobert Makowski**





## SNIPPETS FROM ITALY, MARCH '06



Last Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, saw the opening of this year's goldpanning season for the Biella Goldpanners' Association, with our Carnival Competition. This annual, informal get-together spells the end of "hibernation" for our members and it is always a fun event with much catching up on news and even gossip from the golden world. On this particular occasion we were very happy to welcome a strong contingent from the Italian Federation. –And we also had guests, new friends from the Monta Rosa Anzasca Valley goldmines where this year's edition of OrAlp9 will be based in just over a month's time, Apr 29th-May1st.



It was a bitterly cold morning, spring this year being reluctant to show her face in these parts. However, 20 hardy souls elected to brave the almost freezing water in the troughs and, plenty of good-natured grumbling as well as 40 numb hands later, we had a winner- Valter Pizzoglio, who is undoubtedly already known to many of you. Valter was not the star of the show, however, but rather his father, Venerino, who single-handedly and over a two-day period prepared a massive bean and sausage stew, (just thinking about the 20 kilos of onions he peeled brings tears to my eyes...!) the tradi-

tional carnival fare here in Piemonte. A hundred hungry souls tucked in with gusto and I have to admit that some wine was also drunk.... to fortify against the rigours of the climate, of course ;-)) All in all, a relaxing start among Golden Friends old and new to what promises to be a busy period for goldpanners in Biella!

Which brings me to the second part of this Italian bulletin- rather more serious in content- and here I quote the words of our President, Arturo, who promised, back in South Africa, that if Biella were awarded the hosting of the 2009 World Championships, he would keep the World briefed on how preparations for the big event were proceeding.

So over to Arturo:

"-Just a short summary of what we are doing here in Italy to prepare for the 2009 World Championships; we have gone ahead with the purchase of a piece of land adjoining the Victimula Arena. This will allow us to enlarge the Arena itself and provide the necessary 30 troughs. (See photo below).

Work slowed down somewhat over the winter months but we did get around to felling the trees (not all of them, since we want some natural

shade for our guests!) and we went to the drawing board with plans for the new World Arena.

In the near future we are having a very important meeting with local Administrators (of the Biella Province and Piemonte Region) in order to work out a collaborative agreement in terms of both logistics and finances. Our initial contacts with these officials drew great enthusiasm from them.

We are also at the point of taking a decision as to the best period exactly in which to host the Event- it should be in late August.

Talks are getting underway between the Administration of Zubiena (the town where Victimula is)



and Navelgas in Spain with a view to a twinning of the two towns. Likewise between the Museum of Tankavaara and the Eco-Museum of Gold and Bessa in Zubiena. Finally, we are currently studying designs for the Championships' logo and poster which we aim to present during this year's World Championships in Tankavaara.

All the best, Arturo Ramella (CEO BIELLA2009)"



Just one final "snippet" from Italy: As you are all certainly aware, the Winter Olympics were held here in Turin just recently. Goldpanning may not be an Olympic discipline but the "National Museum of the Mountains", in Turin, mounted an exhibition which is of great interest to us and which was scheduled to run concurrently with the Games and beyond. The exhibition is entitled "Journey in search of Gold; Images of the Klondike".

Those of you in far off lands might like to check out the website at [www.museomontagna.org](http://www.museomontagna.org).

And as the content is not available in English, I'll provide you with the gist as taken from the site:

" The exhibition is dedicated to the gold seekers of the Klondike in the late 1800's. Through photographic images, which document every stage of the great event, we re-live the adventure towards the lands of Canada's Great North and of Alaska. All the elements, which created the myth of the gold rush, appear in these historic photographs: the interminable lines of gold prospectors intent on ascending Chilkoot Pass, descending the rapids on rivers, digging in the mines, the birth of the pioneer cities and daily life in difficult environmental conditions. The exhibition also dwells on a comparison between the old photographs and current ones taken by Canadian photographer Craig Richards. The show is the ideal way for our Museum to pay fitting homage to Canada which hosts the Vancouver 2010 Olympics."



At the Museo Nazionale della Montagna (in photo above), the exhibition runs through May 1<sup>st</sup> '06.



Highly recommended by your critic, \*\*\*\*\*  
Geraldine Mc Crossan  
Biella Goldpanners' Association,  
Italy

## *Goldpanning Championships in Sapporo, Japan*



The Third Shinsapporo Goldpanning Championships, supported by the All-Japan Goldpanning Association (A.J.G.A.), the Hokkaido Historical Goldpanning Society (H.H.G.S.) and others, was held at Shinsapporo Sun Piazza in Sapporo City, Hokkaido on August 7, 2005. Participants in the championship event are increasing every year, and there were 132 entries this year.

In the morning after an explanation of the rules, there was a goldpanning demonstration with commentary by Mr. Ikeda, president of the Usotan Republic of Hamatonbetsu. The goldpanning demonstration was presented by three men.

Mr. Hiranaka of the Usotan Republic used a Japanese yuri-ita board. Mr. Noro, vice-president of the Usotan Republic used a competition model gold pan. And I used a standard 14 inch plastic gold pan. The categories of competition were: Primary school children (3 kg. of sand), Junior high school students (3 kg. of sand) Women's beginners (5 kg. of sand), Men's beginners (5 kg. of sand) Veterans' combined (women 5 kg. of sand; men 10 kg. of sand) Open 3-member teams (5 kg. of sand X 3)

A mountain bike was given as Grand Prize for the overall champion of the primary and junior high school divisions. It was a very impressive prize which was hotly contested for by all the contenders. Against all expectations, a primary school boy had the fastest time and joyfully rode home on his prize mountain bike. An experimental veterans' competition was held for the first time. Male competitors were given a 5 kg. of sand handicap. Men had to pan 10 kg. of sand, and women panned 5 kg. of sand. All competitors were allotted the same number of gold flakes.



The grand champion was a 20-year old woman college student, Ayumi Nara, using a yuri-ita board. Some men were not too enthusiastic about the handicap, especially when women took the first three places. It must be said, however, that the handicap seemed to be just about right as the times without added penalties for lost gold showed men finishing second through seventh. In my case, I dropped my vial of gold flakes into a panning pool during a competition and was the first contestant to be disqualified. That earned me the cheers and jeers of many of the spectators. As a special attraction, a "Goldpanning Derby" was held during the lunch break.



Ten veteran panners competed and the spectators had to “bet” on who would be the winner. The persons who picked the winner had a tie-breaker to decide who took home a case of boiled queen crabs. Mr. Hosoi, a 2001 Japan National Goldpanning Champion from Hamatonbetsu won first place and won the applause of the crowd.

Eighteen teams participated in the Open Team event. I teamed with a junior high school boy from Hamatonbetsu and a gold prospector from Saitama whom I got to know last year at the Usotan Goldpanning Festival at Hamatonbetsu. The winning team was Ayumi Nara’s family using a yuri-ita. I was fortunate in that my team took third place.

There are some other goldpanning competitions in Japan. These include the Usotan Goldpanning Festival in Hamatonbetsu and the Yuno-oku Gold Mining History Museum Championship in Minobu Town in Yamanashi Prefecture. Along with the Shinsapporo Goldpanning Championships, they have the aim of making goldpanning and gold prospecting more popular in Japan. It is especially pleasing to see the increase in the number of children participating in the events every year.

The “Swedish Flat” or “Ferrari” gold pan is still not used much in Japan. It seems that a great number of people want to stick with tradition and use the Japanese yuri-ita. Unfortunately, the original style of yuri-ita exceeds the WGA competition maximum by 10 to 15 cm. To compete, we have to cut our boards to meet the 50 cm. rule. Some people feel that cutting 10 or 15 cm. from the board means it is no longer a traditional yuri-ita. Personally, I would like to use the yuri-ita in its traditional size in competitions. I compared an uncut board with a “Ferrari” and found them both to have about the same area, 2,000 square centimeters. It is my feeling that since both has the same working area, the yuri-ita in its standard size should be allowable in competitions.



Many of us Hokkaido goldpanners feel that we should respect the traditions of our ancestors. The problem we face is how to create a coexistence between traditional and modern tools.

Looking to the future, it is our hope that many new “goldpanning fans” will appear at next year’s Shinsapporo Goldpanning Championships. We want this exciting to grow in popularity.

Special thanks to Mr. Edward Bandlow who checked and corrected my manuscript, eighteen members of H.H.G.S. who volunteered for the Shinsapporo Goldpanning Championships.

### **Yasuyuki Ogura**

Secretariat of the Hokkaido Historical Goldpanning Society  
Member of the All Japan Goldpanning Association

## Wilderness Libraries

One of the most remote and isolated library and 'culture centre' situates in Lemmenjoki gold fields – in the wilderness which is over 20 kilometres from the nearest car route.



**The wilderness library situates in the lonely cabin on the top of the hill some twenty kilometres from the nearest road.**

Actually there are two of them – in Jäkäläpää and Martiniiskonpalo, which are the top of the hills situating some 5 kilometres from each other and have served as airports from the Lemmenjoki gold rush in 1950s. Even nowadays there are some small planes using those as their landing fields. The small cabins were built those days to the top where gold prospectors could use them as a storage of their outfit and the air staff as their base.

