

# GOLDEN TIMES

1-2/1999

The official newsletter of the World  
Goldpanning Association

ISSN 1238-0083



The British goldpanners have introduced "The Tri-Pan" competition, where each competitor shows their skill by competing using the three main types of gold pan used by goldpanners (Mike Gossage in the picture).

## Message from The President



Dear Goldpanners,

Today, the world sees once again a gold rush in progress. We don't rush from one gold field to another as we did in earlier times, and there are not tens of thousands of gold prospectors gathering in small rivers and creeks.

Nowadays, gold is looked for and panned

almost everywhere, even along the rivers in the middle of settled area. Great riches are not the main targets of the modern gold rush, but goldpanning has become a popular hobby everywhere in the world. During the weekends, families and groups go panning along the rivers and will be happy to find only a few small gold chips! Already, some twenty countries arrange goldpanning competitions and hundreds of Gold panners gather together for many events of which the World Goldpanning Championships are the most remarkable.

In the old days when the target of a gold rush was

only to get rich, the rushes caused problems even some bloody battles. The target of the modern gold rush is much more humane. Most prospectors want to find and make friends, take a closer view of nature and geology and to get know the gold history in different countries.

As the President of our association, I hope that this humane gold rush continues, and gold panners all over the world will do their best in order to find in their pans the one which is even more precious than gold - *friendship*.

Water in the sluice-boxes and a happy rush! See you in Kocába!

Kauko Launonen

## Golden Times

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Goldpanning Association  
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## A Word from the Vice-president



A short time to relax and for many the small steps of planning new meetings, field work and competitions is over. After the series of winter months, we stand at the threshold of the goldpanning season 1999. There are several points and proposals for future seasons, which I would like to make.

I believe that most of you collected and sorted photographs and documents from the last years events, and that this years activities will give us enough time to enjoy frozen moments of the past. Lets bring them and look at the best photos at Kocaba in August!

The arguments expressed in long letters recently exchanged between Tankavaara and Predosa, Al Italy, have shown that we need some general rating of world events if we want to criticise them afterwards.

All of us meet and combine old traditions with a right balance of new emotional or cultural experience rising from each goldpanning trip. We meet mainly to relax and have a good time, and our hearts are ready to forgive and overlook small imperfections of organisation (if expenses are balanced). After a few years we compare and find out that good standards provided to competitors sometimes suffers. This is not only due to contrasting economical power of the region; it can also suffer from our championships being part of a "big theatre" and local disagreements. On the other hand, there is no "short course" for organising a good gold panning competition provided by WGA, Ltd. moreover, personal experience must be always sensitively adjusted to each country. Therefore, every effort of organisers and volunteers deserves appreciation after an event, and so it usually gets it in a loud voice.

One of functions of our internal WGA meetings should be to summarise; the quality of official parts of the events, discrepancies with WGA rules, and positive and negative faces of events. All of these

points have the only aim to avoid repetition of troubles next time. The WGA should try to enhance the smooth running of competitions, and to provide so far missing feedback for organisers responsible for respective world events. I therefore suggest creating some rating or questionnaire to be filled in after each championship by each WGA member that would immediately reflect the general evaluation of the event. This proposal and its details can be discussed during the Czech WGA meeting.

The second proposal is related to the treasurer's problems with generating money for a balanced budget. A small addition might be to have a reasonable fee charged to a member for their proposal to hold a World or European Championship. This would be in addition to the fee proposed by Vincent and approved by the WGA last year. I believe and hope, that the continuous need for money reflected by accompanying commercial activities, together with still higher standard of proposals for hosting the world events will not eliminate small countries from the series of World Championships.

The last point arised from the internal conflict of a person who follows European daily news and at the same time plans their own leisure activities for holidays. The regular war in Jugoslavia culminates, and has already brought its tragic black grapes. Lets help and collect money for victims of this war at the occasion of 1999 top event

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of all the worlds' gold panners. I hope that we will talk about this proposal with Kauko, Vincent and the Czech organisers, and all details will be given at the event.

Last but not least: let me join those who thanked Pirjo and Ron for their editorial work. It is always difficult to find good people for similar tasks, and they

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have contributed a lot into our bulletin.

I am looking forward to seeing you in the Kocába Valley later in August, where you can find me at the "Press Centre" Tent in the area

Best Regards,

Veronika Stedra

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## Treasurer's Report

instance!). Many suggestions were made to me, five were good ideas and at last year's annual meeting I asked each country to vote on what they would support. Each country could vote for all ideas that they liked. The results are:

Votes/The idea

9 /That each member country pays a fee for votes at the annual WGA council meeting - the present system.

9 /That a fee is charged for the right to host the World Championships.

7 /That people could pay to receive Golden Times directly to their home - subscription.

4 /That the entry fees from one World Championship event are paid to the WGA.

10 /That commercial advertising is taken in the Golden Times.

I thank all of the people who gave me their ideas and voted. I think the results should now be considered by the WGA council at this year's meeting.

Vince Thurkettle - Treasurer



Last year I began to look for new ideas to make the WGA a little more money as we are always a little in debt!. This is mostly for the Golden Times newsletter, but also so that the WGA council has a small fund for incidental expenses - (coffee at the annual meeting for



## Editorial

" Hello to all,

Pirjo has invited me to write a few words to formally introduce myself as the new joint editor of Golden Times. I take over from Ron Callender who has done a great job for many years. I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Pirjo and the Golden Ties team to carry on Ron's good work. Ron has worked very hard to make Golden Times the word's best gold newsletter - as well as being a main contributor, I hope he will continue to send more interesting articles now he has some more time.

I have made so many good friends through goldpanning since my first World Championship in Germany, in 1989. (The British remember it well as the late John Wilcox won us our highest official medal - a bronze in the men's professional class.) Since Germany, I have enjoyed many Championships, including helping to run the memorable wet and windy 1992 World Championship in Britain and working with Rosanne on the last five National championships and the 1998 World Championships in the USA.

There is a rich history of gold near where I live (Norfolk, Virginia, USA); the area, which includes the Blue Ridge Mountains, has been known for Gold production since the first settlers arrived. Maybe I should write an article giving the secrets away!

I hope you will continue to send us interesting and informative articles and I very much look forward to seeing you all at this year's Championship in the Czech Republic.

Paul Thurkettle"



# Gold and Adventures in South Africa

Inkeri Syrjänen

Pilgrim's Rest in the province of Mpumalanga in South Africa is a small idyllic town. It owes its existence to the great gold rush. Along its main street is situated the Victorian-style Royal Hotel, the town museum where you can get information and details concerning the great gold rush plus boutiques, stores, restaurants and bars. The town is a real dream-come-true for an experienced traveler.

We had visited South Africa once before, but only now were we able to see its various possibilities. As our hosts and guides we had Christine Rowe, the curator

of the museum, Eugene Swanepoel from the South African Gold Panning Association and the owners of the Vine restaurant John and Rene Reinders who had visited us in Tankavaara.

When we arrived in the Mpumalanga province in March everybody told us that, considering the season, Africa was looking very different. Grass was green, the trees were budding and bananas were ripening in the fields. It was autumn in the Southern Hemisphere, and there should have been nothing but a dry, sun-scorched savannah. I heard there had been an unusual amount of rain in the area

during the summer.

## Noah's Ark

We were still getting our share of the continuous rains while visiting the Kruger National Park. The guides explained to us that spotting the animals was difficult because the grass had grown so high and so abundant. However, we saw animals as much as we had ever hoped for: rhinoceros, who resemble slow-moving tanks in the long grass, giraffes craning their necks over the tree-tops, zebras and impalas by the hundreds. The show was made complete by an



*The competition place with its pool and jury bench was built by a beautiful creek. From the left in the picture: John Reinders, Christine Rowe, Eugene Swanepoel and Kauko Launone (Photo: Inkeri Syrjänen)*





*Gold is being melted in a gold mine near Pilgrim's Rest. (Photo: I. Syrjänen)*



*Joseph Mashego is panning for gold at a place where the goldpanning competitions are held in Pilgrim's Rest. The nuggets used in the competitions are made from 18 carat gold wire because according to South African law individual citizens are not allowed to possess gold. (Photo: I. Syrjänen)*

# More Exhibition Rooms for the Gold Museum

The Southeast Lapland Sami village, Vuotso with about 400 inhabitants, is situated some 10 km from the Tankavaara Gold Village. In 1948 an inn was built in the village and recently the Gold Museum has bought the building with sixteen rooms to be used mainly for exhibitions.

