

CORRYONG GOLDFIELD

DATE	HISTORY:
1856:	The first gold was reputedly found in the Corryong area in 1856, on the Victorian side of the Jingellic pastoral run, some 25 km north-west of Corryong (as the crow flies). Alluvial prospectors discovered gold at Cudgewa (or Tintaldra) Creek in the early 1860s. A handful of diggers (about 25) were on the Cudgewa (or Cudgewong, as it was called), below the Stony Creek junction, in 1865-6. ¹
1866:	In 1866, gold was found in a tributary, Log Bridge Creek , just north of Dart River. ² Cudgewa Creek was later (early twentieth century) the site of tin mining activity. ³
1880:	Gold was got at Thowgla and Bullocky creeks , south of Corryong, by prospectors in 1861, but no rush ensued until 1880, when discoveries at Zulu Creek renewed interest in the area. ⁴ A population of over 200 miners worked the creek in the summer of 1880-81. ⁵ Alluvial miners were still at Thowgla Creek in the mid- to late 1880s, sluicing with pumps and wheels fed by water races . ⁶
mid-1880s:	Corryong business people and residents sponsored quartz prospecting in the Thowgla-Bullocky Creek area. ⁷
1888:	Reefs had been discovered both there and at Towong . ⁸ Workings were still shallow (deepest 12 m) in 1889, and the field lacked crushing machinery until a five-head battery (from Granya ⁹) was erected early the following year. ¹⁰
mid 1899:	The Mines Department must have viewed the quartz mines of the Corryong district as permanent, as the field was reported on as a separate subdivision from mid-1889.
1890:	In c.1890, the Native Youth and Mary Jane reefs were prospected near Towong Gap, about 8 km south-east of Towong. Their discovery led to the opening up of the Mt Elliott field, a short distance to the south-west. During 1894, many reefs were discovered and opened up, among them the New Chum, Just in Time, Bread and Sugar, Sheoak, Evening Star and Fenby's Reward. The Little Treasure battery was erected on the field in 1894. ¹¹
1898-06:	The field became a mecca for 'refugees from the great depression'. ¹² A shanty township soon took shape at Mt Elliott: the usual complement of stores and grog shops served the mining community. Between 1898 and 1906 the township even boasted a school. ¹³ Some of the 'refugees' worked the alluvial ground below the Mt Elliott reefs and on Thowgla Creek. Thowgla and Bullocky Creeks were still being worked, by hydraulic sluicing , in 1907. ¹⁴
1899:	The <i>Australian Mining Standard</i> in 1899 declared the New Chum , at Mt Elliott, a 'really good mine': its yields to the end of 1898 totalled 3,593 oz of gold from crushings of 590 tons - an average of over 6 oz per ton. ¹⁵
1903:	The New Chum operations were apparently discontinued soon thereafter: by 1903, the Mt Elliott Co. was the field's only company mine. The only crushing plant on the field was situated about 3 km from that mine. ¹⁶
1904:	A new winding plant was erected at the New Chum in 1904, but nothing more was heard of that mine. ¹⁷
1906-07:	The Mt Elliott school closed in 1906 for want of students, and in 1907 only ten miners remained in the district. The government battery was the only crushing facility on the field. The Just in Time (in Carkeek's Gully on the mountain's west flank) and Bull and Damper mines were being worked by small parties, but most mines were abandoned, their claimholders lacking the capital to develop them at depth. ¹⁸
1930's:	After the removal of the government battery in 19?, the field was all but dead. A few quartz miners tried the Mt Elliott reefs during the 1930s, with little success.
SOURCES:	<i>Australian Mining Standard</i> , special edition, 1/6/1899. Butler, G., 'North East Review: Historic Sites Survey' (draft), for the Land Conservation Council of Victoria, May 1982.

Convey, T., *The Days of Gold: Mining in the Tallangatta District*, published by the author, Albury, 1980.
Thowgla Geological Parish Plan, 1927.
Towong Geological Parish Plan, 1924.

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- 1 Mining Surveyors' Reports (Omeo Central Subdivision), June 1865 to December 1866
 - 2 Flett, p. 167
 - 3 Butler, p. 32
 - 4 Flett, p. 166
 - 5 Mining Surveyor's Reports (Gibbo Subdivision), December 1880
 - 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1886, March 1888
 - 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1886
 - 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1888
 - 9 Convey, p. 27
 - 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1891
 - 11 Convey, p. 27
 - 12 Flett, p. 167
 - 13 Convey, p. 27
 - 14 Butler, p. 85 (GSV.R3/1, p. 98f)
 - 15 *Australian Mining Standard*, p. 95
 - 16 Mines Department Annual Report, 1903
 - 17 Mines Department Annual Report, 1904
 - 18 Convey, p. 27