Now those cabins are in different use – they are the unique 'wilderness libraries' containing altogether some five or six hundreds books. There are many different kind of books available – nonfictions, fictions, instruction, magazines, children's books etc, even some of them in English and Swedish. The libraries are mainly used by the tens of gold miners working on the surrounding area from June until September. Lending the book is based on the 'gentlemen's system' where everybody just take the book they want to read and will return it back. The amount of the books is increasing because people have given their own ones to the libraries

wanting to share them with each others. The library is open days and nights all the year round.

The man behind this idea is a gold miner, goldsmith and jewellery maker Janne Kannisto from Oulu. In 2001 legendary gold prospector of Lemmenjoki – Yrjö "Karhu" Korhonen – celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and his 50 years in gold fields. To honour his life's work these libraries were established. The city library of Oulu donated 300 books and the next winter they were transported to the cabins by snow mobiles. The libraries were opened in 2002 and Jäkäläpää cabin carries the name 'Karhu Korhosen kirjasto' (the library of Korhonen the Bear).

There are a lot of tourists hiking in the well marked gold area of Lemmenjoki National Park and actually this year it was voted as the best and most popular hiking area in whole Finland – beautiful nature and gold prospecting makes it interesting.

As more and more tourists reach the Lemmenjoki gold fields, it was also decided to expand the library to a kind of 'culture centre'. First some gold prospecting related photographs were placed on the walls of the libraries. Last summer a permanent exhibition produced together with Geological Survey of Finland was set up in Jäkäläpää's cabin which tells about the the gold mining in the area as well as the activities of the Goldprospectors Association of Finnish Lapland (Lapin Kullankaivajain Liitto). The second exhibition tells the story of Yrjö Korhonen. With these exhibitions a visitor gets information about the active gold mining in Lemmenjoki gold fields: working methods, people, environmental aspects and so on.



**The library is used mainly by the gold miners in the surrounding area but there are even some children's books available if needed**

**Pirjo Moutkajärvi**



## British Goldpanning Championships

The British Goldpanning Championships were held over the May bank holiday. As usual the weather was awful on the Saturday, Sunday was a little better with Monday as usual a glorious day when we had all gone home.



Mick introduced the "Academy" to encourage new people into the fun, the idea was to show complete beginners how to pan then they would compete against each other. I know one or two new comers plucked up enough courage to enter the "Proficient" and were very encouraged by their performance, three new panners got through to the finals and were placed whilst others learned by their mistakes. Our juniors were down partly due to some of the regular youth's moving up into adult categories. Entries in the "Masters" (three different pans)

were well up with our Dutch visitors doing really well. We also had visitors from Sweden and it was nice to see Niels & Arnold return for a second visit from Denmark.



A lively party was held on Saturday night to celebrate John Swinbank's 75th birthday, the "Aberfeldy" band were excellent and a good time was had by all.

Sky TV returned and were seen filming most of the weekend along with another film crew doing a documentary – most of the Sky stuff went out during the championships so those involved missed it.

**Barbra Copley**  
**President British Goldpanning Association**

***For those following the shipwreck story, things are getting exciting...***





## The 2005 European Championships — Spain



The European Goldpanning Championships in Navelgas, Spain

Congratulations must go to the Spanish Goldpanning Association's organisation and their band of happy young volunteers, the



BGA members traveled to North-West Spain to take part in the European championships. We made our way by various routes all

culminating in Navelgas, here the weather lived up to expectations it was very hot with only one over night storm. Navelgas a small town set in a wooded valley with interesting architecture, small shops, bars, restaurants

**"If you didn't make it you missed a treat"**

and very friendly people who we practiced our Spanish on, and likewise they their English on us. There were lots of traditional foods, their 'Pote Asturiano' (Asturian Hot Pot) and Rice Puddings was delicious, we enjoyed a strange green-grey streaked cheese supplied by a local we shared a drink with in a bar, the Asturian wines were very drinkable however their cider and its



strange custom of being poured from a great height would take me some time to get used to.

We prospected their rivers and dare I say found some really nice gold samples to bring back to add to our collections, not quite the size of the nuggets in the bank window but we did managed to surprised a few of the locals with our finds.



camp, competition site and all facilities were kept clean and tidy the entire week.



There was entertainment each evenings and most of this went on well into the night, I'm sure those who saw it through to the early hours enjoyed it immensely,



## The 2005 European Championships — Spain



the rest - well sorry but we slept through it.

The competition itself ran smoothly and almost everything was on time, the one hiccup at the end when the men's

at



final had to be re-run, this was actioned as quickly as was possible. It turned out to be a tough competition for the Ferrari pans as the



sand (so everyone said) was more suited to the bateau. However nearly all Brits got through to the finals and Lorna Baker – a fairly new goldpanner should be very proud coming nineteenth in the ladies finals – keep it up Lorna. All our veterans got into the finals and at the end of the day a delighted group of Brits came home with the Veterans Gold for Mick Gossage and Bronze for Yvonne Dallas, this together with the Ladies Proficient Gold for Barbara Copley. Medals



last – they say everything comes to them that wait – well we have waited a long long time for these. It was a very happy band of tired and weary goldpanners who returned to the UK.

Thanks to all Goldpanners and Spanish friends for making this a really enjoyable experience, if you didn't make it you missed a treat.

By Barbra Copley



### Footnote

The documentary filmed in May (of the British Championships) was shown just as we returned from Spain and went out on prime time TV in Scotland, a few goldpanners managed to get up to Wanlockhead for the 'premier' and were joined by the 'Aberfeldy' band and the film crew. This was the first time this film crew had anything shown on TV so together with our European medalists they celebrated, the band just happen to have their instruments with them so an impromptu session followed, a great night for all.



## 2005 World Gold Panning Championships



The 2005 World Gold Panning Championships hosted in Pilgrim's Rest, Mpumalanga, was an event as colourful and exciting, and loaded with interesting activities, as never experienced before. The partnership between the South African Gold Panning Association and the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation in hosting this International Championship event has proved to be a resounding success.

The week-long event was launched, for the first time ever on African soil, with a spectacular Street Parade (which included the parade of participating nations) and an up-market stage production on Monday 19 September. The opening event was well supported by gold panners from across the globe and approximately three thousand South Africans enjoyed the magnificent celebration of South African culture, music and dance.

The actual gold panning championships started on Tuesday 20 September with the heats in the various categories. In total there were almost 1000 participants of which 392 were from other countries. The competition was daunting with "fast" sand and excellent times were achieved.

Finland practically dominated the proficient categories with Lissaki Kuisma taking the gold in the men's and Kannisto Marjatta the in ladies categories. To the delight of local gold panners, South Africa won gold in the National Teams category and the top three positions in the Junior's category with Chester Makutu taking the gold medal with a time of 1.26 mins. In the unofficial categories, South Africa did extremely well, achieving the top three positions in the Beginners Men and Beginners Ladies categories. South Africa's gold panning future truly glitters taking in account the support, enthusiasm and achievements of our participants in the Children's (under 10 yrs.) and Pikkies (under 6yrs.) categories.

The Prize Giving and Closing Ceremony on Sunday 25th September was also a colourful and spectacular affair. During this event the World Gold Panning flag was handed over to Finland where it will be hoisted to open the 2006 World Championships. The MEC of the Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, MEC. Nomsa Mtsweni, also handed over a South African flag to Finland for safe keeping until the South African team arrives in Tankavaara to participate in the 2006 World Gold Panning Championships!

Participants from the different countries went on numerous excursions to places of interest within Mpumalanga, such as Kruger National Park, Blyde River Canyon, Shangana Village, etc as well as visited other Provinces and neighbouring countries, before and after the Championships.

The President of the World Gold Panning Association, Vincent Thurkettle, summed up gold panning championships as being not about money but gold, travel, adventure and friendship.

**Submitted by Cheryl Van Dyk**





To the South African Gold Panning Association  
Pilgrim's Rest Museum

**D**ear Friends,

Little did we know of what to expect, as we drove into Pilgrim's Rest on Thursday 15th September 2005, to attend the World Goldpanning Championships.

As one of the first International panners to arrive, we drove into this sleepy little township with its quaint shops and scenic views. It didn't take long to discover these softly spoken, well mannered South Africans were all prepared for the invasion of thousands of people from Africa and around the globe.

During the following 2 weeks we were treated to some fine hospitality and fantastic food from the local shop keepers, stall holders and the gentle folk who live in the area.

All efforts were made to entertain the visitors with tours and historic visits. We enjoyed the local mine tour with TGME geologists Ewen and Vincent, who excelled in their knowledge and were totally dedicated to their jobs.

A young lady gave us a guided tour of the old mine manager's mansion at Alanglade on the hill and a rare insight of elegant family living, of that time. Our accommodation at Crystal Springs Mountain Lodge was more than anyone could dream of.

By the weekend, all the panners had arrived and time to renew old friendships. A carnival atmosphere Uptown and Downtown, as panners wandered into shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants and relaxed before the goldpanning competitions got under way. The Parade of Nations was worth waiting for. A kaleidoscope of colour and rhythm as everyone passed along the road beating drums, displaying their tribal dress, the music makers, can can girls and finally the local and international panners waving their country's flags.