In 1948, the building consisted of a boarding house with beds for twenty, a cowhouse, barn, stable and sauna. There were also two offices; one for the policeman and the other for the postman of Vuotso. There was even a small cell for occasional prisoners.

In the 1960s, Vuotso Inn was converted into an office building which housed both the post and telegraph services of Vuotso.

Vuotso Old Inn has had its share of celebrities. Andreas Alariesto, the most famous Lappish painter worked there as a janitor in the early twenties. The legendary Sylvia Petronella Antoinette van der Moer brought her trekking equipment from there on her adventurous journey to the wild north. Petronella is one of the most famous characters in the gold story of Lemmenjoki. She was a Dutch journalist who spent the summer of 1949 in the goldfields of Lemmenjoki and was

highly respected by the gold miners. Finally she was arrested as a spy and expelled from the Finland. Later on, it was found out that she was hardly any sort of spy.

Vuotso Inn will be opened during the summer of 1999. Several interesting exhibitions are placed there, including the startling photos of the "Summer of Fear" which depicts the devastating partisan attacks in Finnish Lapland during the second world war.



*The Old Inn in Vuotso is now owned by the Tankavaara Gold Museum. The picture was taken in 1960. (Photo: Fred Runeberg, Collection of Suomen Matkailuliitto)*

"Landscape in a Gemstone - Gemstone in a Landscape" shows us the beauty of Lappish minerals and stones. There is also a collection of old pictures and documents, which tell us about the history of the Old Inn. Other exhibitions will be set up as well in the building during the summer months. Furthermore, there are a few rooms and suites for the "museum" accommodation of travelers.



## **A Book Review: The Golden Landscapes of Ivalojoki River in Pictures**

The Finnish photographer Pekka Luukkola has finished his great job that lasted for a decade. He photographed landscapes in the gold fields of Ivalojoki River. As a result a book *"The Golden River of Lapland"* full of his photographs has been published as well as an exhibition which will be opened in the Tankavaara Gold Museum in August 1999.

The first journey to the gold fields of Ivalojoki River, Luukkola was made in 1988 and altogether, he made seven journeys. As a result there is a picture collection of 1500 photographs. There is something very dazzling for everyone who is bewitched by Lapland. However, the successful end has required a lot of work - as well with all the heavy equipment as is the nature of a darkroom.

The landscapes play the

main role in the book *"The Golden River of Lapland"* which has been photographed during summer nights. Luukkola's photos are balanced and well planned. They tell us about the gold panners and inhabitants of Ivalojoki River and about the life at the river today. Yesteryear has its part to, when the Ivalojoki River tempted hundreds of miners to come. In the exhibition, the 40 photographs present not only show the enchanting scenery but also "mood pictures" of hikers and rapids shooters, the wanderers of today.

The book includes 90 black and white photographs. Luukkola thinks the timelessness of the black and white photos match with the subjects in the gold history of the Ivalojoki River, which the text of the book also tells. He has obtained the

knowledge of the subjects from literature and by interviewing local inhabitants and gold prospectors. He also conveys his own feelings from his several journey in Lapland.

Pekka Luukkola has taken part in several Finnish and international exhibitions and competitions - with success. In 1998, for example, he received an international AFIAP award for his success at international exhibitions.

The text in the book is in Finnish and in English and there are altogether 110 pages. The book is available from Tankavaara Gold Museum and it costs USD 50 plus postage costs (Orders: Gold Museum, FIN-99695 Tankavaara, Tel. +358-16-626171, fax. +358-16-626271, E-mail: [pirjo.muotkajarvi@kultamuseo.inet.fi](mailto:pirjo.muotkajarvi@kultamuseo.inet.fi))

### **Friedrich-Ebert School in Schopfheim, Germany**

has been working with the "Comenius" project, this was introduced in issue 2/1997 of Golden Times. They now have a new homepage on the Internet, which you are welcome to visit. Their new e-mail address is as follows:

[www.goldwaaschen.de](http://www.goldwaaschen.de)  
<http://minifossi.pcom.de>  
E-mail: [minifossi@mail.pcom.de](mailto:minifossi@mail.pcom.de)

# Sardinia as a New Klondike: Gold Fever Exploded

## A Newspaper Review by Arturo Ramella

This article is inspired from an article published days ago by one of the most important newspaper of Italy, *La Stampa* of Turin. Here they talk about the new gold discovery in Sardinia. Many of you will know this beautiful island in the Tyrrhenian Sea having spent a vacation there, under the summer sun (I am one of them!). I have to tell you too, once ten years ago, when I was there for a vacation with my partner and a couple of friends, I brought my gold pan with me, in spite of the fact we were riding motorbikes. Maybe the area was not a good one, maybe I was too attracted by the beach and the sea, in short, I didn't even see gold!

Unlike me, one man who used his wits to look for gold in Sardinia's rivers, is one of our best collaborators, Giannino Rambaldelli from Milan. "Ramba", as he is called among us, built a sluice-box that could be dismantled to be easily carried as a sandbag on the plane during the flight to the island. He told us about his trip in a recent article for our membership newsletter *La Picaia*.

Only a few small gold chips were added to his collection, but the most

satisfaction was gained by being one of the few people to find gold, overcoming the challenges of discovering gold in a rare place.

Moving back to the article in *La Stampa*, it tells us about a real open-air gold mine, as well as an old one found in the Sassari province. A new one near Furtei village in Cagliari's province, (south of the island) has come to light and they have found a promising gold mother lode. However, the excavations at Furtei's mine are now under trial. The mine opened just three years ago and has yielded 1.1 tons of pure gold a year. It has also destroyed the whole hilly territory, transforming it into a "Grujere" (Meaning - the kind of Swiss cheese with holes in it):

The gold extraction system consists of digging very big holes in the ground, which is one of the most damaging activities for the environment, as they have to move very large quantities of ground to look for the precious material. Drills, excavators and bulldozers split the interior and raze to the ground whole hills, also destroying the little Mediterranean maquis, which are, as the Major of

Furtei said, "our green lungs".

The local gold excavation is increasing: they started three years ago with a quantity of 2.8 grams per ton, which is now up to 4.47 today. The gold bank should be alive for next 5 or 6 years to a maximum of 10 before being completely exhausted.

But the hills of Cagliari and Sassari are not the only areas rich in our very noble metal, in fact some other sites are still allocated to international mining enterprises to be dug in the near future, transforming Sardinia in a new Klondike!

During my next holiday on the island, I promise to do my best not to be diverted by the deep blue sea, the white sand and by the fantastic climate of the region. Instead I hope to be able to prospect on the local riverbanks and I will let you know about any new discoveries. It is great to put together two activities we like very much, holidays and gold!

For the moment, good holidays! About gold...we will see.

Arturo Ramella - Biella,  
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## Les voyages de Cécile

When I first learned how to pan for gold, I didn't know this little hobby was to lead me around the world and meet with tens of "golden friends. 1998 was a year of many opportunities, with World and European international championships plus several national competitions and a few trophies. I took part in some of those and really enjoyed sharing a few days with people having the same passion for gold and fun, meeting old friends and making new ones, sharing golden tales and experiences... Because that's what championships are about, isn't it?

That's what I have been experiencing for a few years and the experience is going better with time. An unknown face you have seen once becomes familiar the 2nd time, then you are able to put a name on it and then it eventually becomes a friend. Competitions are always a very special moment from the friendship point of view and there are even a few precious moments when you really have the feeling of a family. And now, here are some of my 1998 "golden pictures!

### **RHON'OR, 5th Trophy** June 1998 - France



*A smiling President...*

As usual, Saturday was devoted to kids. Besides transmitting our knowledge, it's a real joy to hear their screams when they find their first gold flake. The evening gold rush, with lots of nuggets and some surprises (minerals, fossils), was a great success! Sunday was competition and panners' lunch - lots of nice moments there too.



*Next golden generation.  
32 kids learned the art &  
pleasure of gold panning...*



*Happy participants*

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## OR'ALP-1

May 1998 - France

International week-end to discover a river & a region. An initiative by 3 clubs (RHON'OR, ORE & ABCd'ORO) that led to a great time, a lot of gold and "gold talks". The place is so nice that some people came back in summer.



