

SOUTH WEST VICTORIA HISTORIC MINING PLOTS

1850-1980

Historic Notes

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BLACKWOOD-BLAKEVILLE GOLDFIELD

DATE

HISTORY:

1851-59

Early alluvial working

Gold was unearthed as early as 1851 at Blackwood. It was not, however, until June 1855 that news of discoveries by Edward Hill as a spot called Red Hill saw a large gold rush set in along the course of the Lerderderg River and its tributaries.. When the **Blackwood Rush** peaked in September 1855 ¹there were some 13,000 diggers on the field. By this time, most of the locations which were to become famous for their alluvial gold had been opened: such as Golden Point, Nuggetty Gully, Long Gully, Yankee Gully, Frenchman's Gully and Dead Horse Gully. The last named gully was noted for the recovery of the district's largest nugget, 29lbs in weight. During the Blackwood Rush, two main mining villages were established: at Red Hill and Golden Point, the latter was surveyed and laid out as Blackwood. By the end of 1856 the bulk of the mining population that had gathered on the Blackwood field had left for the Fiery Creek Diggings. For those that stayed on, less than one tenth of the original population, things were never to be easy. Little new alluvial ground, except got Blue Mountain Diggings in 1862, was to be discovered. Alluvial mining was almost exclusively focussed on the bed of the **Lerderderg River, which was sluiced time and time again using sluice boxes, pumps and water wheels.** At first the sluicing was carried out by a mixture of Chinese and European miners: eg. in February 1860 there were 460 Europeans and 230 Chinese.² By the 1870s, alluvial mining was increasingly monopolised by the Chinese. European miners appeared unable, or unwilling, to compete against the organisation and perseverance of the Chinese, and thus were few in numbers in comparison, and were usually referred to as lonely fossickers or hatters. Puddling, common on some Victorian goldfields, was a rare practice in the Blackwood district: in October 1859 there were only two- horse-driven puddlers in operation ³, and their numbers never exceeded five.

Reef discoveries

At the end of the Blackwood Rush, miners also began to tackle two lines of reefs: **Trehella or Barrys and Yankee or Union.** The working of the former reef led to the survey of the township of Bayup, later named Barrys Reef. Although proving to be rich, on and near the surface, these and two other lines of reefs discovered in 1858, **Simmons and Johnstons**, proved to be very unpredictable and difficult to work: often narrowing or terminating suddenly at depth and trending east-west rather than the conventional north-south direction. A few quartz reefs were also successfully prospected away from Blackwood during the late 1850s: **Snake Gully line of reefs, Hit and Miss Reef**, and the **Garibaldi line of reefs.** The first period of Blackwood's quartz mining was mainly funded and undertaken by small parties of working miners, called co-operative companies. These small companies mainly tunnelled in to the hills from the creek bed and dropped shafts from their adits. Some of the tunnels were driven for great distances, eg. a tunnel commenced by the **Egerton Company** to intersect Annie Laurie Reef (Barrys Reef) ended up being some 2,300 feet long.⁴ The **Clyde Banks Company's** tunnel went in over 1,300 feet.⁵ Most of the shafts dropped by the companies never went far below the water level, though one sunk by the Sultan Company reached 900 feet. During the pioneering years of quartz mining, companies erected small crushing mills which were either powered by steam or water power: in July 1859 there were 17 companies operating crushing mills, 13 were powered by water and 4 by steam.⁶ The water to drive the wheels being delivered by races from the nearest, most reliable water course.

1860's:

Water - an annual obstruction to gold production

By the 1860s, gold production in the Blackwood district was heavily linked to the water supply. From this time, drought-induced obstructions to sluicing and quartz crushing became an annual event. Some years proved to be particularly bad, eg. a very dry period from 1865 to 1867 forced many to leave the district.