The Opening Ceremony was a spectacular event with tribal dancing and the huge goldpan as focal points entertaining several thousand people. Congratulations Finland, for putting on a wonderful presentation evening. The video of Tankavaara and surrounding areas was outstanding and the local trout a real treat. The Diggers Dance was one of the most enjoyable evenings we have had for a long time. Well done!

Then it was down to serious business of gold panning. Around 1000 panners battled it out to get their golden flakes in a race against the clock. Congratulations South Africa for winning the 2005 World Goldpanning Championships. You really worked hard and it paid off. Congratulations also to Slovakia for 2nd place and the Netherlands for 3rd place.

The Closing Ceremony was equally spectacular, and it came time to farewell some of our friends as they went on to Kruger Park, Capetown and Durban.

We were fortunate to be invited next day by Fred Southey, the man who pulled the beers at the Castle Beer tent at the panning site, for a guided tour to admire the natural wonders of the Pinnacle, the Berlin and Lisbon Falls, the Museum at Bourke's Luck Potholes and the walk down to marvel at the view below, of the three Rondavels at the Blyde River Dam. Heading back to Graskop, Fred took us to the nearby timbermill for an interesting tour. Thank you Fred for a memorable day!

The panning site is possibly one of the best we've ever seen and the South African Gold Panning Association, Pilgrim's Rest Museum staff and Dept. of Culture, Sports and Recreation and their support staff and all the shopkeepers and volunteers can feel pleased with all their efforts for staging this huge undertaking.

Special greetings to Mike Goodwin for a Speedy Recovery. You were all Fantastic!

May we thank everyone for a sterling effort. We felt honoured to be a guest in your country and privileged to be part of the first World Goldpanning Championship in South Africa.

**Henry and Anne Doran.- From the Victorian Goldfields – Australia.**





*Memories from South Africa - (Special Thanks to Sammy Mpatlanyane for the pictures)*





## The 2005 World Goldpanning Championships



### An orange view on the 2005 World Goldpanning Championships

Summer had almost turned into autumn. The golden season was almost over. Finally it was time for the 2005 World Championships.

On September 15<sup>th</sup> our group (Ruurd van Wijhe, Gonneke Cornelisse, Walter van der Poel, André Niemeijer, Sam Sosef and Esther van Diggelen) were waiting at Amsterdam Airport for our plane to leave. After several hours of flying we stepped into a different world. A bright new rented van brought us from Jo'burg to the beautiful village of Pilgrim's Rest. The competition area looked amazing! We were one of the first to arrive. We picked a nice campsite on the riverbank, close to the competi-

**"South-Africa was a wonderful experience we will never forget!"**



tion area and close to Johnny's Pub (beer, breakfast, brilliant pub!). The excitement grew. This must become a great championship!

We had a few days to spend before the competition starts. Time for some site seeing in the area : the Pot Holes, God's Window, Wonder View, caves, bushmen paintings, trout fishing and of course some prospecting.

After registration it was possible to go prospecting at two different locations with a guide. One in the Pilgrims Creek and the other in the Blyde river. The guides drove us in a 'bakkie' (pickup) to the different spots. The gold was wonderful. Two of us even found a nugget!

The championship started with an amazing and very

impressive opening ceremony. The competition was difficult, with lots of good panners participating in both the individual categories as in the team events. The competition gold was different from what we had seen before, which made the competition an even bigger challenge.



A number of entertaining events were organised in between the competitions. We participated in the yearly Pilgrim's Rest Wheelbarrow Race with our German friend Robert. The ~3 km parcour was from the Hotel up town to Johnny's Pub down town, and back. It took us about 45 minutes to finish this race (winning team did it in ~12 min). We ended at the bottom of the classification together with the teams of Spanish and Finnish goldpanners.

The most remarkable night was the Gold Diggers Pub Crawl. Stamps could be collected after ordering a drink in all pubs in Pilgrim's Rest. The pubs were located in Up-Town, Down-Town and New-Town, and because we started a little bit late, we had to hurry, pour our drinks down and run to the next pub. Luckily, the police were friendly enough to give us a lift. It was a night to remember!



An international soccer match took place: Africa vs. Europe. The European team was composed of players

from Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Africa won. Half the town came to watch this remarkable match.

The championships also included a fun event: panning with a dish. The winner had the entry money as a prize. It was a lot of fun, and quite a number of people managed to find most of their gold.



After an exciting week, all of our group were in at least one final and all members of our group won a medal !!(3<sup>rd</sup> with the National team, 3<sup>rd</sup> with the 3 Member team and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the proficient ladies category).

After the painful parting and lots of goodbyes our trip continued. Kruger Park, with numerous elephants, rhinos, a cheetah, vultures, impalas, birds, but no lions! Rafting, tubing and abseiling in Swaziland. Hippos and canoeing in the St Lucia wetlands. Swimming and snorkelling in the Indian Ocean. More rhinos and a beautiful landscape in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi National Park. And the impressive Sani Pass to Lesotho with snow... It was amazing.

South-Africa was a wonderful experience we will never forget!

**Sam Sosef & Esther van Diggelen**



SEWIL NEDTOD

## YOU COULD BE IN THIS SPACE!!



**Please send articles from your Nation on prospecting or Gold related events**

***"tell us about the claim you have worked, not the one that's still a secret!"***



**Want to know when the competitions are around the world?**

**Goto:  
The WGA website:**

**[http://  
www.worldgoldpanningassociation.org](http://www.worldgoldpanningassociation.org)**

**Organizers:**

Remember to let the Communications director know of your championships or any events you wish published.  
**[thurkettle@hotmail.com](mailto:thurkettle@hotmail.com)**



## **WGA — Annual Meeting - Meeting review**

### **PILGRIM'S REST, SOUTH AFRICA SEPT. 22nd 2005**

At 18.10 proceedings get under way with Vince greeting the participants.

He explains that there is a problem regarding the Australian delegation and that we will have to resort to new measures in order to resolve it. We will use the Statute draft for this purpose; we will give an opportunity to both of the delegations present to speak for 5 minutes each so that they can put their case before Council in order to obtain official recognition as W.G.A. delegates. Following that, Council will take a decision as to who should represent Australia this year.

Vincent allows Council 5 minutes to deliberate and choose one of three possible solutions: 1) no delegation is recognized and this year Australia will not be represented at the W.G.A.; 2) recognize Fred and Gloria Olsson; 3) recognize Kim Hillier and Gerry Tobin.

After the voting is done, the Meeting gets under way with a welcome for Kim and Gerry, Australia's new delegates and a greeting to all the delegates who are present- thus confirming the legality of the Assembly.

1. Esko provides details of the Annual Balance of the W.G.A. for the period 2004-2005.

2. Communications: Concern was voiced by Paul Thurkettle that we are not communicating effectively. He proposed promoting the Website and adding new features to it. Opinions were solicited as regards the most convenient means of distribution- black and white, electronic etc. Most support was shown for the electronic system. Paul requested interesting reports to include in Golden Times and encouraged all nations to write articles.

3. Rules Committee Report- Euro2005 in Spain  
The first problem was the cap of the tube. It was discovered that the cap had mysteriously come off a competitor's tube as he was making his way to have his gold checked. From today a penalty of 2 minutes has been imposed and only gold remaining in the tube has been counted. This is a question which will have to be decided once and for all by Council. A motion is put to the vote that would see a 2-minute penalty imposed on anybody not closing the tube at the end of his own washing time. -Passed by 15 votes in favour, that is, unanimously.  
Discussion follows about whether a competitor whose tube opens should in fact be penalised and if so what type of penalty he should incur. A number of delegates take part in this discussion and it is agreed to vote for one of the following options: 2-minute penalty and only gold remaining in the tube being counted OR 5-minute penalty and all gold counted including that remaining in the pan. Voting results in a 21 to 9 decision in favour of the 2-minute penalty.

A second problem was finding a solution to the fact that there were 2 non-European nations present- South Africa and Japan.

Third problem: progress was probably made in Spain by allowing a Junior Category competitor to participate in the Women's Category. A 15-year old girl is, to all intents and purposes, a woman. A vote is taken on the motion that a boy or girl could compete in an official

category and there is a unanimous decision in favour. As regards non-Europeans who take part in European Championships, discussion is postponed until next year's A.G.M. The following question is then put up for discussion: who should go forward to subsequent heats- one out of two competitors, one out of three or one out of five? After the discussion, a vote results in a unanimous decision for the one out of two option. Mike suggests that over the next 12 months, e-mails should be sent to the Rules Committee Chairman with the following proposals in mind: 3 days of heats and then only the best 60 going forward; why not reduce maximum competition time to 15 minutes since even beginners manage to compete in 3 minutes? Why not increase the number of troughs to 45? Why not reduce the number of competitors through a selection process at National Championships? With a week at our disposal we could have up to 5,000 competitors! The rules also need to be changed in some minor areas such as presentation of bids at least 2 years in advance.

A last decision taken is that National Teams Competitions will be re-run if one team finds more gold than that seeded and all at the A.G.M. are in agreement.

Mike finished the Rules Committee Report with a word of praise and thanks for the work carried out by the Rules Committee over the past years and a reminder that the work of the Rules Committee is successful only in so far as it ensures that the best panners win.