*Lucky gold panners on the "Cheran" river.*

*A competition was held on Sunday, with very strange rules and a lot of fun (but NO stress as you can see above).*

## EUROPE Championships

July 1998 - Slovakia



*Miners from the Middle-Ages (single piece wood sculpture)*

Lots of panners from Slovakia, Czech Rep. and Poland, but only a few French, Swiss and Italian came. And of course our Australian friend, Fred Olsson! the ewather was chilly, but local food (and beer!) saved us from cold. Some guys went down the gold mine, while others did some touris in this history rich area. Then competitions started in a little valley down the stream and the atmosphere turned to a small village of the Gold Rush era... To break the tension, some fun events were organized: a "partner-event" (1 partner blind-folded and the other

guiding) and "Masters" where all the competitors were Chammpions. The finals were held between sun & rain, but othing could break the concentration of the competitors. The Winners received a beautiful medal, reproduction of the official logo of the championships. Real Art work!

*Usual view of a competitor: the hat of Jacques Brest*



## **BIELLA Trophy** July 1998 - Italy



*With a little help from my friends... (youngest panner - 5 years old)*

Back to the Roman times! The copetition was run by Roman soldiers in uniform, with a nice theater backfround, and the medals were given by 3 lovely girls lightly dressed. We had a lot of fun watching the show: a soldier with tennish shoes, one with BIG white

boot marks, one losing its belt, 2 of them turning the wrong side... Saturday's dinner was followed by Saturday night fever, featuring the President of ABCd'Oro (Arturo Ramella), as lead singer! Oh Yeah... We also did a little panning on the Elvo. But as soon as we hit paydirt, squads of mosquitoes

rushed in and forced us out of the river!!! I'm sure Italian train mosquitoes to protect their gold fields... After that the finals were really hard (ever tried to pan while scratching hundreds of mosquito bites!?) ABCd'Oro announced the edition 2000, with even more surprises (uuuh, giant mosquitoes?)



*Family photo: the group of French competitors*

## **WORLD Championships** October 1998 - California, USA

Thanks to all the volunteers of Coloma, we spent 2 weeks in the Gold Rush atmosphere. As a European, I was fascinated by the costumes, the stories and the way of living, and I learned a lot. I don't recall much about the copetitions, but I recall the spirit of freindships among copetitors, especially the sisterhood among ladies. It's quite rare and I will cherish this feeling forever...



*Happy Cécile (on the right) with France, 3rd National Team.*



**Cécile Thibaud (of RHON'OR - France)**

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## "OR'ALP"

### L'or et les Alper - L'oro e le Alpi French-Italian meeting on goldpanning

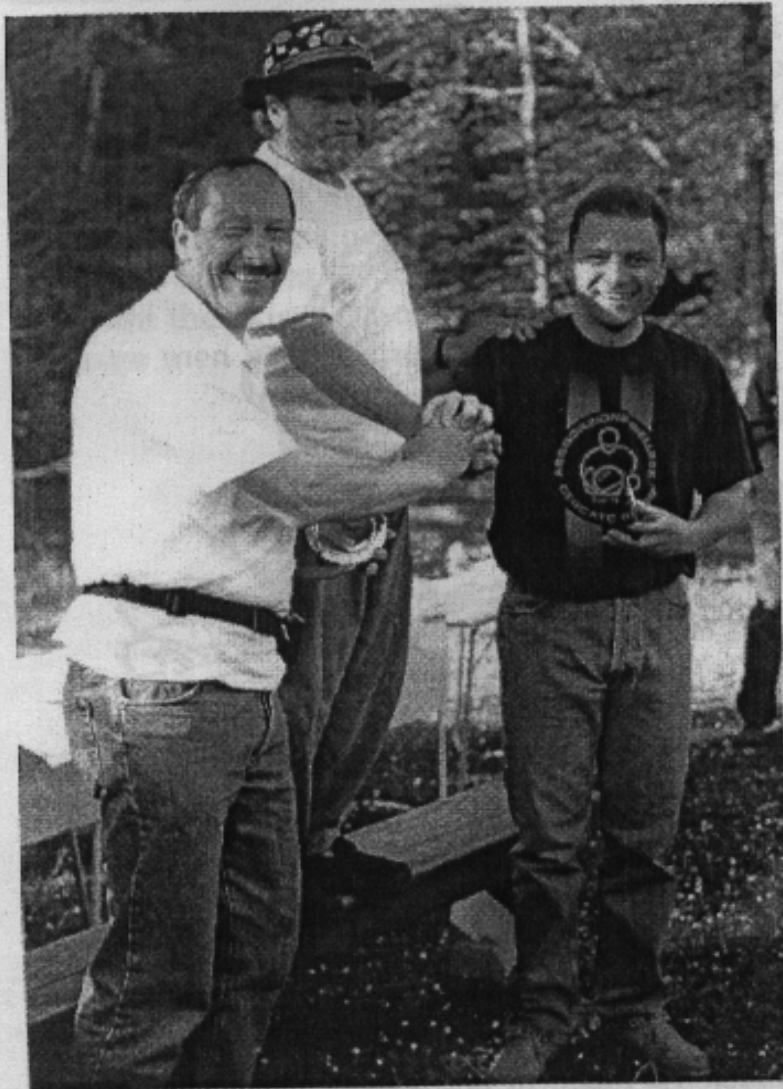
OR'ALP is an annual meeting created by 3 associations: RHON'OR, ORE (France) and ABCd'ORO (Italy). The first meeting took place in France, near the town of Cusy (Haute-Savoie region) from 1st to 3rd May 1998, where some 90 participants meet on the river Cheran under the sign of

conviviality, friendship and gold. The Presidents of the 3 associations, namely Jacques Brest (RHON'OR), Gilles Gautier (ORE) and Arturo Ramella (ABCd'Oro), were present and very proud of the success of this meeting.

This first ever event was organized by RHON'OR and they did it with all

their heart. Jacques Brest, the President, and Cecile, the Secretary, were running everywhere in order to welcome the participant. A welcome drink was offered at the registration and warm coffee was made for all participants every morning (given the chilly mornings, that was really a lovely idea, believe me). GOLD? Yes, there was gold. The purpose of OR'ALP is to have people discovering an auriferous river and a region. So the place was carefully selected by Jacques Brest both for its unique, wild and quiet environment and its gold possibilities. He personally spent 2 days prospecting the whole area and the panners who listened to his advice did not regret it. A lot of fine gold AND some nice pieces, including a 1.2 gram nugget that was discovered just before Sunday's departure...

A little competition took place on Saturday, with a surprising final: competitors were located 50 meters away from the river with a full pan of sand and an empty bottle. Of course the only thing they could carry to the river was... the bottle! My, it was a lot of fun to see them running with the bottle and panning (or



Jacques Brest (RHON'OR)

Gilles Gautier (ORE) Arturo Ramella (ABCd'ORO)

rather trying to on the parking lot). some people were quite inventive... After all those sufferings, an evening dinner was organized to help all participants to relax, but this wasn't done without surprises. The dinner was closed with a spectacular bottle of spirits where gold leaves were gently floating... some people found it too nice to drink

and poured it into their gold tube to take home as a souvenir!

Between gold panning and talks, Sunday went too quickly and it was soon time to say good-bye. This meeting was a real success and will leave the memory of a very nice weekend to all. The President of the 3 organizing associations announced 2nd edition of OR'ALP in Italy in 1999

and thanked all the participants, with a special thanks for Jacques and Cecile who did all the hard work and took care of everything and everyone.

Congratulations to RHON'OR, ORE and ABCd'Oro for this initiative promoting international friendship, sharing and gold panning!!!

C.M.A.



**ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 10th BIRTHDAY,  
THE FRENCH GOLDPANNING ASSOCIATION**

# **RHON'OR**

**WISHES YOU LOTS OF NUGGETS & FUN !!!**



## Gold and the Future



The "Asociacion de teadores de Oro de Navelgas" was organised some years ago in Asturias the north of Spain. This initiative was created to co-ordinate the existing hobby some men and women

who, by tradition were coming to practice gold panning in this region. Their ancestors looked for gold in our rivers as a job, selling it to the dentists of Luarca.

