

## **Townsville Metal Detecting Club Code Of conduct**

Townsville Metal Detecting Club is committed to ensuring that its members achieve their desired outcomes from their hobby and aims to assist them in that Endeavor. The Club's structure, board and members all share in this responsibility of maximizing their own and each other's enjoyment and success of the hobby. The following code of conduct is to be adopted by all members;

The Code of Conduct, although self-imposed by the club, is strongly held and breaches will be investigated by the club and may result in censure or in some cases expulsion from the club. Regardless of the region that you prospect in, there are a number of best practices that should always be adhered to:

**Behaviour.** The following standards of behaviour apply:

- Comply with the bylaws that govern the Club and its operations.
- Act honestly and with integrity and fairness in all dealings with other club members and others.
- When representing the club, ensure that it is the club that is being represented and not yourself.
- Avoid or manage conflicts of interest.
- Use Club assets properly and efficiently for the Club's benefit.
- Contribute to the business of the Club's sponsors whenever possible.
- Seek to be an exemplary club member.

### **Safety**

- Every member of the club is a club safety officer. If any member sees an activity which they recognize as being inherently dangerous, there is an obligation to advise caution, bring that to the attention of the appointed Field Officer and other members and where appropriate assist in making the activity safe.
- Know what to do in emergencies. Rescue operations are often extremely expensive and cause serious damage, so take care to avoid the need for rescue.
- Be appropriately trained in First Aid so you know how to handle illness and injuries.
- Carry clothing and equipment to suit the worst possible conditions you are likely to encounter.
- Always advise others (if possible the club appointed Field Officer for the activity) where you will be, and what time you anticipate returning to the camp site, before daily departure.
- Carry a mobile phone if you want to but use it only for summoning aid in an emergency. Keep it switched off until needed. Be aware that in the majority of field locations visited by the club on trips, there is no mobile phone coverage, don't rely on it.
- Club members use UHF 2-way radios for safety, both while traveling to and from sites and while prospecting. Channel 16 is used and should be monitored when possible for both your and others safety.

**Prospecting.** When Treasure hunting, or seeking gold either with a metal detector or Alluvial equipment:

- Do not trespass; always respect private property and do no prospecting, either metal detecting or alluvial, without the owner's permission.
- It is advisable to get permission in writing, and to get agreement in writing first to avoid disputes regarding the ownership of any subsequent finds.
- Never do anything that might contaminate wells, creeks or other water supplies.
- Respect the country code, leave gates as they are found, do not damage crops, never deliberately disturb wild or domestic animals.
- Never litter, always gather or collect any trash or debris you create or find.
- Leave as little sign of your passing as possible.
- Always use the correct digging or probing equipment to make the least intrusion or marks.
- Always fill in your holes, including ploughed fields and beaches.
- Never throw trash finds back in the hole.
- Report the discovery of any items of possible significant historical value to a local historian or museum in accordance with the latest legislation of your area.
- Never go metal detecting around archaeological monuments.
- Report any live ammunition or other potentially lethal or toxic objects you may find to authorities after carefully noting or marking the location. Do not attempt to move or interfere with any such devices.
- Report all such finds to the landowner/occupier.
- Protect the metal detecting hobby by being a good will ambassador at all times.

**General.** Respect for your fellow prospectors in general and other club members should ensure that the following practices are observed:

- Ensure that at all times, activities are conducted in a manner that complies with club health and safety requirements.
- Promote responsible prospecting and educate others about our code.
- Do nothing to bring the reputation of the TMDC into disrepute.
- Always be aware of the safety implications of your actions and while your own safety is always ultimately your own responsibility (see safety above), be aware of the safety of others.
- Should a TMDC Field Officer be appointed to oversee a club sanctioned activity, follow all reasonable directions given and comply with instructions regarding access to areas and camp conduct.

- Respect and share in the social aspect of field trips. This should apply regardless of whether the trip is a sanctioned club activity, or you should encounter another club member during an independent trip to a field prospecting site.
- While the normal prospecting convention of “nobody owns a patch” applies, it is courteous and polite not to prospect on top of another prospector (unless invited) nor attempt to “gazump” a patch you may have noticed a member actively prospecting on (when they either stop for a break or overnight). While this is common courtesy and the type of politeness that club members would normally expect from fellow citizens and club members, it is particularly relevant when finds are being made. Of course patches revert to common access once the searching member or other prospector leaves the goldfield.
- Fire arms are not allowed to be taken on club field trips.
- Where a member has a “Family Membership” the adult members are responsible for the actions of any children accompanying them on a club field trip.
- Physical disputes between members will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action taken by the club to expel those involved. Threats of violence will also be regarded in the same way and should these cause intimidation or fear of physical threat (and therefore meet the definition of assault) may be referred to the QPS.