1870's:

1870s - Districts first and only investment spree

Blackwood's first, and only mining investment spree commenced around 1868. It appears to have been spawned by two main factors. During the preceding drought the small companies, unable to crush, had stock-piled large reserves of ore. Once the drought broke and the water-wheels had their 'fuel' there was a massive jump in gold production. There was also an influx of outside capital, mainly from Clunes and Ballarat which saw a hundred mining leases taken up in a twelve month period.⁷ The flagships of the investment spree were four public companies: the **Clunes and Blackwood, Trojan and Union** companies on Yankee line of reefs, and the **Sultan Company** on Barrys Reef. These companies experienced mixed fortunes and had diverse influences on the district's mining industry. The Clunes and Blackwood and Union companies became famous for their extravagance, expenditure on large steam-powered machinery, and dismal failure. For years after, the fate of these two companies was cited as one of the major constraints to the district attracting worthwhile outside capital.⁸ The Sultan Company, on the other hand was successful. It mined for some ten years, was the district's largest employer of mining labour, and became the only public company to mine profitably: 82,000 tons/66,000 ounces of gold for 60,000 in dividends.⁹ Whilst the public companies briefly basked in the glory of highly capitalised mining, and then failed miserably, the small co-operative companies maintained the industry. There perseverance through the 1870s is no better illustrated by the efforts of the **Victoria Company**. This company, which rose among the wreckage of the ill-fated public companies on Yankee Reef in 1876, worked for ten years before mining on a profitable basis.¹⁰ Most crushing plants of the small co-operative companies were upgraded during the investment spree. Like the pioneering period of quartz mining, the machinery being used was powered by both steam and water. Whereas most of the Yankee Reef companies preferred steam power, those on Simmons Reef were exclusively water-powered. Along this latter line of reef, most of the companies, including the **Simmons Reef, Koh-i-Noor, Imperial and Lerderberg** upgraded their plant in the early 1870s: eg. the Simmons Reef Company installed a 36ft diameter wheel, cited as the then largest in the district.¹¹ The water for all the Simmons Reef mills came from the Lerderberg River: to drive their mill, the Imperial Company constructed a race which was 6-3/4 miles long, 670 feet of which was through tunnels.¹² The Koh-i-Noor Company received its water from a government reservoir. The re-equipping of co-operative companies also took place way from Blackwood: eg. the **Garibaldi Company** constructed a 8 mile race from Korgamunnip Creek to its new mill.¹³

New reef discoveries and technology

During the early 1870s, two new auriferous reefs were successfully opened in the district: **Wrights Reef** (five miles south of Blackwood)¹⁴ and **Browns Reef** (about 8 miles south-west of Blackwood, and six miles north of Ballan).¹⁵ The small mining boom resulting from the discovery of the latter reef, in 1871, caused the abandonment of tunnelling claims along the Upper Werribee and led to the establishment of the township of Blakeville. Unfortunately the rush saw only a handful of minor reefs discovered, the most significant being Ashton's Freehold in 1872.¹⁶ Companies were formed to work both reefs - Wrights (**Red White and Blue** and **North Britain**) and Browns (**Undaunted**) - and all erected substantial machinery. One of these new companies, the North Britain Company, was to become the district's most prominent mine in the 1880s. Two companies - the **Great Tunnel Quartz Mining** and **All Nations - crushed cement** during the 1870s. The cement (hard conglomerate) was obtained from the old alluvial workings at Golden Point. Both companies also did their own quartz mining and erected substantial plant. Some of the mines also began to treat highly mineralised ore: the **North Star Company on Union Reef roasted quartz** in kilns¹⁷ and the **New North Britain Company erected a pyrites works**.¹⁸

1880's:

Minor mining revival

Blackwood's investment spree had run out of steam by the mid 1870s. In a time of very depressed mining, Barrys Reef was the only bright spark for the district. By 1874 a sizeable village had formed around the mines on Barrys Reef and the Sultan Company was employing a large number of men. When this company's production declined during the late 1870s, matters were particularly bleak for the miners. In June 1878, the local mining registrar reported a drop in the district's mining population. A year later, he was reporting on a mass removal of machinery from the field, as companies such as the North Cornish, Star of the West, British Lion and Albion, auctioned their plants.¹⁹ The next year brought further calamities: the Sultan Company suddenly closed down throwing out of work a large number of men; and a violent flood down the Lerderderg River swamped all the creek claims, sweeping away fluming, water-wheels, sluice-boxes and other mining materials, and destroying or damaging most of the bridges.²⁰ Although mining did bounce back in the 1880s, it never really recovered the disasters of the 1870s. The first hints of a revival in quartz mining came in September 1881 when the registrar reported that the steam engines and plant that had been removed (valued at about 18,000) was now being replaced or again brought into the district. One of the newly equipped mines was the **Simmons Reef Amalgamated Company**: it planned to invest £2,329 in the construction of a large reservoir of 25 acres (approximately 109,000,000 gallons).²¹ The company intended to use the water to crush all year round, and also supply other mill owners. Unfortunately, the company could not fund the work, and was continually affected by the lack of water. To add to its woes, its fancy new crushing plant (a turbine-powered battery from America) proved to be very uneconomical. Other companies to erect new plant during the 1880s revival included the **New Sultan, New North Britain, Countess, and New Cosmos** (Snake Gully). Unfortunately none of the mines that worked during the 1880s were to match the results of the old Sultan Company. Only the New North Britain Company was to have any significant influence on the district, but by 1886, even this company's success was beginning to wane. With the decline of the New North Britain, the mining registrar reported a gradual decline in the mining population as miners gained permanent employment on other fields and removed their families. The New North Britain's collapse in 1889 sounded the death-knell for large-scale quartz mining in the Blackwood district. From the 1890s onwards, the district rarely featured in mining reports, except for the odd mention on the activities of a few small co-operative prospecting parties. The government, in attempt to help local prospectors, installed a small crushing battery at Blakeville in 1907.

Animosity to Chinese

The reports issued by the mining registrar in the 1880s are often quite testy, as he continually addressed the matter of lack of mining investment in the field. The poor record of the large public companies had stymied any chance of outside help, it was now up to the locals to revive the industry. By the end of the decade the registrar was blaming the Chinese for lack of local capital. For some thirty years, he wrote, the Chinese had enjoyed the same rights and privileges as Europeans. During this time they had confined their attention almost exclusively to mining Blackwood's main lead (the bed of the Lerderderg River) where their primitive peg and brush dams had proved excellent foils to ordinary floods, and many had returned to China with large quantities of gold. Their constant re-working of the Lerderderg had left nothing for the local quartz miners to fall back on in difficult times, and the thousands of ounces of gold that the Chinese had taken home, if it had been left for the Europeans, he argued, would have mainly been used for developing the district's quartz reefs.²²

Deep lead mining

Apart from witnessing the last hurrah for quartz mining, the 1880s also saw a significant attempt at deep lead mining. By 1884, several companies were prospecting for deep alluviums at **Green Hill**. A discovery of auriferous drift in the following year by the **North Benedetti Company** sparked a small boom. The North Benedetti Company went as far as constructing a dam across Green Hill Creek, a tramway from its tunnel and a puddler.²³ It appears to have not mined profitably and mentions of the company, and its neighbours, such as the Benedetti Amalgamated and Benedetti, do not feature in mining reports after 1887.

Twentieth century quartz mining

By the turn of the century there was little happening on the Blackwood reefs, except for the work of a few individual prospectors. These miners were often assisted by government prospecting grants. This prospecting period appears to have had only one notable success in 1918, with some large bodies of payable ore being worked at the Yankee mine by a co-operative party. On the same line, the Countess Company sunk a main shaft 108 feet and opened up on a lode 2 to 5 feet in width.²⁴ These mining operations were both short-lived.

SOURCES:

Flett, J., *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*, Poppet Head Press, Melbourne, 1976
Mining Surveyors' Reports

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- 1 Flett
 - 2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, February 1860
 - 3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1859
 - 4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1888
 - 5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1889
 - 6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1859
 - 7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1869
 - 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1882; and Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1875
 - 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1887
 - 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1886
 - 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1871
 - 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1872
 - 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1873
 - 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1870
 - 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1871
 - 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1872
 - 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1879
 - 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1883
 - 19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1880
 - 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1880
 - 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1881
 - 22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1888
 - 23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1885
 - 24 Annual Report 1918

CLUNES GOLDFIELD

DATE
1850

HISTORY:

Discovery of Clunes Reef

The Clunes goldfield boasts itself as one of the earliest, if not earliest discovered of the Victorian goldfields. The date of the field's discovery was recognised by the colony's goldfields rewards committee as being March 1850, with three men - Campbell, Esmond and Bruhn - being credited with the first gold finds.¹ The discoveries made by these men were all along a single auriferous reef that outcropped on a hill in the midst of a great lava bed (basalt) plain. This unusual situation meant that the Clunes goldfield differed from most Victorian fields, being almost deficient in shallow alluvial gold, though there was some alluvial gold worked under the basalt in deep leads.² The reef discovered at Clunes became one of the most extensively wrought and most permanently productive in the state. It was mainly worked by the Port Phillip and Clunes companies (an English concern) who together extracted and processed ounces of gold, which made them the field's largest gold-producer and the fourth largest in Victoria.

1850-57

Port Phillip and Clunes Quartz Mining companies

Prior to 1857, the quartz reef that was to make Clunes famous had not attracted much attention. One factor mitigating against any serious look at the reef was that the bulk of it runs through private property, being part of a purchased pre-emptive section belonging to Messrs Cameron and Ryder. Mining on private land required compensation to be paid and no one was really interested in doing so through the first crazy years of the 1850s gold rushes. In February 1857, two different bodies - The Port Phillip Company and Clunes Quartz Mining companies - became interested in the reef. The Port Phillip Company negotiated a 21-year lease for 160 acres of ground (subject to a royalty of 10% on gross yield of gold) on the northern hill, the tableland above the basin in which the township of Clunes was built; and then proceeded to sub-let the ground, upon the same terms, to the Clunes Company with a proviso that they (the Port Phillip Company) were to crush all the quartz raised from the mine at a fixed charge per ton.³ Together the two companies became synonymous with economy, experiment and innovation in respects to both mining and crushing quartz, which not only proved beneficial to themselves but to the general advancement of quartz mining in Victoria. The Clunes Quartz Mining Company was a model in proper management and economy, it commenced with only £1500 in capital and from such an unpretending start found themselves by 1862 in possession of a mine that had already produced gold valued at over £400,000. The Port Phillip Company from the time of its first crushing, in July 1857, never ceased to make experiments in quartz reduction and amalgamation, employing a chemist to for the purpose of making careful analysis of the results.

1857-59:

Short lived deep lead mining boom

By 1859 the Clunes goldfield boasted a number of mining companies actively engaged in both deep lead (alluvial) and quartz mining. The deep lead companies were sinking shafts to a depths varying from around 100 to 140 feet through the basalt on the plains to the north and south of the township of Clunes. The deep lead mines were not on the whole highly capitalised ventures - using horses to drive their haulage whims and puddling machines; though some companies such as the No.1 Clunes Co-operative Company operated steam-powered machinery. Sinking through the basalt proved to be very hard work, eg. the Young Sons Of Freedom took seven months to bottom their shaft.⁴

1 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, p.418

2 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, p.437

3 Dickers Mining Record, October 1862, P.2

4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1859

Water for puddling purposes came from the companies' own shafts, eg. the Clunes Alluvial Company in April 1860 applied pendulum power to work four pumps. Water was also acquired from other sources, eg. the Sons Of Freedom Company diverted the water from the Port Phillip Company's tail race to their puddling machines⁵ and the Clunes Alluvial Company purchased their water from the Victoria Quartz Mining Company.⁶ The more successful early alluvial mining companies included the No. 1 Clunes Co-operative, Clunes Alluvial, North Clunes Eureka, Friends of Justice, Young Sons of Freedom, Southern Lights, John Bull, and All Nations. By 1862, all these companies had ceased working and deep lead mining went into temporary abeyance, overwhelmed by events in quartz mining and its generally poor results. At least one of the alluvial companies, however, managed to live on in another guise, the Sons of Freedom Alluvial Company commenced quartz mining in 1859 under the name of the Yankee Company.⁷ The Yankee Company went onto to become the seventh largest gold producer on the field.