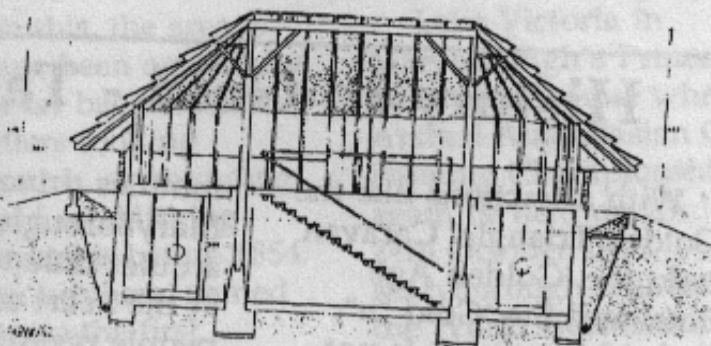
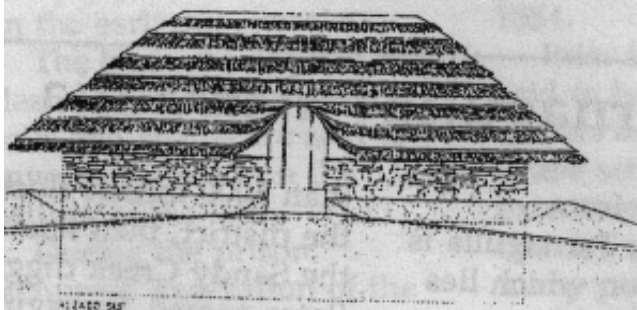
Nowadays, the goldpanning in the township of Navelgas is a sport as well as another attraction for tourism promotion and for the transformation of the region.

The goldpanners of Navelgas went for the first time to the World Championship in Vigevano, Italy. Then the next year they went to Coloma, California. The dynamics of these competitions and the infinite possibilities for the future has been seen there

thanks, for the most part, to the association co-ordinated by the WGA, which is currently presided by Kauko Launonen.

Because this is a new practice we are finding in our country the problem of distrust and misunderstanding by the government. Any initiative that we have is rejected or ignored. We are expecting soon, the opening of an information centre where demonstrations of the roman works will be shown. The Project has been presented to the regional authorities, and now we are hoping to overcome bureaucratic obstacles.

Manual Garcia Linares  
Navelgas, Asturias, Spain



Gold Panners Association in Spain are hoping to see completed the information center paying the gold traditions of Roman mines in Asturias.

## Gold Fever Spreads to Singapore

A specially designed mobile panning demonstration unit was airlifted from Melbourne to Singapore as part of Australia's promotion in Asia. Shoppers were invited to participate and find real Victorian alluvial gold. The Show was co-jointly sponsored by Singapore Airlines and the Australian Government.

David Watters from Bendigo designed the novel panning unit. The circular donut shape of the early miners' puddling machines was incorporated in the design.

The exhibition took place over ten days during March and tens of thousands visited the facility in Suntec City, Singapore. I also was privileged to be a guest at the Show. It was fitting to showcase Victoria's rich gold heritage and product as part of the display.

I was reminded that



*Promotion March 1999, Singapore Airlines/Australian Tourism Council. Singapore finds gold in their pans.*

historically the Chinese miners played a significant part in the development of Victoria's goldfields. Many, including Cantonese miners, voyaged from ports in Asia to our shores as part of our gold rushes.

We hope that the Asian connection will be further strengthened by our invitation to all to participate in both Australasian and World championships.

Fred Olsson - Australia

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## History in Gold - Tarnagulla - Australia

With attractions like the 'Golden Triangle' Caravan Park, the 'Golden Age' Hotel and the 'Gold "n" Rocks' Museum, it is not very hard to guess where Tarnagulla got its origins.

Located north east of Dunolly and only 25

minutes drive from Maryborough, Tarnagulla is a quiet little town which lies at the heart of what many people regard as Victoria's 'Golden Triangle'.

It may appear unpretentious today, but back in the 1850's more

than 5000 miners flocked to the district, then known as the Sandy Creek diggings (later named Tarnagulla), in search of gold.

Development of the town followed, when the Poverty Mine Reef, on a quartz outcrop, was



covered in 1853-54. By an area of 92 square metres yielded \$2.5 million gold. It is interesting to note the name of Poverty

Why was the place named Poverty Reef when the reef was so famous a health producer? Some months before the entries in the Minute Book, Captain David Hatt was bringing the cargo of a British barque to Poverty Bay - New Zealand when the vessel was wrecked in a storm. On the shore of the bay, watching the desperate struggle of the crew to reach safety,

was a young Maori woman of superb physique. She at once set out to the rescue and succeeded after exhausting efforts and cruel buffeting by the heavy seas in bringing the injured Captain to safety.

Some time afterward when sufficiently recovered from the effects of the wreck, Captain David Hatt married his young Maori rescuer and subsequently set sail for Australia. The new Mrs. David Hatt was of noble lineage, a granddaughter of the leading Maori Chieftain in the Poverty Bay district, and, according to Maori law

at that time, she was a princess in her own right.

It was fitting that when her husband became a leading shareholder in the rich mine at Sandy Creek, he should name the memorable mine - Poverty. David Hatt lived to be 68, he died in 1881. David Hatt made many financial contributions to the new church. A plague which amongst others still hangs in the church building today.

From the 'Land Down Under' - Australia  
Anne Doran

## Convicts laboured to build a lake

Lake Victoria, in Maryborough's Princes Park, has a colourful history linked with the gold rush era.

The lake, named in honour of Queen Victoria during her 50th jubilee, was designed by a former town clerk. Work began in 1883 and prison labour was used in the early earthworks.

The lake was drained and cleaned in 1981 and several mills and chains are said to have been found on the bottom of the lake.

During the prison labourers' excavation of the lake site, dirt removed from the area was washed for gold - the area was heavily mined earlier. Princes Park was named to mark the

marriage of Prince Edward VII in 1863.

Maryborough was named in 1854

Commissioner Daly made his camp on newly discovered goldfields before naming Maryborough in 1854.

Prior to this, the area is said to have been opened by settlers as far back as 1837. These settlers took up extensive runs, surrounding the city and establishing many properties before 1854.

Scottish brothers, named Simson, were the first settlers, whose stations embraced the town and an extensive area bounded by

the Pyrenees Highway.

But despite pastoral origins, the discovery of gold was what really put Maryborough on the map.

Some of the favourite diggings around Maryborough included Bristol Hill and Blackman's lead which attracted an estimated 53,000 people.

Lake Victoria in Maryborough's Princes Park will be the venue where the Annual Australasian Gold Panning Championships will again be held on 23rd and 24th October 1999.

Maryborough will also host the World Gold Panning Championships in 2001. Good Panning, Anne Doran  
Maryborough - Australia

## Riots at the Alma Diggings - Tipperary Hill

During the early gold rushes, shepherding became a practice whereby claims were marked in front of the point of a lead to be worked.

These claims were held by a shepherd who would do only a minimum of work each day, ensuring the claim would be held until the owner was certain whether it held any real gold value.

This practice of shepherding led to one of the most serious battles on the Maryborough Goldfield - The Tipperary Riots, staged at Alma in 1855.

Miners often thought they held the right to take over a claim which belonged to someone else if it was being shepherded. At the time of the riots a Canadian, John McCrae, disputed a claim being shepherded by several Irish (Tipperaries) diggers. He was later awarded the claim by the mining court.

But when McCrae and a friend began working the site they were beaten by a group of Irish men and removed from the area. Records show McCrae was knocked to the ground and severely beaten. In his own defense he fired three gunshots, wounding an Irishman in the face.

This action angered the "Tips" so much that McCrae was to be hung from a

nearby tree then and there. Fortunately someone intervened and advised the trouble makers to cool off. McCrae was later taken to the Government Camp at Maryborough where he was detained by officials.

The following day about 3000 diggers from the area, calling themselves the "Allies", marched to the claim site armed with picks, shovels, sticks and firearms. They gathered six of McCrae's assailants off the police camp proposing to 'put down' the Irish and demanding that McCrae was released. Despite his release on bail the fight was not over. The following Sunday the Tipperaries throughout the district began massing together anticipating a major battle. They called in reinforcements from Bendigo and Ballarat to match the 2000 strong allies force.

In the battle which ensued an Irishman was caught and tied to a tree, with the allies shooting about 300 shots over his head. Another, who presented a gun at the party of the 2000 allies was shot in the arm and the leg. McCrae had taken up the claim on Friday - June 15, in 1855. On Tuesday - June 19, the trials for the matters relating to the riots were adjourned.

