

Supplementary questions: answers provide by Douglas M Stone, Manager of Outdoor Press 2013

1a Metal detecting for gold: aided by a small digging tool is the most popular method of fossicking for gold. Nuggets detected can range in size from a grain of wheat weighing less than a gram up to large lumps weighing several kilograms.

b Gold panning: is very popular in streams. Ancillary equipment includes shovel, pinch bar and squeeze bottle. Shovel is used to remove surface gravel above rock bars and the pinch bar to open cracks in the bedrock. The squeeze bottle sucks up sand particles, ilmenite (black sand) and fine gold.

c Precious stone fossicking: stream gravels are shoveled into sieves which are agitated to remove sand and clay. The high specific gravity of the precious stones concentrates them at the bottom Centre of the sieves. To remove the gemstones including zircon, sapphires and topaz the sieves are flipped over onto a canvas sheet on the bank. The gems will be visible for collection with tweezers.

2 I am advocating that recreational fossicking for gold and gemstones be allowed in areas where existing gold or gem fields have been absorbed into National Parks. Fossicking tools including the use of metal detectors, panning dishes and sieves be considered.

3 All fossicking is prohibited in National Parks and State Conservation Areas in NSW.

When there is no Miners Right of Fossicking Permit issued in NSW how do fossickers find out what their legal obligations are?

Re introducing the Miners Right or Fossicking License would be a means of controlling Recreational Fossicking and enabling applicants to know what their rights are as well as their obligations.

4 I stated while giving evidence on Monday 26 August that many visitors only stayed overnight at Hill End while fossickers can stay for weeks.

This evidence was drawn from my personal observations while camping and mapping the Hill End Goldfield in July and November 2010. Obviously the longer people stay in a locality the more opportunities they have to spend.

Outdoor Press has sold over 4000 copies of our Hill End; Sofala/ Wattle Flat and Stuart Town Gold & Relic Maps in Camping and Prospecting Shops on the eastern seaboard as well as in local Tourist Information Centres, Rural Transaction Centres, milk bars, and hotels in the Bathurst, Mudgee, Orange Triangle. The maps retail at \$15 per copy - less 40% to retailers.

We are now about to release maps of Ophir/Mullion Creek and Hargraves/Windeyer districts and intend printing 1500 copies of each for the first print run.

Outdoor Press is one of the few small viable Australian Publishers who have specialized in providing well researched and produced books and maps for Australian fossickers. We have proven that price is not a barrier if people are given accurate local information.

5 As stated in question 3 I am only suggesting that access be granted when a National Park has incorporated an existing gold or gem field.

Of greater concern to me (Outdoor Press) is where State Recreation Reserves have been gazette as State Conservation Reserves. I am currently mapping the Mullion Creek/Ophir Goldfield just north of Orange where two large "Public Land Blocks" have just recently been declared State Conservation Reserves excluding fossicking. This effectively knocks out half the area available to fossicks in one of NSW prime gold districts (Ophir).