1860's:

Early creek-bed sluicing

During Clunes's first deep lead mining period some sluicing was also carried out eg. in December 1859 Messrs Eaton and Company were using a 12h.p. engine to raise water and convey it in a race, one mile distance. Another company working the bed of Creswick Creek at North Clunes was the Criterion Company. This company was sluicing opposite the Port Phillip Company⁸ and comprised eight working miners who were treating the auriferous wash in large cradles fitted with amalgamating apparatus. To facilitate their operations the Criterion Company turned the bed of the creek with a race.⁹ The water from the sluicing operations also appears to have been used to rework tailings from abandoned claims.¹⁰ The early 1860s sluicing attempts were short-lived. There was another burst of sluicing in the mid 1860s. In March 1864 the mining registrar reported two parties - Captain Davis and Party and Matthew Bennett and Party - were engaged in stripping and washing the banks of the creek. The former company was using an undershot wheel to supply power to operate a shaking table and amalgamating barrel; the latter were using wire gauge and blankets to capture very fine gold. A third party was also operating a puddling machine.¹¹

Early developments on the Clunes quartz mining field

The more important of the new quartz mines formed in the late 1850s were located on the northern hill, in the vicinity of the Port Phillip and Clunes Quartz mining companies. Several of these - notably, the South Clunes, North Clunes, Clunes United, Victoria, Yankee and Great Western companies - developed into stable companies which, along with the Port Phillip and Clunes Quartz mining companies, provided the backbone of the Clunes economy until the early 1890s. Others, like the White Flat Quartz Mining Company (formed in 1858), proved to be ill-fated ventures and their leases were purchased by more successful neighbours. A feature of Clunes' early quartz mining was the extensive scale of the Port Phillip and Clunes companies. The Port Phillip Company's battery (which had commenced crushing in July 1857) had been enlarged to 40-head by 1859 (and by 1864 had grown to 80-heads): in comparison the batteries of neighbouring mines were puny, eg. in 1860, the Clunes United had 12-heads; Yankee Company, 8-heads; and Victoria Company, 12-heads.¹²

5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
7 Clunes Conservation Study
8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860
9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1860
10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1859

At the same time, the Clunes Company were mining from five shafts and one tunnel; had two large steam engines for winding and pumping (combined 50h.p.); were accepting tenders to sink to 600 feet; and employing 140 men independent of wood cutters and carters.¹³ At the same time many of the neighbours were still mining using horse-powered whims eg. the Yankee Company in November 1860 was only just getting around to erecting a 35h.p.engine, it had mined up to this time (to a depth of 230 feet) with two whims.¹⁴ The Port Phillip Company also led the way in experimenting with new ways to extract the gold from the quartz, using a variety of appliances such as Chilian grinding mills (also known as Arastras); blankets and silvered metal plates; amalgamating barrels; stone-breaking machines; and quartz roasting kilns. The success or failure of the company's experiments was closely watched. For example, the Port Phillip Company found that the roasting of quartz prior to crushing increased its gold yield: in September 1860 the company had completed the erection of two kilns, capable of roasting 2,000 tons per week.¹⁵ Other companies, such as the Criterion Co. and Yankee Co. were soon embracing the new practice of quartz roasting.¹⁶ The Port Phillip Company also experimented with ways to recover gold from the difficult pyritic ore. By 1864 the company were crushing the pyritic ore, concentrating the pyritic tailings in buddles and blankets, then roasting the concentrates in furnaces and regrinding them in Chilian mills.¹⁷ Another feature of the early quartz mining period was attempts to procure adequate water for crushing purposes. In 1859 several water schemes were underway. One of the most ambitious was undertaken by four mining companies - Port Phillip, White Flat Association, Criterion, and Clunes United Company. These companies pooled resources to construct a large dam on Tullarook Creek, about one mile upstream from the mines. The large dam, which had a 462 foot long embankment (105 foot thick at base and faced with stone), and which was expected to throw water back some 3 miles, fed water into a lower dam near the mines. The water from the lower dam was conveyed by open race, or tunnels to the various crushing works¹⁸ eg. the White Flat Association's water tunnel was 1,898 feet long.¹⁹ At the same time, the Clunes Water Supply Company constructed a dam on Bullarook Creek and dug a nine mile race to deliver water for mining purposes.