This time allowed the local warden to hold talks with the parties involved, on one occasion chairing a meeting of 3000 men. Mounted police were sent from the Richmond barracks and Castlemaine to Carisbrook. Here they waited on alert. However, they were not brought into Maryborough for fear that their presence may have aggravated the delicate situation. The trials were held the following week and although depositions were sent to the Attorney-General no prosecutions were made. Throughout the trials the allies demonstrated in the camp, at one time marching to the tune of the 'British Grenadiers'. The situation during those two weeks was explosive and could have developed into open warfare. It was defused mainly through wisdom and restraint of the warden and other officials residing in the Maryborough township. Today, little evidence remains of the stormy scenes which erupted at Alma in June 1855. The small hill where the events took place has taken its name from one of the groups involved - the Tipperaries and is still called 'Tipperary Hill'.

Anne Doran - Australia



## How Rich? Golden Statistics

Historic gold production in Victoria is estimated at nearly 2,500 tonnes which equates to nearly one third of all the gold mined in Australia and nearly 2% of the gold mined in the world.

Some interesting historical facts are:

On a yield per area basis, Victoria has produced an average of 10.8 kg of gold/m<sup>2</sup> - an order of magnitude greater than any other

Australian state.

If the small individual mines situated on a common reef or structure were to be amalgamated into what would approximate to a modern mine, the outcome would be 53 deposits in 36 separate goldfields. The most important would be:

- \* Garden Gully line at Bendigo, which produced 5.076 t ore for 85.7 t gold.
- \* The New Chum line, Bendigo, produced 3.061 m t

ore for 64.9 t gold.

- \* Stawell, where five companies produced 3.45 m t ore for 61.1 t gold.

The leads combine into 29 Main Branch leads located in 14 goldfields, with the best:

- \* Golden Point Lead at Ballarat - 28.5 t gold.
- \* The Berry Lead at Creswick - 24.2 t gold.
- \* The Great Northern Lead at Chiltern - 19.8 t gold.

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## World News from Koos Schoenmaker

### China: Boeddha

In the growing and booming Chinese city Shenzhen, constructors put the finishing touches to the world's most expensive boeddha-sculpture. Inside this 3.8 meter high sculpture is more than 100 kilos of gold, 100 kilos of jade and a hundredfold of diamonds and other gemstones.

### Holland: Deer with golden teeth!

Hunters in Holland at the Drentse National Park "De Oostvaardersplassen", shot at least three deer which seemed to have golden teeth! The golden glow was so striking, that you could not miss it. A German special paper suggests there might be a link with the reportedly excessive fluoride in the environment.

### Japan

In Japan, geographers have discovered somewhere (is a secret!) in the deep sea a volcano full of gold! Using a small submarine they showed us on Dutch TV the splendid pictures. Cost of one dive is about USD 50.000! So for the moment it will be too expensive to explore this goldmine!

### Gold and Silver

The money traffic in the early days was organised very different from nowadays. There was no paper money. Gold and silver were accepted all over Europe, although silver was more important because of the big influx from the USA. In the 18th century, gold became more and more important because of the export from Brazil increased.

They exported enormous amounts of gold coins.

In spite of protests, Great Britain passed to the Golden Standard Value; one hundred years before the rest of Europe.

Although there was already some paper money in the 16th century, based on deposits at goldsmiths, in 1694 the Bank of England took over control and based the currency on its deposits. Later on, the Amsterdam Exchange Bank also reorganised its structure. Since 1683, Amsterdam became the centre in Europe of the trade in golden coins and other precious metals. There is more to tell about gold and silver in relation of credits, investments and even wars. Perhaps I will write another time about it.

# Goldpanning Championships in 1999

## National Championships

### \* German and Bavarian Championships

22.-23.5.1999 Riedenburg  
Information: Goldwäscher e.  
V., Gertraud Veitz,  
Wundtsrase 9, 80939  
München, Germany, Tel.  
+49 89 3112512

### \* Italian Championships

12.-13.6.1999 Ovada  
Information: Federazione  
Italiana Cercatori d'Oro,  
15077 Predosa (AL), Italy,  
Tel/Fax.+39 143 873176 (Dr.  
Giuseppe Pipino)

### \* Austrian Championships

18.-20.6.1999 Rauris  
Information: Austrian Open  
Goldpanning, Post Box, A-  
5661 Rauris, Tel. +43 6544-  
6237, Fax. +43 6544-7049, e-  
mail:Erich.Hutter@habag.ra-  
uris.net

### \* Slovak Rep. Championships

23.-25.6.1999 Hodrusa-  
Hamre. Information: Slovak  
Goldpanning Association,  
96661 Hodrusa-Hámre  
c.388, Slovak Republic,  
tel.00421-858-494603, 00421-  
859-6912902, fax. 00421-858-  
494633

### \* Yukon Championships

1.7.1999 Dawson City,  
Yukon, Canada  
Information: Klondike  
Visitors Association, Box  
389, Dawson City, Yukon,

Canada YOB 1GO, Fax. 867-  
993641, e-mail:  
kva@dawson.net

### \* French Championships

10.-11.7.1999 La Tour,  
Haute-Savoie. Information:  
Sylvie Séchaud, Chemin de  
la Savière, 74250 Fillinges,  
France, Tel/Fax +33-4-  
50364178

### \* Swedish Championships

20.-21.7.1999 Antis, near  
Siikavaara, Lapland  
Information: SGV, c/o John  
Hagberg, Moränvägen 26,  
S-13651 Haninge, Sweden,  
Tel. 08 500 25886

### \* Spanish Championships

23.-25.7.1999 Tineo, Asturias  
Information: Centro de  
Promoción de Tineo -  
Polígono Industrial de la  
Curiscada, 33877 Tineo,  
Asturias, Spain, Tel. 34  
985801976, 34 985800809,  
Fax. 34 985801694. E-mai:  
agtin@futurnet.es

### \* Finnish Championships

6.-8.8.1999 Tankavaara  
Information: Goldpanning  
Finnish Open, FIN-99695  
Tankavaara, Tel +358-16-  
626171, Fax. +358-16-626261.

### \* Japan Championships

8.8.1999 Hamatonbetsu,  
Hokkaido, Japan  
Information: All Japan  
Goldpanning Association,

154, Hamatonbetsu, Esashi-  
Gun, Hokkaido 098-57,  
Japan, Fax. +81-1634-2-4766

### \* Polish Championships

21.-22.8.1999 Szklarska  
Poreba. Information: Polish  
Guild of Goldprospectors,  
Rynek 1, 59500 Zlotoryja,  
Poland, Tel. +48-76-8785599  
Tel/Fax. +48-76-8786565, E-  
mail: pbkz.pro.onet.pl

### \* Swiss Championships

20.-22.8.1999, Willisau (LU),  
Information: Goldwasch -  
Tour & Shop, Postfach,  
Muligass 4 Kirchplatz, CH-  
6130 Willisau, Tel. +41-41-  
9700310, Fax. +41-41-  
9700510, e-mail:  
Victor.Jans@goldwasche.ch,  
<http://www.goldwaschen.ch>

### \* Australasian Championships

23.-24.10.1999 Maryborough,  
Victoria, Australia  
Information: Australian  
Goldpanning Association  
Inc., PO Box 480,  
Maryborough VIC 3465,  
Australia, Tel/Fax +61 3  
5461 4709, E-mail:  
freddo@iaccess.com.au

## European Championships

\* European Goldpanning  
Championships in 2001  
25.6-1.7.2001, Biella, Italy  
Information: Associazione



Biellese Cercatori D'oro,  
Piazza Mazzini n. 54, 13872  
Borriana BI, Italy, Tel. 015-  
446597, Fax. 015-94939, e-  
mail: arturo.ramella@iol.it

## World Championships

\* World Goldpanning  
Championships in 1999  
23.-29.8.1998, Kocaba Valley  
near Mala Lecice, Central  
Bohemia, Czech Rep.  
Information: Czech  
Goldpanning Club,  
Geologicka 6, 15200 Prague  
5, Czech Republic. Tel/Fax.  
+420-2-5817390, e-mail:  
lhotsky@cgu.cz (Dr Pavel  
Lhotsky), e-mail:  
stedra@mira.cz (Dr Veronika  
Stedra), Fax. +420-2-  
57320438, e-mail:  
secretar@cgu.cz (Mrs.  
Helena Horackova)

\* World Goldpanning  
Championships in 2000  
27.8 - 3.9.2000 Zlotoryja,  
Poland. Information: The  
Polish Guild of Gold  
Prospectors, 59-500  
Zlotoryja, Rynek 1, Poland.  
Tel. 48-076-781873, fax. 48  
(076) 781-873,  
<http://www.lwgnica.tpsa.pl/rztzloto/gold>.