#### **6. Statutes**

Discussion of this point is brought forward in order to facilitate preparation of bids for the 2008 and 2009 World Championships. The new Statute has not yet been completed, as, according to the President, there has not been anybody available to take on the job. The Assembly agrees with Vince's proposal that the next Vice-President should commit himself, over the 3 years of his mandate, to defining the Statute.

#### **4. Bids**

Nations bidding have 10 minutes each in order to present their respective bids. The results are:

Spain will host the 2008 World Goldpanning Championships  
Italy will host the 2009 World Goldpanning Championships

Euro2007: No bids. To the disappointment of all, the 2007 European Championships will not take place.

#### **7. Elections**

Mike makes a speech about the Rules Committee from the time of its foundation to how greatly it has grown up to the present day. He explains why he has to step aside and leave his post as Chairman to somebody else for at least a year or two; he has an important work commitment that will require his direct presence and he will not even be coming to Finland. Nominations are requested for post of Chairman of the Rules Committee. Ken Karlsson is proposed and, being the only candidate, is duly unanimously elected.

Veronika speaks about her contribution to the W.G.A. and extends good wishes to the next Vice-President with his/her work on the Statute. She expresses the hope that her successor will be from one of the nations organizing the next World Championships, that it will be a person with the will to work hard and with the drive necessary for an Organization that has such wide membership as the W.G.A.

Arturo is unanimously elected and accepts the post.

Ana is proposed for secretary; on being unanimously elected she accepts the post

There being no further business, the meeting was closed.

Minutes by: Ana Maria Santiago M. Arturo Ramella



# *South African* **GOLD PANNING** 2006



*Pilgrim's Rest Mpumalanga*  
**28 Sept to 1 Oct**

# A special section for the





# The 2006 World Goldpanning Championships – Finland

## World Goldpanning Championships Tankavaara, Finland 6.-13.8.2006

Finland, Lapland and Tankavaara welcome hundreds of goldpanners around the world to take part in the World Goldpanning Championships during 6.-13.8.2006. World Championships will be competed again in Tankavaara, after a 13 years break. There is a really good cause for celebration – Finland has the honour to organize the 30<sup>th</sup> competition in the history of the World Goldpanning Championships.

### **From Tankavaara out into the wide world**

The history of this golden event, nowadays spread worldwide, dates actually back to the first national goldpanning contest organized in Tankavaara, by the Hopioja creek in 1974. During the first years the event was quite modest. There were only a few dozens of participants, most of whom were either travellers interested in gold and panning or professional goldminers from the famous Lemmenjoki river area – those legends who we now can find in the books of the Finnish gold history.

By and by the genuine Finnish summer event of the goldpanners started to achieve interest also among the foreign participants and visitors. The first World Goldpanning Championships were arranged in Tankavaara in 1977. Also the meeting of the representative countries, at the call of Rudi Ertl from Austria, was arranged during the competition weekend. As a result the World Goldpanning Championships started to spread around the world. International contacts were established and finally they led to the foundation of the World Goldpanning Association (WGA).

The first World Championships outside Finland were organized in Heiligenblut, Austria in 1982. As the years have passed by, goldpanners around the world have gathered and met each other also in quite distant and exotic countries, such as Australia, Canada and Japan. World Championships are annually organized in one of the member countries of the WGA. 2005 champions were awarded to Pilgrim's Rest, South Africa. 2006 host country is Finland and 2007 it will be Canada in its traditional Dawson City. Annually there are several hundreds of competitors participating in World Championships. Team Finland has recently been one of the

biggest among the participating nationalities.

Finns have been competing around the world as a team of as many as hundred members.

### **Further information:**

Gold Museum Association, FI-99695 Tankavaara, FINLAND

**Tel.** +358 16 626 171 or +358 16 626 158, **fax.** +358 16 626 271 or +358 16 626 261

e-mail: [info@kultamuseo.fi](mailto:info@kultamuseo.fi), [info@tankavaara.fi](mailto:info@tankavaara.fi)

[www.kultamuseo.fi](http://www.kultamuseo.fi)



WORLD GOLD PANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS



## **WORLD GOLDFANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**6. - 13.8.2006 Tankavaara, Finland**

### **Preliminary Program**

#### **Sunday 6.8.**

- 10 a.m. Laying of wreaths on the gold prospectors' graves in Inari
- 4 p.m. Opening ceremonies of the Golden Week in Ivalo
- Kultasoutu – Gold Rowing arrives in Ivalo

#### **Monday 7.8.**

- 9 a.m. Registration office opens at Tankavaara
- Guided excursions to the gold fields of river Lemmenjoki (2 days)
- \*Contact: Lapin Kullankaivajain Liitto, [www.kolumbus.fi/lki/](http://www.kolumbus.fi/lki/)
- Guided tours in the International Gold Museum
- 12 p.m. Opening of the Geological Nature Trail at Tankavaara
- 6 p.m. Official registration time to the Goldpanning World Championships ends. Last minute registrations will be accepted on Tuesday and Wednesday, depending on the number of participants already entered in competition.

#### **Tuesday 8.8.**

- 9 a.m. Excursion to the Goldmine of Pahtavaara starts from Tankavaara
- Boat trips to the Kultala of river Ivalojoki
- Guided tours in the International Gold Museum and to the Geological Nature Trail at Tankavaara

#### **Wednesday 9.8.**

- 9.30 a.m. International Gold Symposium (Urho Kekkonen National Park Visitor Centre, Tankavaara)
- Excursion to the Kultala of river Ivalojoki
- Selfguided tours to the gold fields, advice from the Gold Museum
- Welcome Night at Saariselkä

#### **Thursday 10.8.**

- 8.30 a.m. Annual meeting of Friends of Lapinkulta Association (Koilliskaira Visitor Centre, Tankavaara)
- 9 a.m. Gold and Mineral Market opens at Tankavaara
- \*Prize giving of The Most Beautiful Lappish Gem - competition
- 10 a.m. Goldpanning World Championships Opening Ceremonies and Parade at Tankavaara
- 12 a.m. Competitions begin
- 6 p.m. Annual Meeting of WGA, Gold Museum, Tankavaara
- Lappish Market and Night at Vuotso

#### **Friday 11.8.**

- 9 a.m. Gold and Mineral Market (Tankavaara)
- 9 a.m. Goldpanning World Championships
- 5 p.m. Celebration of the 25 anniversary of the Gold Museum Association (Gold Prospector Museum, Tankavaara)
- 6 p.m. Goldfield Opera "Kawerin Kultamaa" (Grand Gold Rush Opera, Tankavaara)
- 8 p.m. Presentation of Goldpanning World Championships 2007 (Grand Gold Rush Opera, Tankavaara)
- 9 p.m. Goldpanners Night and Country-music (Nugget Saloon, Tankavaara)

#### **Saturday 12.8.**

- 9 a.m. Gold and Mineral Market (Tankavaara)
- 9 a.m. Goldpanning World Championships
- 6 p.m. Gold Auction (Nugget Square, Tankavaara)

- 7 p.m. Goldpanners Dinner and Can Can Girls (Grand Gold Rush Opera, Tankavaara)
- 9 p.m. Tankavaara Steelperson –competition (Nugget Square, Tankavaara)
- 9 p.m. Goldpanners Night and Dancing (Nugget Saloon, Tankavaara)

#### **Sunday 13.8.**

- 9 a.m. Goldpanning World Championships, Finals
- 3 p.m. Prize Giving and Closing Ceremonies
- 7 p.m. Good bye Night (Nugget Saloon, Tankavaara)

### **REGISTRATION**

#### **Series and participation fees**

##### **Official Series**

Juniors (under 16 years)	10 €
Ladies	25 €
Men	25 €
Veterans (60 years and over)	25 €
National teams (5 persons)*	75 €

##### **Other series**

Children (10 years and under)	7 €
Beginners Ladies	25 €
Beginners Men	25 €
Traditional Pan	25 €
Couples*	20 €
Open team competition*	30 €
Free tools competition*	35 €
Joker-serie	100 €
Golden Partners	200 €
(For invited communities)	

**Participation fee includes** free admission to the area and in the Gold Prospector Museum, a camping place (9. - 14.8.), a sleeve badge, a pin, a competitor's card, the tube used in competition with the nuggets found, the diploma and the Golden Week -handbook.

**\*If competitor takes part only in team categories, he/she must buy an entrance ticket to the area!**

#### **You can register by 7<sup>th</sup> August, 6 p.m.**

- by writing to the Competition office in Tankavaara (address 99695 Tankavaara, FINLAND)
- by telefax + 358-16-626 261, + 358-16-626 271
- in [www.kultamuseo.fi](http://www.kultamuseo.fi)

**Last-minute registrations** will be accepted until **noon on 9<sup>th</sup> August**, depending on the number of participants already entered in the contest.

5 € higher fee/serie for last-minute registrations!

### **ENTRANCE FEES FOR THE PUBLIC**

<b>General Ticket</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Children</b>
Wednesday-Sunday	35 €	10 €
Thursday-Sunday	30 €	10 €
Friday-Sunday	25 €	10 €
Saturday-Sunday	20 €	5 €

**General ticket includes** entrance to the area, restaurants and to the International Gold Prospector Museum, a sleeve badge, and a tent/caravan place in Tankavaara Goldcamp.

#### **Dayticket** 10 € 5 €

Dayticket is valid from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the day of purchase.