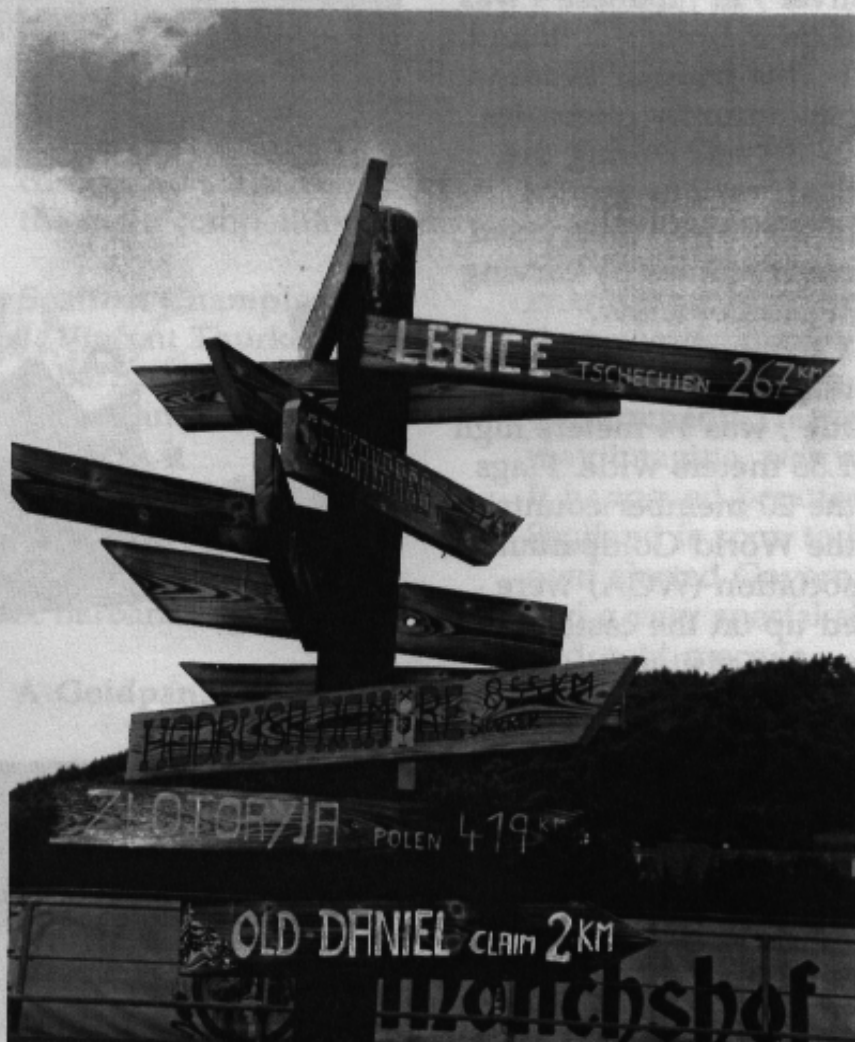
\* World Goldpanning  
Championships in 2001  
Maryborough, Victoria,  
Australia  
Information: Australian  
Goldpanning Association  
Inc., 27 Derby Road,  
Maryborough, VIC 3465,  
Tel/Fax. 03-54614709 or  
Swain Events, Level 4,114

Flinders Street, Melbourne,  
Victoria, Australia, 3000. Tel.  
613-96639399, Fax. 613-  
96639499, e-mail:  
Libby@SwainEvents.com

\* World Goldpanning  
Championships in 2002  
26.8.-1.9. 2002, Kutcharo  
Lake Side, Hamatonbetsu,  
Japan. Information: All  
Japan Goldpanning  
Association, 154,  
Hamatonbetsu, Esashi-gun  
Hokkaido 098-5792 Japan,  
Tel.+81-1634-2-2345, Fax.  
+81-1634-2-4766

## Other competitions

\* Lannavaara Open  
3.-4.7.1999 Lannavaara,  
Sweden  
\* Kopparberg Open  
10.-11.7.1999 Kopparberg,  
Sweden  
\* Jukkasjärvi Open  
17.-18.7.1999 Jukkasjärvi,  
Sweden  
\* Biella Open, Victimula  
23.-25.7.1999 Biella, Italy  
\* Eldorado Championships  
28.8.1999, Barkerville, B.B.,  
Canada



*At the German Goldpanning Championships site in Goldkronach there is a wooden pole, which has signs showing important goldpanning places in the different part of the world.*

# Looking ahead to the 2002 World Goldpanning Championships in Japan

Following the decision to hold the World Goldpanning Championships in Japan in 2002, we have been working hard day and night to publicise the championships and promote goldpanning.

The Hamatombetsu Snow Festival - called Hyogen Matsuri ("Ice Field Festival") in Japanese - was held on February 20th and 21st. This popular event in our community celebrates its 27th year. During the festival, various groups from the town constructed 12 snow statues by carving high piles of snow.

The magnificent main statue, called "Ramsar Castle", was 14 meters high and 36 meters wide. Flags of the 20 member countries of the World Goldpanning Association (WGA) were lined up on the castle to appeal to visitors.

The main event of the festival was the human log-dragging race, in which five-member teams competed in pulling 500 kg logs. Some of the teams wore fancy costumes, which were quite funny.

Makoto Okada  
All Japan Goldpanning Ass  
Secretariat, Hamatombetsu,  
Hokkaido





# British and Scottish Championships in 1999

The British enjoyed two sunny days for their championships in late May. Each year two championships are held over one weekend - on Saturday the Scottish Championships and on Sunday the British Championships. The championships are small, by international standards, but they attract the best of British prospectors to come together for competition, friendship, dancing and gold! One dance in particular was enjoyed, the Shetland 'Strip the Willow' and one man in particular drew crowds as he showed off his wonderful collection of Scottish gold. This includes some of the best nuggets found in Scotland this century. Each year new sites for gold are discovered and attending the championships gives the best chance to hear the whispers of untouched rich streams!

The championships went very well, with the added excitement that they were broadcast on television by Sky News. The Wanlockhead Lead Mining Museum, who organise the events with the British Goldpanners Association, is

the perfect venue and the museum's new manager and his staff gave a very warm welcome to the prospectors. The new competition, the 'Tri-pan' was a big attraction as panners showed off their skill with three types of pan. There was a high standard of skill shown by many people, but two people deserve a special mention, Peter White who won the veterans competition for the fifth year and Daisy Thurkettle who won both the Scottish and the British Junior competition. The results of the main competitions are:

## Scottish Championship

1. Vincent Thurkettle
2. Barbara Copley
3. Graham Thomas

## British Championship

1. John Krenc
2. Vincent Thurkettle
3. Barbara Copley

## A Goldpanner's Wedding!

A very special announcement was made at the closing ceremony - Mike Gossage, the British President, is to be married to a wonderful lady, Lin, on August 7th. This will be at

Leadhills in South Scotland. Their rings, are to be made by a local craftsman using Mike's Scottish gold. Two things are very special about this wedding - first goldpanners must dress as goldpanners (Lin particularly wants the men to wear fancy waistcoats) and second you are invited! Mike and Lin want any panner who would like to be there to join in - so if you are in Scotland in August you are welcome to come along.

## The Gift of Gold

Another special ceremony at the championship was when the panners made a gift of Scottish gold to the Government! This, as you may imagine, was unusual! It happened because Scotland is soon to have its own elected Government and a very special silver and gold mace (a ceremonial rod) is being made as a symbol of state. The goldpanners agreed to make a gift of their gold so that the mace will also be a symbol of friendship and goodwill from Britain's prospectors.

Vincent Thurkettle

## **Special Competition - 'The Tri-pan'**

The British goldpanners greatly enjoyed this new competition again this year. The idea is to make each competitor show skill with the three main types of goldpan. The competitor must first use a 'Klodyke Special' type of plastic pan for the first bucket of sand,

then use a flat bottomed steel pan for the second bucket and then use a conical 'batea' type pan for the last bucket and to recover all of the gold pieces. It is a hard competition, three buckets, but very good for a panner to show skill with different

pans - and good for people watching to see many different techniques. Mike Gossage started the competition to encourage British goldpanners to learn to use the batea, this year Vince Thurkettle took first place in both the British and Scottish events.

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## **Top End Australia**

This year, Pine Creek hosted the second Northern Territory Gold Panning Championships. The little township became famous late last Century when close to the one hundred Europeans and almost two thousand Chinese lived and mined in the district.

The May Day weekend featured aboriginal dancers, a didgeridoo jam session, a grand bush ball, exhibitions, wine tasting, competitions and fashion parade. The gold panning championships was highlight and tours of the Acacia Resources gold mines were very popular and well attended.

The historic train station museum and overland telegraph office showcase yesteryear on the Pine Creek goldfields which are situated about 2 hours drive South of Darwin.

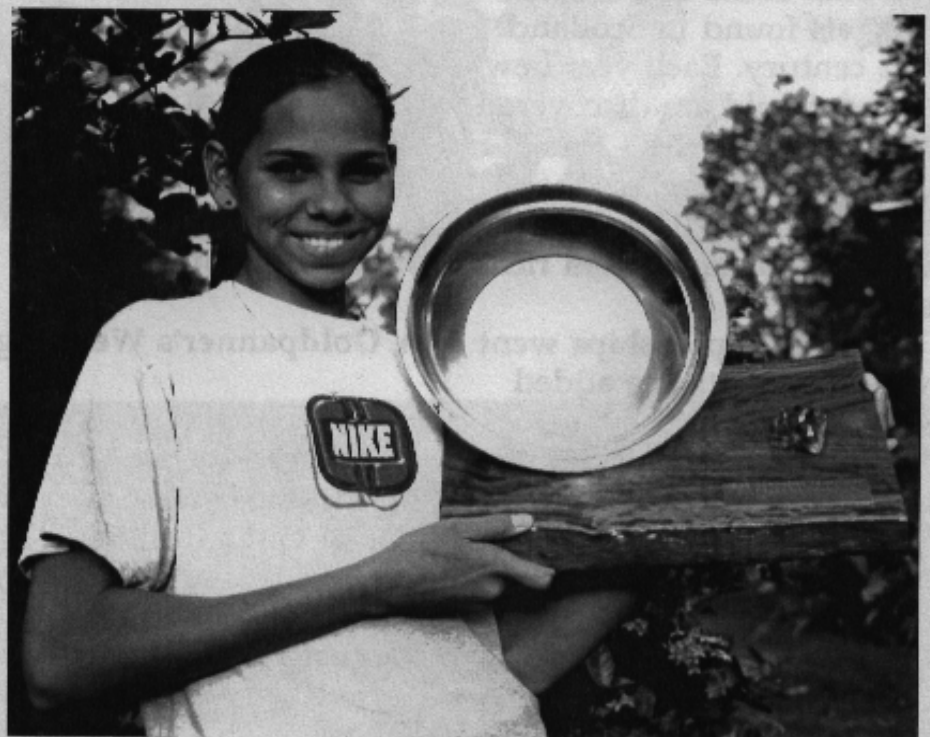
The Northern Territory champion was 15 year old

Natasha Wills who found all her gold flakes against a strong field of experienced panners.

Australia has gold in all of its States and Territories from North to South and East to West. Should any of

our gold panning friends voyage downunder during May, the Pine Creek Gold Rush May Day Festival is a worthwhile golden destination.

Fred Olsson - Australia



*Northern Territory Champion 1999: Natasha Wills*



# Gold Panning Takes Out Tourism Award!

Thank you to all our overseas and interstate panners who added that extra touch of gold to our 1998 Australasian championships.

The true spirit of our unique sporting event was recognised at a gala presentation evening of awards. Our Association was thrilled to receive the

accolade of Winner in the Significant Events and Festivals category for the Goldfields region of Victoria.

Our thanks are extended to our hard-working Committee, the volunteers and sponsors, especially the Central Goldfields Shire Council. The continued support and enthusiasm is

important for our growth and development leading up to the World Championships in 2001.

Congratulations to all the winners of our State and National titles.

Fred Olsson - President  
Australian Goldpanning  
Association Inc

## The European Goldpanning Championships

held in Hodrusa-Hámre in Slovak Republic from 4. to 12. July 1998

The permanent gold panning site has been quiet for some time as though having its winter nap. However, the memories of the greatest gold panning event in Slovak Republic so far, are still in our minds along with those of exciting gold panning competitions in cold waters.

Unforgettable time was spent among old as well as new friends in the beautiful scenery.

For us, the organisers from Hodrusa gold panners club it also included long days of physical and paper work not to mention hundreds of hours voluntarily spent on preparation of the event and on the site, the only one of its kind in Slovakia. But it is our hobby that we like very much.

The European Championship was a joint effort of the Slovak Republic and Czech Republic. We are of the opinion that everything was dealt with satisfactorily. The accompanying events took place at the beginning and the number of participants graduated day by day. An extreme interest was taken in visiting the neighbouring active gold mine Rozalia along with other plant facilities in Hodrusa, including the open-air museum of Vsechsvatych gold-silver mine.

Participants welcomed excursions to Magurka, Banska Stiavnica and Hodrusa, all well known for their rich history of gold-silver mining. The social gathering of all participant countries took place in the

premises of the main sponsor and co-organiser and contributed to the pleasant atmosphere. We consider the gold panner's procession, starting at the entrance to Rozalia mine and ending at the gold panner's site, original because Rozalia is the only active mine in the Middle Europe.

Right from the beginning we expected participant accommodation to be the biggest problem but we did hope that the organiser's instructions would be followed. Our expectations came true and accommodations in the boarding school, Zlaty stol Pension, as well as the Scout Site remained mostly vacant. It is true that the Scout Site had not been completed before the

opening, however it was fully functional later. The participants seemed to prefer the area close to the gold panning site and it was really overcrowded with the they're tents. This way of accommodation was far from being satisfactory, since the sanitary facilities were not of sufficient capacity. Owing to these facts, the organisers have decided not to organise such a mass international event in this beautiful place again.

In spite of this, I think that the idea of using the campsite near Konibar for other purposes than camping is a good one. Refreshment stalls, selling of souvenirs, cultural events were of quite good standards and of sufficient number.

The site was left to be used for the gold panning competition only, without any interference. According to the participants, competitions, both official and unofficial, were organised at a high professional level following the schedule. The results were announced in three languages - Slovak, German, and English - as soon as the laps had been finished. For several years various competitions have been very popular such as Golden Hodrusa, Grand Prize of Hodrusa Village

Master, Golden Fever, Competition for the Hodrusa Mine Manager Secret. In these competitions more than a hundred gold panner participated. The presence of several World, European and National Champions was used in order to present their skills in a free competition of the Champions of Champions. It was really an excellent idea to organise the exhibition of the twenty present best gold panners.

Owing to the popularity of team competitions we have extended their range as follows:

- two member teams, couples
- three member teams, open teams
- five member teams - championship of Slovak Republic and Czech Republic
- five member teams - European championships

In the categories of the individuals the following took place:

- men amateurs, 56 participants
- women amateurs, 24 participants
- juniors, 51 participants
- veterans, 15 participants
- women professionals, 36 participants
- men professionals, 137 participants

Altogether, 319 gold

panners from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Netherlands, and Australia took part in the European Championships.

We regret that in spite of our personal invitation during our presence at the Finland Championship in Tankavaara in 1997 gold panners from Finland and Sweden did not arrive. We are quite aware of the fact that organising this kind of undertaking cannot suit everybody, but on the other hand we are of the opinion that it was a successful event of which we need not be ashamed. We do believe that everybody will like to come back. We will see during the July 23-25 Golden Hodrusa 1999, of which everybody is cordially invited.

We are sure that the time has come for the Slovak Republic to organise the World Championship. The only thing that worries us is that it will not be held below Hodrusa Lake due to the space problems.

The tables below show the most successful participants, both in individual and team competitions.