# Goldpanners' Dinner

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 7.00 p.m.  
Tankavaara

\*\*\*

Salmon, potatoes and vitamins  
wrapped in gold  
&  
Canned gold

\*\*\*

Can-can girls and country music

Only 10 euros / person

Advance reservation is required at latest by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of August:  
+358 16 626 158 or [info@tankavaara.fi](mailto:info@tankavaara.fi)



## Gold Panning World Championships 2006 GETTOGETHER -evening Saariselkä Tunturihotel 9.8.2006 at 6.00 p.m.

### Restaurant Siula/programme:

- |              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| At 6.00 p.m. | Welcome to Northern Lapland!  | Chairman Kauko Launonen/Gold Museum Association |
| At 6.10 p.m. | Traditional joik-singing by Annukka Hirvasvuopio-Laiti  |   |
| At 6.30 p.m. | Local gold digger Per Saukko tells about his experiences in Lapland's gold fields and sings song or two.... |   |

### Meeting room Urupää/programme:

- |              |   |                               |
|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| At 6.50 p.m. | Feelings from Northernmost Europe -video            |                               |
| At 7.00 p.m. | Information about Lapland by Lapland Marketing Ltd. |                               |
| At 7.15 p.m. | Programmes supplied by participating countries      |                               |
|              | Later on:   | Local country band Vesa Törmä |

Advance booking is required to the Get Together –evening by 21<sup>st</sup> of July, 2006: [info@tankavaara.fi](mailto:info@tankavaara.fi)

Tickets: Competitors free of charge

Others: adults 10 €/person

children 5 €/person

Price includes: Snack with beer or juice and evening programme mentioned above.



## **GOLDPANNING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2006 – UNOFFICIAL AND SPECIAL SERIES**

### **GOLDEN PARTNERS**

Golden Partners -competition is a humorous competition for communities and companies. Each team consists of three persons and they use two pools / team during the competition. They also have 2 x 2 meters area behind their pools for advertising material of the company.

A team gets two buckets of sand and gravel, where a certain amount of nuggets have been hidden. Two members of the team start to wash the sand nearly to the finish. They are not allowed to pick up the nuggets, but they have to pour the remaining sand into the third member's pan, who finishes the washing, collects the nuggets in tube and takes them to the scrutineers.

Participation fee 200 €



**Couples Event**

### **JOKER**

Joker-serie is for gamblers and those who enjoy risks. The participation fee is high, but so is the award: The winner gets all the participation fees of other competitors! Winner's participation fee is donated to the benefit of Gold Prospector Museum. If competitors can't take this big risk on their own, they can try to "sell" themselves to investors! For 30 competitors at most!

Participation fee 100 €

### **FREE-TOOLS**

Free-tools is for those inventing new equipment and ideas for goldpanning. Finding the gold is the main issue, but it is also important to show the audience and co-competitors new aspects of goldpanning. Two awards are given in this competition, the first for the fastest team, and the second (special award 170 €) for the team that has created the most special device or idea. Judges will pay attention to the how functional the device or idea is, how ecological it is and does it have environmental disadvantages. Same device can be used in the competition only two years. Team can be 1 to 3 persons, washing devices are not limited, only traditional goldpans and sluices can not be used. Team must find the hidden nuggets as fast as possible from about 60 kilos of sand and gravel. One member of the team will take the nuggets found to the scrutineers in a tube.

Participation fee 35 €

### **COUPLES**

Team of the couples competition will have one goldpan and one bucket of sand and gravel. They will wash the sand together, side by side, using only one hand each. Other hand can not be used in any part of the competition! Collecting the nuggets happens so that other member holds the tube while other one collects the nuggets from the goldpan.

Couples-competition will test not only the washing skills

of competitors, but also co-operation skills and nerves, so it is very audience friendly competition!

Participation fee 20 €

### **OPEN TEAMS**

Each member of the team will have their own bucket of sand and gravel, and each at a time they will wash their portion.

Every member puts the nuggets found in the tube and the last member shall close the tube and take it to scrutineers. The other members have to leave the competition site. Members of the team may not touch the equipment of the other team members. If they use the same goldpan, it must be washed clean properly, before handing it to the next member. Participation fee 30 €

If competitor takes part in only one team event, he must buy a entrance ticket for the area!

### **Lappish Market in Vuotso**

**10.-11.8.2006 Vuotso Reindeer village**

Lappish Market in Vuotso presents local lappish culture. During these market days visitors can take a closer view to reindeer herding, the Sámi and the general history of the area. Local lifestyle will be presented by demonstrations, exhibitions, local products and Sámi music. At Lappish Market visitors can buy Sámi crafts, music and literature and various products made of natural materials. Also reindeer meat products, salmon, cloudberries and other local delicacies are available.

Demonstrations will show traditional Sámi working methods. Visitors can also walk through the "Four Wind Trail" and learn more about local history and lifestyle. Reindeer and boat trips will be arranged.

### **Preliminary program**

#### **Thursday 10.8. 11.00 a.m. –**

11.00 Lappish Market opens  
12.00 Demonstrations  
14.00 Music  
15.00 Disco for the youth  
17.00 Demonstrations  
18.00 Sámi music concert  
19.30 Demonstartions  
21.00 Dance

#### **Friday 11.8. 9.00 a.m. –**

9.00 Lappish Market opens  
11.00 Demonstartions  
13.00 Music  
16.00 Demonstartions  
18.00 Music  
21.00 Dance

Tankavaara is one part of Vuotso village. The distance between Tankavaara and the centre of Vuotso is about 9 kilometers. Transportation to Lappish Market will be arranged.

## *The 2006 World Goldpanning Championships — Finland*

### **WELCOME TO THE GOLD CLAIMS**

The World Goldpanning Championships will take place in August 2006 in Finnish Lapland. Some members of the Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland (Lapin Kullankaivajain Liitto ry) are joining the arrangements of the event by opening their claims and mining concessions to the visitors. You are welcome to come and pan your own gold in the active gold fields of Lapland.

There are basically two kinds of excursions you can make. On self guided tours you can go to the claim on your own but contact to the claim owner in advance is preferred. For the longer trips take your own food and accommodation (tents) if needed. Some of the claims can be reached by car and thus can be visited with one-day trip or even within a few hours. In many places you can pan for free and keep the gold or a small fee is voluntary.

There are also guided tours to the claims. Minimum size for a group varies from place to place. The daily fee depends on transportations and accommodations and so on. Please take contact in advance to the organiser.

For further information: [http://www.kolumbus.fi/kl/visits/visiting\\_claims.htm](http://www.kolumbus.fi/kl/visits/visiting_claims.htm)

### **About the gold fields**

#### **Lemmenjoki districts:**

Lemmenjoki gold fields situate northwest from Tankavaara, 160 km by car and 20 km by river boat. Also one should prepare to walk with marked trails some ten or tens of kilometers. Because of long distances it's recommend to stay at least overnight in Lemmenjoki wilderness at the tent.

Lemmenjoki is the largest National Park in Finland, with an area of 2,850 sq. km it is also one of Europe's largest roadless wooded wildernesses. Gold rush took place first in the 1940s and 50s while latest started at 80's and is still running, being the most profitable alluvial gold area with it's 20 kilos annual production.

#### **Ivalojoki-Sotajoki-Tankavaara districts**

Ivalojoki is called the Golden River of Lapland. The first gold rush in Finland took place there in the 1870s and 'Kultala' gold mining village is still left from those days and worth to visit (12 km hike from road). Even nowadays there are some gold mining activities in the area. Ivalojoki is also a popular river for canoeing and shooting the rapids.

In the district of Sotajoki and surroundings there are plenty of gold claims, most of them easily reached by car and by short walk. Also around the Tankavaara gold village you will find a few active claims.



## **Rubber dinghy adventure on the golden river Ivalojoki**

Tuesday 8.8.2006

The wilderness river, with its rapids that flows through the desolate canyon offers an amazing adventure into the history and modern times of gold in Lapland.

Our excursion begins from Kuttura, famous Sami village, where our fully equipped rubber dinghy awaits you. Our guides explain how to go with the stream, rocks and how to control the dinghy.

On our way to Kultala by the river Ivalojoki, we stop for coffee and listen to nature's mighty sounds on the famous "Saarnaköngäs" rapids.

Our journey continues gently paddling towards Tolonen.

Departure from Kuttura 8.00 a.m. and arrival to Tolonen approx. 8.00-9.00 p.m. (Distance is 49 kilometers). 8 persons / dinghy, max. totally 80 persons. On request this excursion can be arranged on other days as well.

Price: EUR 100 / person (does not include the transportation to Kuttura and back from Tolonen) Reservations at latest 31.7.2006 to: luonto.loma@saariselka.fi or +358 16 668 706

## **White water adventure onboard Johkafanas** Wednesday 9.8.2006

In 1870 hundreds of prospectors made their way to the Ivalojoki river where gold had been found two years earlier. Nowadays we can feel the spirit of the gold rush with less efforts. Speedy adventure on the jet turbine-powered Johkafanas rubber boat takes you in 30 minutes to Kultala where you will get familiar with this historic area.

Price: EUR 75 / person return (does not include the transportation to Kuttura and back). EUR 40 / person one way (possibility to hike back without guide on well marked but quite demanding trail. One way distance from Kuttura (Pahaoja) to Kultala or other way around for hikers is 13 kilometers. We recommend you to have about 6 hours for hiking.)