Richard Kana II  
Head of Hodrusa  
Goldpanning Club



## Results

### Champions of Champions Competition

Veronika Stedrá, CZ (2,09)

Anicka Klimensová, CZ  
(5)

Richard Kana II, SLO (3,06)

### Women Amateurs

Anna Swierk, POL (4,17)

Helena Svarcová, SLO (5,52)

Jana Vavrová, SLO (6,33)

### Men Amateurs

Martin Novák, CZ (2,41)

Ladislav Szekely, SLO (3,40)

Pavel Antonický, SLO (3,59)

Free member team, open  
m

1. El Nino, SLO (8,03)

2. Zlatá Sumava, CZ (9,03)

3. Kana Team Hodrusa, SLO  
10,07

### Juniors

1. Karolina Swier, POL (2,37)

2. Andrea Povazanová, SLO  
(2,41)

3. Hanna Wasilewicz, POL  
(2,44)

### Veterans

1. Ivan Krizani, SLO (3,09)

2. Peter Pfander, CH (3,37)

3. Edmonde Guillet, FRA  
(4,55)

### Women professionals

1. Wilma Pavazanová, SLO  
(2,58)

2. Veronika Stedrá, CZ (3,27)

3. Anna Klimesová, CZ (4,04)

### Men professionals

1. Ján Kavalir, CZ (4,04)

2. Germano Uberti, ITA (4,18)

3. Marek Michalec, SLO (4,36)

### National teams

1. Italy (12,27)

2. Switzerland (16,06)

3. Slovak Republic (16,59)



View on the goldpanning area in Hodrusa-Hamre during the European competition.

# European Goldpanning Championships in 2001

The Biella Goldprospectors' Association, has carved a space for itself within all the vast projects of The Bessa Natural and Special Reserve for the future.

The Association plans a series of initiatives with regard to the enhancement and spreading of the hobby of alluvial gold prospecting on the rivers and streams particularly of Biella and Northern Italy.

The aim is to protect a tradition which, as you know, has its very roots more than 2,000 years in the past when the first prospectors in pre-Roman times began their activities which have now become a wonderful hobby from a cultural, naturalistic and sporting point of view.

The association is a privileged and primary interlocutor as regards the activities of the Bessa Park

Museums Body, the Province of Biella and a European Community financing scheme through the Piedmont Region Cultural Department.

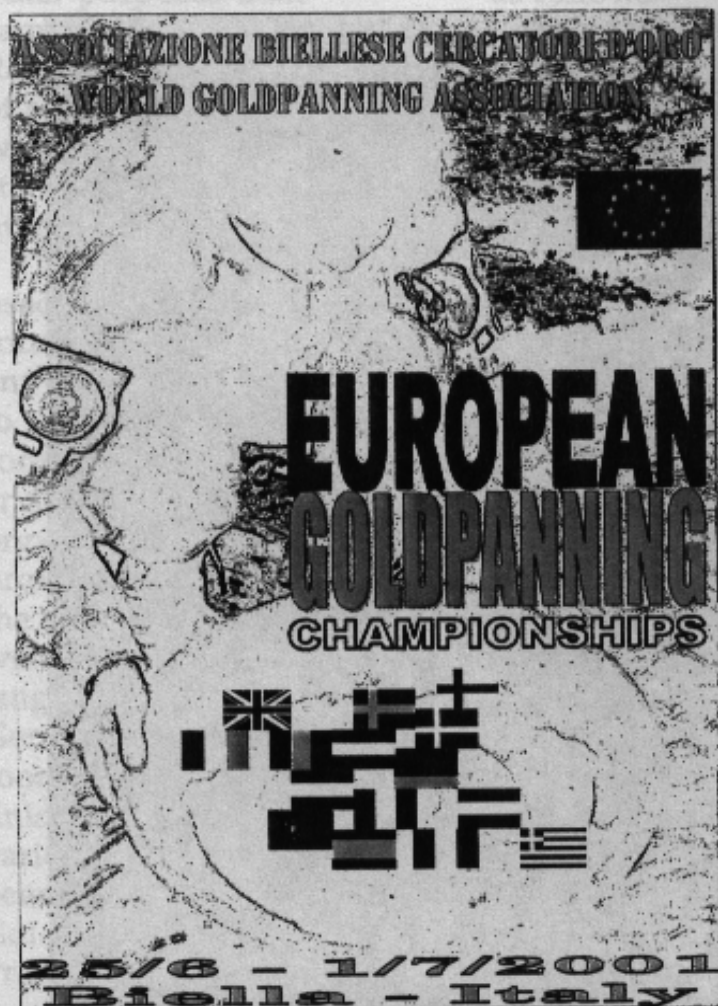
This structure will be realised in the hamlet of Vermogno which is under the Zubiena municipality, and will make this tiny village of 100 inhabitants become the capital of the Bessa and consequently of Italian gold. It will include the serviced area of the Bessa Park, the Gold Museum, the new headquarters of the Biella Goldprospectors' Association and one of the most active non-profit making associations in the province of Biella.

This new centre should become a pole also of tourist attraction covering a vast area of Italy and it should enable all the foreign friends of our Association to have highly visitable and important reference point in all cases, the contacts, the events: in short a little Italian Tankavaara which we shall name "Victimula" after the legendary city of Roman times founded in the Biella Region to be the capital of the Bessa and general headquarters of the goldmine, where up to

Board and is part of a great plan leading to the protection of very many historical and traditional places and activities in the Elvo Valley and north-western part of Biella.

In order to further improve and advance the activities of the Association, the Museum of Gold and of The Bessa is in an advanced building phase.

It has the close cooperation of the Elvo Valley Ecological





5,000 people laboured to extract the same gold that we find today.

The plans of the Association are, thus, highly ambitious and must therefore include always closer contact with the Golden World Museum (a reference point for all the World's museums on gold), and with the World Goldpanning Association, the Association to which we refer for all our activities on amateur gold prospecting.

To complete all the plans of the Association is the organised host of the European Goldpanning Championships in 2001, the year in which the work being planned and currently underway should be finalised.

This is undoubtedly, an

ambitious project once more, but it is our belief that our Association has grown both as regards organisational factors and awareness of problems associated with the realisation of an event second in importance only to the World Championships.

We have developed to the point of being capable of bearing its organisation in such a way as to render the Championships an event of primary importance for both Italian and European goldpanners.

And let us not forget that our very region is the caretaker of a tradition in goldprospecting which is second to none in Europe, with its more than 2,000

years of history.

In order to conclude this introduction, on behalf of the Biella Goldpanners Association and The Victimula 2001 Organisation Body, we would like to thank the people who gave us the opportunity of letting you know about a reality which is very dear to our hearts.

Our hearts, where we keep the phials full of our precious daily harvest and where we guard the memory of the great moments spent with our dearest Friends on the streams of the whole World.

Arturo Ramella B.  
Victimula 2001 Organising  
Body Chairman

## **European Goldpanning Championships - Victimula Gold Village Zubiena - Biella - Italy - June 24th - July 1st, 2001**

### **Preliminary Programme**

#### **Sun 24th June**

Organisers' competition and meeting

#### **Mon 25th to Wed 27th June**

Free goldpanning on the Biella area rivers, trekking inside the Bessa Park, Visit of Biella town and interesting points of attraction of Biella province including Viverone Lake

#### **Wed 27th June**

Goldsymposium and picture show at Piedmont region building in Biella town, guided tour of the city for nations delegates

#### **Thu 28th June**

Participants' Meeting at

#### **Victimula Gold Village**

Free goldpanning on Biella area rivers and gold nugget rush, Torch relay race Arrival and open ceremony, Historical revocation - nations parade, Regional Music concert offered by Regione Piemonte Cultural Heritage, Delegates Dinner offered by main sponsor, Golden Evening at Visit Center of La Bessa Reserve

#### **Fri 29th June**

Qualifying heats for professional and beginners, men and women, veterans, children, Open teams competitions, Goldpanners' Triathlon (30 places only!) Gold nugget rush, Typical

dinner and dancing evening on the open air

#### **Sat 30th June**

1/4 finals professional men and women  
1/2 finals beginner men and women, children and veterans  
1/2 final national team  
1/2 finals professional men and women

Typical dinner and dancing evening on the open air

#### **Sun 1st July**

Finals beginners men and women, national team, children, veterans, profi men and women  
Awarding ceremony  
Triumph parade and closing ceremony

# The Golden Beer Of Lapland

# LAPIN KULTA OLUT