Departures from Kuttura:  
 8.00 a.m.  
 9.30 a.m.  
 11.00 a.m.  
 12.30 p.m.  
 14.00 p.m.  
 15.30 p.m.

The last return/transfer from Kultala is at 17.00 Reservations at latest 8.8.2006 at 4.00 p.m to: luonto.loma@saariselka.fi or +358 16 668 706 Both river excursions will be arranged by LuontoLoma PRO SAFARIS. LuontoLoma has been awarded the Rapids Shooting Certification and has been elected as a rafting company of the year 2003 in Finland. LuontoLoma keeps all the rights for changes.

## **Ivalojoen Kultra and Hipunhuutojat Associations welcome you to test your skills before the World Championships:**

### **Goldpanning Competition on the shore of Ivalojoki River**

**Hotel-Restaurant Kultahippu, Ivalo**  
**4.-6.8.2006**

**Organizer: Ivalojoen Kultra**

#### **PROGRAM:**

#### **Friday 4.8. 6.00 p.m.**

- CHILDREN AND JUNIORS
- BEGINNERS
- KREIVIN AIKAAN – PRELIMINARIES AND FINAL  
 →Special competition, pans from the organizer
- "HEAP OF SAND" - PANNING  
 →Nuggets hidden into a common heap of sand
- ON - LINE -COMPETITION OF "HIPUNHUUTOJAT" - ASSOCIATION

#### **Saturday 5.8. 10.00 a.m.**

- OPENING CEREMONIES
- VETERANS, PRELIMINARIES AND FINAL
- LADIES, PRELIMINARIES AND SEMIFINALS
- MEN, PRELIMINARIES AND SEMIFINALS
- GENERAL SERIE (mixed ladies and men), PRELIMINARIES
- SUPERCOMPETITION  
 → For gamblers! Bigger fees, bigger prize...
- ON - LINE -COMPETITION OF "HIPUNHUUTOJAT" - ASSOCIATION

#### **Sunday 6.8. 12.00 a.m.**

- GENERAL SERIE, SEMIFINALS
- LADIES, FINAL
- MEN, FINAL
- GENERAL SERIE, FINAL
- RELAY RACE FOR TEAMS
- PRIZE GIVING CEREMONIES

Registrations can be made at the competition site. For further information please contact:

Itu Boman +358 400 706 851

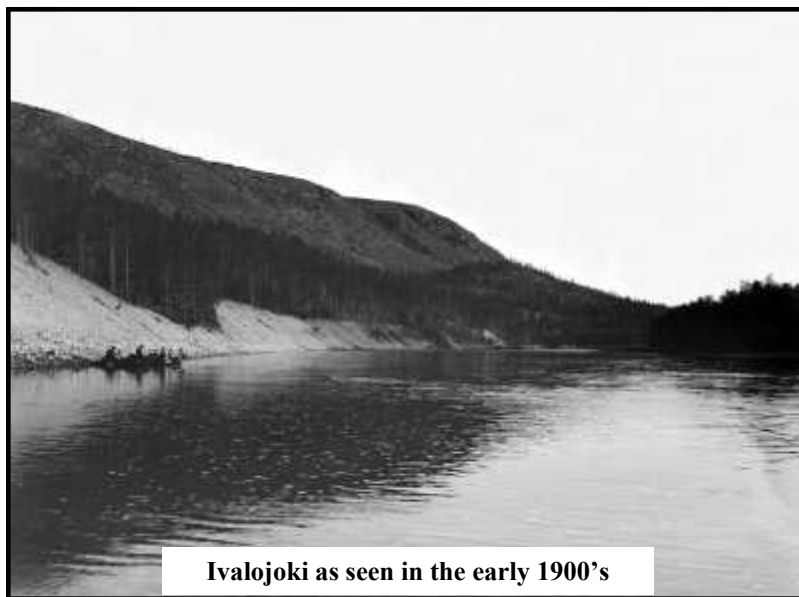
**After prize giving ceremonies we hope all participants to join to the opening parade of the Golden Week! The Parade goes from Hotel-Restaurant Kultahippu to the rivershore of Hotel Ivalo through the city of Ivalo.**

Goldpanning World Championships' participants and audience have an unique possibility to experience golden opera during the competition week this year. **The original presentation of *Kaverin kultamaa – The golden land of Kaveri* is in Tankavaara on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of August.** The opera tells a true story of Jakob Kaveri's journey to the gold fields of the Ivalojoki river in the spring of 1871.

Jakob Kaveri of Oulu was enrolled in the team of panners on Mr. Grönholm's claim number 17. The whole team consisted of 36 men and a cook. While enlisting, each panner received an advance payment of 38 marks for buying food and drinks from the Kultala saloon. Before working was commenced, a set-up was arranged to make Jakob Kaveri appear guilty. He was arrested accused for pick-pocketing. Mr. Pellikka of Oulu reported the police of Kultala of a stolen wallet. He suspected that Kaveri was the thief. Later the wallet was found intact. The theft had, however, been reported and Jakob Kaveri was arrested.

A report of the incident was sent to Oulu to governor Alftaan and a trial on the case was also applied for. The first meeting of the court was ordered to be held on July 1871. The official record of Kaveri's reputation from the officials of Oulu was delayed, so the court could not meet.

The case was postponed a total of four times. All the while Jakob was jailed in chains for 6 months in Puulinna of Kittilä. In November 1871 Jakob's case was trialled in Mirhamin metsätupa, a village court house in Paadari, in the judicial district of Lapland. Old documents of the courthouse state, how the lost wallet of Pellikka was found and no money was missing there. Expenses worth 1400 marks was, however, accrued of this case, so Jakob Kaveri had to be punished somehow. The judge, Gabriel Chydenius, reads out the decision of the jury: "Because the man is poor, he shall be sentenced to five pairs of lashes, three strokes a pair."



Ivalojoki as seen in the early 1900's

That day the tracks of Jakob Kaveri disappeared. Jakob's relatives were disgraced and they changed their family name. The Kaveri family was known as honest and helpful. Members of the family had lived in the Oulu district for centuries. They had been capable merchants on builders, as well as deeply religious.

The opera is composed by Kaj Chydenius and the libretto written by Airi Haataja. Jakob Kaveri was the uncle of Airi Haataja's grandfather. Judge Gabriel Chydenius and the composer of the opera, Kaj Chydenius, also may originate of the same family...

**More detailed information about tickets, prices, displays and reservations will be updated to [www.kultamuseo.fi](http://www.kultamuseo.fi) in the near future.**



## Moonlight Creek

**H**aving some free time this winter I decided to do something I've wanted to for a very long time – visit New Zealand! As most of you will know, there are rivers in New Zealand that were once fabulously rich in alluvial gold. One group of prospectors in 1863 found 12 Kg in just a few days – I wondered what is left now?!

On the way I stopped off in Australia to see Gerry. He is always good to spend time with, whether talking about Australia and the WGA or laughing with friends and heaps of cold beer. He arranged a gathering and I was delighted to meet up with Lester Fisher, Tony, Anne and Henry and many other prospectors. The cold beer was needed as I had travelled from an English winter and it was over 40 degrees C while I was in Melbourne and Ballarat! I also did some exciting shipwreck research in Melbourne's National Archives while staying



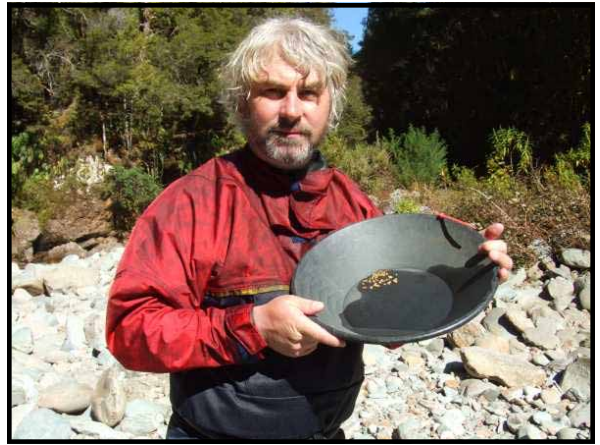
with another excellent prospector, Peter Gower.

I had decided to spend all my time, about seven weeks, on New Zealand's

South Island and headed down to Otago to meet Roberta Laraman, secretary to the Otago Goldfields Trust, NZ. We had not met before and I was most grateful for her welcome and hospitality. One evening she invited Greg Eden over and he brought the most wonderful selection of gold specimens – interestingly all from Western Australia.

He, with his brother and their families, was one of the early users of good metal detectors in remote Australian locations and his amazingly good finds are testament to his ability as a bushman and prospector. I tried a few pans in the famous rivers Arrow and Shotover, but I think a 4WD and local knowledge, or a guide, are needed to succeed. Roberta arranged for

**Do prospectors really ever have a holiday?**



me to have a morning's panning at the discovery site Lindis Pass with Mike, President of the Otago Goldpanning. Again I found a sample of fine gold.

As I was wondering what to do next I got a call from Peter Gower, who I stayed with in Melbourne. He had arranged to fly over to work a river up in the northwest called Moonlight Creek and invited me to join him. So, after a quick tour of some 'Lord of the Rings' sites and a jet boat ride, (I wasn't going to do the 'film tourist' thing, but once you are there the landscapes captivate you!) I drove quickly up the west coast to Greymouth to meet Peter. I will need to go back one day as I raced past and ignored some truly wonderful scenery: I was suffering from a gripping desire to find good gold, 'Gold Fever' I guess, and Moonlight Creek just sounded so promising! Peter was waiting in Greymouth with 4WD and a sluicebox; he also

had a map, like a treasure map, showing the Moonlight with an 'X' over the public claim!



After a twenty-minute drive on the dirt road which

winds alongside the Moonlight Creek we stopped at Anderson's Flat and this most beautiful river. I loved the dense forest we had driven through, with trees covered in lichens and everywhere the graceful tree ferns, but mostly I loved this crystal clear river with visible bedrock!

## Moonlight Creek Cont..

The New Zealanders are excellent prospec-



tors and the river banks were well worked – detectors, but unusually the riverbed was very well worked too – dredges! Peter and I started looking for tiny gold traps



that we hoped had been overlooked. On day three we were rewarded with a series of pockets in a fractured conglomerate rock. They were hard to see into and the dredgers had missed them! To work such places I had taken a torch and diving face-mask and we very contentedly used tweezers to pick out the gold flakes and little nuggets of about a gram. We then worked very hard to find another such gold-trap but couldn't, so we changed technique and went sluicing. I like sluicing. It's the teamwork I think – the working hard with your partner moving rocks, puddling the

clayey heavy gravels, watching the gold specks jump down to the first riffle in the sluice-box, picking out the gold pieces that are too big to jump! We worked steadily and did fine, just paydirt nothing too special, and each evening we dried our gold for the reverential ceremony of 'weighing the day's finds'! I stayed for a couple of days in the best, most individual and welcoming hotel, 'Formerly The Blackball Hilton'. If you are going to this area, talk to me, and I'll tell you about the great food,



beer and brilliant staff; oh, and a liking for Harleys will help! Peter and I tried some other rivers in the area and found reasonable gold in all of them.

After Peter went home I wondered whether to carry on prospecting, but I already had several good samples of NZ gold and didn't really want to now work alone. Also I wanted some time in the sun, a holiday, somewhere without sandflies! So, on a wonderfully spontaneous whim, I gave up prospecting and travelled north by hire car – ferry – taxi – airplane – hire car to such a beach as dreams are made of on the Coromandel Peninsula. Honestly, just heavenly. And there, paddling in the warm clear sea with not a sandfly bite in eight days, I noticed that the waves were concentrating patches of black sand, and of course this peninsula has a rich gold history. I wondered if these beach sands were gold bearing, if perhaps I should just do a few test pans. Do prospectors really ever have a holiday ...!

**Vincent Thurkettle**





## Stories from "Down Under"

Submitted By Anne Doran with kind permission from the Courier

### The Courier

SERVING THE BALLARAT REGION SINCE 1867

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2005

\$1.50 (inc GST)



#### GOLDEN STRIKE

A Ballarat man will have a Merry Christmas after finding eight gold nuggets worth more than \$50,000 in bushland near Talbot. One nugget weighed 1.1kg and another seven smaller nuggets were found in a patch measuring about 75 centimetres. The man, who wanted to remain anonymous, discovered the gold over the past three weeks in shallow ground. The gold was found by an experienced prospector using a hand-held metal detector.

"A lot of people believe the gold ran out in the 1880s", but this find shows that it did not. The Victorian goldfields still produce gold every day and people just need to be lucky and work carefully and seriously. The large nugget has already been named "The Golden Triangle".

From the "Ballarat Courier" newspaper.

Information supplied by Anne Doran - Australia.



Eldorado's living treasure: Nick Ramsay, 87, and the long-dead giant gold dredge. Picture: DAVID CAIRD

### Nick outlasts Eldorado's gold

Terry Brown H/S 22/12/05

YOU'LL find old Nick Ramsay up behind Eldorado, end of town, where the asphalt ends. It's one of life's necessities out the back of Wangaratta. He was there when Eldorado floundered with miners, when the deafening gold dredge churned 30m deep into the creek bed. A month shy of 88, Mr Ramsay, Eldorado's born and bred, is a silver-haired part of the town's history.

The local pub will show Mr Ramsay carting around some of his 11 kids on a bullock.

The Eldorado pub is reputed to be Victoria's smallest tavern, but still has enough wall space to feature him three times. They have to fit him in.

The dredge that used to wade farmers' lanes away is stuck in the mud. Half the length of the AC/3 and four stories high, it's a rusting bulk. Mr Ramsay, though, has plenty of go left in him. He's such a day-out bloke.

The local pub will show Mr Ramsay carting around some of his 11 kids on a bullock.



Glory days: the massive gold digger hard at work.

'I hold the record on the dredge, eight starts in 12 years. I started at 18 and finished up winch-man'

-NICK RAMSAY

"I used to sleep with the nighties, lay down and sleep where you get the traps," Mr Ramsay said. "It was only a summer job and I went prospecting in winter with a pick and a dish. I made a living out of it. Never made a fortune, but never looked to make a fortune. He made a life, though, marrying Muriel when he was 23. She's a crook in Wangaratta Hospital's nursing home and Mr Ramsay drives in to visit her. And children."

man with levers up to his chest. "They wanted me to take the job as shift boss but I refused it," he said. "I can't read or write, so I wouldn't have been able to do the paperwork. I didn't tell them that, though. They might have taken me off the winch."

The dredge stopped dead in 1964, but Mr Ramsay kept going. He built bridges and six houses in Eldorado, made his own wine and brewed his own beer.

Mrs Ramsay had the gift of driving and with a terrific sense of timing she told Mr Ramsay where to drill for water.

"In 1967 I gave up mining and went water drilling. I did that until I was 86," Mr Ramsay said. Eldorado might mean "the golden one" in Spanish and be the name of a legendary South American river after supposedly covered himself in gold dust before waiting it off in a lake months. One died in a car crash two years ago. Mr Ramsay drove the kids around on his bulldozers. One was built from a General Grant tank. One was the biggest dredge mouth of the equator - 100m long and 2100 tonnes. "I hold the record on the dredge, eight starts in 12 years," Mr Ramsay boasts. "I started at 18 and finished up winch-man."

## High praise for our panning facilities

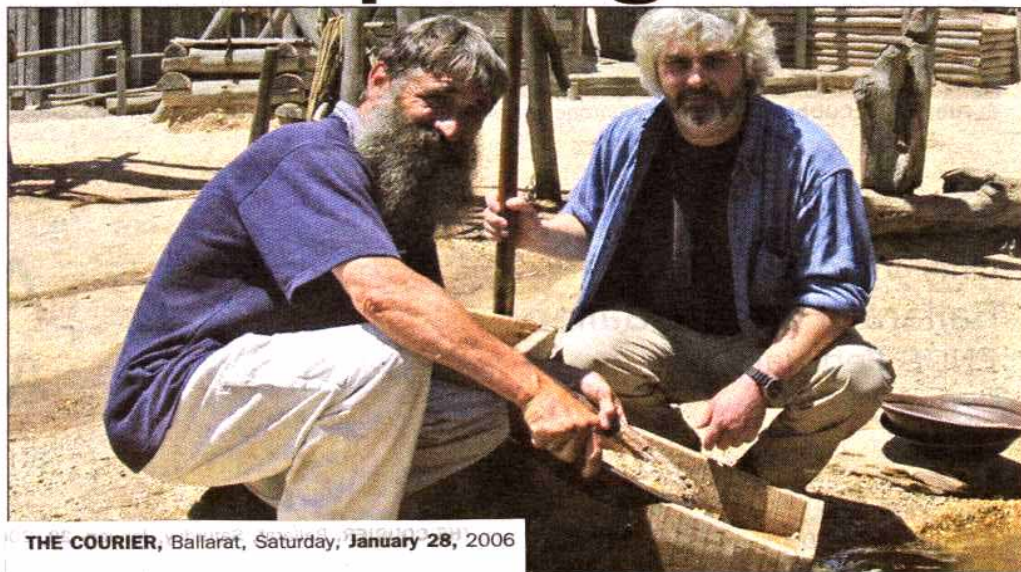
**GOLDFINGERS** Gerard Tobin and Vincent Thurkettle were in their element at Sovereign Hill.

Victorian Gold Panning Association president Mr Tobin showed the visiting president of the World Gold Panning Association from England around the site of the Australasian Gold Panning Championships, held each December in Ballarat.

Mr Thurkettle said Sovereign Hill boasted one of the best gold panning areas in the world and he hoped Ballarat would become the heart of Australian competitive gold panning.

But Mr Thurkettle said competitive gold panning was still relatively unknown in Australia, despite having a large following overseas. "I think it's ironic in Australia, with its gold history, that it's not better known," Mr Thurkettle said.

Mr Tobin said it was pleasing to have Mr Thurkettle visit



THE COURIER, Ballarat, Saturday, January 28, 2006

**GOLDEN TOUCH:** Victorian Gold Panning Association president Gerard Tobin, left, and World Gold Panning Association president Vincent Thurkettle at Sovereign Hill.

the site. "It's good for him to be able to come here and have an interest in what we are doing here," Mr Tobin said.

"It gives us encouragement to plug along and keep doing what we are doing, which is bringing people together."

Mr Tobin said Australia hoped to send a team to the international event in Finland this year.

## FLYING VISIT FROM PRESIDENT

Vince Thurkettle from England – President of the World Gold Panning Organisation, touched down in Melbourne – Australia for a flying visit, on his way to New Zealand.

Vince called in at Ballarat and together with Gerry Tobin, President of the Victorian Gold Panning Ass. went to Sovereign Hill – Ballarat to promote goldpanning. While in Ballarat 21 and 22nd Jan, Vince met up with panners of the Vic. Gold Panning Ass. Henry and Anne traveled to Ballarat to meet Vincent and fellow panners and enjoyed a BBQ at Gerry and his wife's house.



Vincent experienced some of our extremely hot weather condition, and just quietly, I think, he prefers our hot Australian weather to cold England. He seemed to be in his element! Gold Panning is being promoted as a fun activity and a great social builder.

## 150th YEAR OF GOLD CELEBRATIONS

In the heart of the "Golden Triangle" Dunolly – Victoria – Australia, 12 months of planning have already gone into the "150th Years of Gold" celebrations. This celebration commemorates the first gold discovered on 10th June 1856 on the "Old Lead", which became part of Broadway, the main street of Dunolly today.

The Golden Triangle, which consists of Dunolly, Tarnagulla (where hundreds of tons of gold was discovered) and Moliagul (where the fabulous "Welcome Stranger" nugget was discovered – It weighed 66 kilograms). Dunolly, and these two nearby townships, have produced more big gold nuggets than anywhere else in the world. Even today, prospectors, detectors and miners from around the globe, come to Dunolly in search of this precious metal. Most gold seekers are rewarded with finding small nuggets of their stay in Dunolly.

The 150th Gold celebrations begin on 10th June 2006 with a Miners' Lantern Walk through our main street to the Recreation Reserve to a big Dredge hole, which operated there a long time ago. BBQ, Games and a big community Bonfire will be on in the evening. 11th June. A goldpanning competition is planned and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque. All our public buildings will be open for visitors in the Town Hall, Court House and Museum, which holds the finest collection of gold memorabilia in Australia.

In July, re-enactment of the "Welcome Stranger" will be conducted over two days from Moliagul to Dunolly. Displays of Living History, Art Show depicting the Goldfields, a Vaudeville presentation. The Annual meeting of Miners and Prospectors of Victoria and a Detector Hunt in October.

A Back-to-Dunolly for Hospital, Churches, Schools and the township has been planned for November.

These 6 months of community celebrations will put focus on Dunolly and surrounding areas illustrating their golden wealth, glorious history during the goldmining days of the 1850s and beyond.

## NEW GOLD RUSH IN Central Victoria – Australia

Minister for Energy Industries and Resources Theo Theophanous, said that 2005 was a golden year for the resurgence of the mining industry in the Central Goldfields.

"Last year we saw the impact of the new gold rush in the Central Goldfields", he said.

"150 years after the first goldrush, the Brack's Government has backed the industry with new programs to further promote growth.". "The massive growth in the gold mining industry in the past year is producing enormous job growth and record investment, particularly in provincial Victoria". "There are now an estimated 8.800 Victorians employed in mining across Victoria, up from only 4000 in 1999".

Mr. Theophanous said the highlights for the gold industry in central Victoria included: -

The Opening of Perseverance Corporation \$100 million investment in their Fosterville gold mining operation by Premier Steve Bracks in July.

The start of construction by Bendigo Mining of the processing mill. When complete the Bendigo Mining project will be among the city's largest employers, with up to 500 people employed at the mine.

Ballarat Goldfields is close to completion of their mill which will lead to early production of gold in 2006. Recently Ballarat Goldfields supplied gold for the Commonwealth Games medals.

Approval of construction of the Costerfield project near Harcourt, a gold and antimony project.

In June 2005 quarter, mineral exploration expenditure in Victoria reached \$15.3 million – up 18 per cent from June 2004.

Much of this was driven by new gold miners in Central goldfields, including Wedderburn, Tarnagulla, Castlemaine, St. Arnaud, Maldon, Stawell and north of Bendigo, searching for new deposits or new leads on old deposits.

Record new investment with the value of Victoria's committed resource projects, now standing at \$2.2 billion, placing Victoria third after the resource states of Western Australia and Queensland.

Our share of the total value of committed resources located outside Western Australia is now a remarkable 34 per cent. This will mean new jobs and new wealth for families in Victoria's central Goldfields and across our state. This year's projects will come on line right across provincial Victoria from the Wimmera and the Mallee through the central goldfields and south west Gippsland.

## Articles supplied by Anne Doran – Australia.





## Reunion from the WC Slovakia

**W**e thought it would be a nice idea to see each other after a few months and, after some e-mailing and inviting a special guest, a reunion was organised in the weekend of 13 and 14 November. In the beautiful town of Broek Op Langedijk, famous for its "zuurkoolfabrieken" in the province of Noord-Holland (north of Amsterdam) we celebrated our reunion in the barn, owned by Dirk and Manuela. Everybody arrived around 4 o'clock, including our special guest: Bruno van Eerdenbrugh (also known as: BKB), from the Belgian Goldpanning Association. And with him he brought a nice surprise!

After looking at each others pictures (they were all very nice) and bringing up memories of Slovakia, the plans for next year were already made. For both the European Championships in Spain and the World Championships in South Africa.

But, time for action, because besides sleeping bags, everybody brought their pans, and it was time for a (friendly) match. Dirk made some arrangements, and the indoor panning arena was prepared. Everybody worked hard during the matches: keeping the time, preparing the number of flakes, jury duties and shovelling sand. In order to get used to the (possible) new future rules of the WGA we arranged a competition in which every panner had to pan with the flat pan, the Klondike and the bathé (Chinese hat). In this way, the changes are considered equal.

After one heat, everybody deserved a real "Golddiggersdinner" named: "Langedijker Kool Schotel", served with an appropriate amount of (alcoholic) beverages. After dinner a heat of "speedpanning" was organised. In this heat the amount of sand fits in your pan in one time, and the penalty time for losing a flake is only 30sec, increasing the relative importance of speed. With increasing enthusiasm everybody grabbed a flat pan, although Bruno used his bathé. After this heat we all watched a video, made by Patrick during the WCh in Slovakia.

The next morning, back in the barn, where Dirk served a very fine egg and bacon breakfast. After breakfast it was time to pan some gold! A short ride brought us at a picturesque location: a nice lake, with a nice sandy shore. Here 6 persons panned at the same time, two with the flat pan, two with the Klondike and two with the bathé. Three separate heats in one. Proof was there: the flat pan was the fastest, the bathé the most difficult.



We went home for the finals of this reunion. On our way home, people started to recognise us as goldpanners, which is a start in familiarizing the Dutch with goldpanning!

In the barn, at the indoor goldpanning arena, the finals were held in two categories: Ladies and mens. Helene van den Bos and Mireille Hink competed in the ladies finals, and after a

close finish, Helene won the first prize.

Frenk Hink and Walter van der Poel completed in the men's final, and although Walter was the fastest (2 sec faster), Frenk won the final with a nose-length because he had more flakes in his tube. Stephan Lauxen won the prize for coming in last.

A nice weekend with friends ended in an word of thanks for the organisation and Bruno, who came all the way from Belgium.

**Frenk Hink**

## Leading up to the 2007 World Goldpanning Championships

**H**ello to the World from Dawson City, Yukon, Canada, host of the 2007 World Gold Panning Championships and the site of the world-famous Klondike Gold Rush.



I would like to take this opportunity to offer an advance invitation to join us in August of 2007. We have begun planning what we hope will be a memorable experience for all those who choose to visit and participate in the 2007

World Gold Panning Championships. This will be the fourth time that Dawson City has hosted the World Gold Panning Championship and we expect it to be the best ever.

On August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1896 gold was discovered on Rabbit Creek (now known as Bonanza Creek) and it triggered a gold-rush stampede unseen at that time or ever again in this world. In 2007 we hope to see a stampede of gold-seekers to Dawson once again.



To this day, gold remains at the heart of the community of Dawson City. From the tourists who visit to

learn about the gold-rush history and to try their hand at



gold panning, to the placer gold-miners who continue to work in the gold-fields, every year there are new cases of "Gold Fever" that are never cured no matter how



much gold one finds. Of course each year Dawson City plays host to the Yukon Gold Panning Championships and with 7 different classes to enter, there's enough action and variety for everyone.

So why not join us in Dawson City, Yukon in 2007. We really have it all from 24 hours of daylight, great hotels and restaurants, arts, culture, first nations history, sports, live music, theatre, gold-rush themed casino, pristine nature, clean air and warm and friendly people.

For more information please contact the Klondike Visitors Association by phone at 1-867-993-5575, by email at [kva@dawson.net](mailto:kva@dawson.net) or on the web at [www.dawsoncity.ca](http://www.dawsoncity.ca)





# Golden Times

The magazine of the **World Goldpanning Association (WGA)**

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Please report national events and information or errors to [thurkettle@hotmail.com](mailto:thurkettle@hotmail.com)