1864-68:

Revival in deep lead mining

By March 1864 the Clunes Alluvial Company were nearing the completion of their machinery. The company's efforts at mining were curtailed shortly after when their shaft was swamped; but by June 1866 the company had overcome this disaster and were producing rich gold - 2,437 ounces in three months.²⁰ By this time the company had erected a buddle to re-work the sludge from the puddlers and were using pumps to elevate the sludge into raised launders (drains) to carry off the sludge. The company at this time was also planning to introduce horses for underground work.²¹ The perseverance and ultimate success of the Clunes Alluvial Company inspired others to take on the deep leads, such as the Clunes Extended Alluvial, Comet Alluvial, and Prince of Wales. This second period of deep lead mining was brief and came to a halt with the demise of the Clunes Alluvial Company in 1868.

13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1859
 14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1860
 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1860
 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1864
 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1859
 19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1859
 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866
 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866

Rise of the New North Clunes Company

The use of more powerful machinery and improved systems of mining continued to have a good effect on the Clunes goldfield throughout most of the 1860s. During this time the field continued to be dominated by the Port Phillip and Clunes Companies. The next most notable quartz mining company was the re-organised North Clunes Company. The New North Clunes Company had commenced work by 1863 and over the following two years sunk several shafts, one of which went to a depth of 600 feet. The company worked on without any notable success until 1868 when it commenced crushing extremely rich ore, eg. the quarterly crushing for the company reported in December 1868 was 4,955 tons for 4,707 ounces of gold; the same three monthly crushing for the Port Phillip Company of 17,089 tons yielded only 6,719 ounces. The richness of the ore being raised by the New North Clunes Company resulted in a mining boom, which saw several new leases being taken up.²² The New North Clunes mined with great success to become the field's second largest producer of gold and the twentieth highest in the state.

1870's:

Gradual decline

The 1870s saw little new development take place on the Clunes field. None of the companies formed during the late 1860s boom had been successful so the field was still reliant on the gold production from the older established mines. One of the more noticeable changes on the field during this time was a gradual shift from a healthy to a depressed state. This downward trend commenced in 1870 with the news that two of the old companies - the Victoria and Yankee - had ceased work. The former claim was to be taken over by the New North Clunes. From 1872 the mining registrar's quarterly reports were presenting a common theme - that the leading companies, such as the Port Phillip Company, despite crushing large volumes of ore were getting very poor average yields. As the old companies exhausted their known reserves they slipped from being gold producer to prospector and by 1874 there were only two companies - the Port Phillip and Clunes and New North Clunes - still working payable quartz. A third company, the South Clunes, getting gold from working the alluvial section of their claim. The Lothair Company also commenced deep lead mining during this time and later was taken over by the South Clunes Company. The South Clunes group of mines ended up being the field's most successful ventures. With declining yields the struggling companies sought to become more economical. In 1872 the New North Clunes Company switched from steam- to water-power for crushing purposes: they installed a turbine to work 30-heads of stampers. The turbine runs at a velocity of 500 revolutions per minute and used 2,500,000 gallons per diem.²³ The company purchased the necessary water from the Clunes Water Commission.²⁴ The Port Phillip Company continued using steam-power and fixed new multi-tubular boilers to reduce fuel consumption.

1873:

Chinese Riot in 1873

Another notable feature of the 1870s was the so-called 'Chinese Riot'. In September 1873 miners at the Lothair and South Clunes mines went on strike over hours and wages. In order to break the strike the mine's proprietors decided to use Chinese miners. On 8 December 1873 Chinese aboard coaches from Creswick and Ballarat were reported heading for Clunes. The coaches were turned back before they reached the town by a 1,000-strong demonstration.²⁵

²² Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1868

²³ Mining Surveyors Reports, December 1872

²⁴ Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1872

²⁵ Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, p.135

1880's:**Last period of deep lead mining**

The 1880s commenced with the surviving mines still working steadily, but with no outstanding prospects. The only brightness on the horizon came in 1882 with the re-commencement of deep lead mining by two new companies - the Butes and Downes and Clyde. A year later the mining registrar was both elated and disappointed with the results of their prospecting operations: the Butes and Downes had opened up on a large body of payable wash, but the Clyde Company had failed to find anything payable. Two years later the mining registrar wrote that the future of the field rested on the continual success of the Butes and Downes Company, and the expected good results from deep prospecting work being undertaken by the New North Clunes. Unfortunately for the local community, the Butes and Downes stopped working in 1888 and the New North Clunes failed to prove any payable ore body in the deep ground. The late 1880s saw one last unsuccessful flurry of deep lead mining activity. In 1887 two new ventures - the South Clunes Extended and Clunes United - started work; and in 1889 the Clunes Goldfield and New North Clunes Extended also worked for a brief time. The decline of quartz mining at Clunes was gradual and mirrored well by the fate of its greatest mine, the Port Phillip Company. Although continuing to crush large volumes of ore throughout much of the 1880s it had ceased to do so profitably by 1880-1881.²⁶ At the end of the 1880s the company had exhausted all its capital and operations were suspended. A similar fate befell the New North Clunes Company who suspended operations in 1888. This company, unlike the Port Phillip Company, was immediately re-organised and mined for four more years as the Dixon's New North Clunes Company. When this company stopped work in 1892 it marked the end of large scale quartz mining at Clunes.²⁷

1890's:**Turn of the century cyaniding**

With the demise of the large quartz mining companies the field became the domain of small tributing parties. In 1897 there was a jump in the gold production when cyaniding parties commenced treating the massive dumps of tailings that lay along the banks of Creswick Creek, downstream from the batteries.

1900's:**1890s and 1930s speculation**

From the 1890s the Clunes goldfield witnessed some grand proposals for its re-opening. In 1894, Thomas Cornish, Chairman of the Port Phillip Company, secured consent from the proprietors of the other mines to form a company to re-work the whole field. Efforts to raise the £20,000 considered necessary to do so were unsuccessful.²⁸ There was another major attempt in the 1930s when the Clunes Limited (later Clunes Goldfields Limited) too over the whole field and sunk a new prospecting shaft. The shaft led to nothing and by 1935 had been rendered useless by rising water.²⁹ A London firm, John Taylor and Sons, were then commissioned to appraise the potential of the field. They hired an experienced mining engineer, Charles Heathcote, and his examination found that all the shafts on the field, bar two, had fallen in. Heathcote reached the forbidding conclusion that to re-open the field would require £280,000 in capital and then it would only ever be marginally profitable.

26 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, p.135

27 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, p.135

28 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, p.148

29 Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, p.149

CRESWICK GOLDFIELD

DATE

1850's:

HISTORY:

Early gold discoveries

Two parties of miners, known as Mains' and Hogbens', are jointly credited with the discovery of the Creswick goldfield. These discoveries, made in the latter part of 1851, led to the new field being rushed. Early alluvial mining at Creswick was mainly focussed on a system of shallow auriferous leads around the site of the present day town and the adjoining ground to the north and east. In 1854 there was a dramatic increase in the mining population when an extensive system of shallow leads was opened to the west of the town. The focal points of the 1854 rush were a series of low hills, which included Graham's, Bald, Clarke's, Hard, White, Humbug, Lucknow and Ironstone; and associated gullies like Long, Mopoke and Nuggetty. After the 1854 rush had subsided, the diggers who stayed on the field embarked on four different branches of mining: re-working the old up-rooted auriferous ground, with puddling machines and sluice boxes; working cemented (conglomerate) gravels; extracting gold from quartz reefs; and tracing and mining the deep alluvial leads.

1860's:

Reworking of shallow alluvial ground - sluicing and puddling

Sluicing at Creswick was confined to the shallow end of the field, principally to the west and south of the town. Water to work the alluvial deposits was brought in open channels (called races) from dams in the higher **catchments of Slaty and Back creeks**. The races wound their way for considerable distances round the heads of intervening gullies before reaching their destinations. One sluicing company, the **Humbug Sluicing Company**, also used a patent bitumentised pipe to cross Slaty Creek: the pipe had a diameter of 8 inches, was a half mile long, and had a maximum thickness of 7/8th of an inch.¹ The hills opened during the 1864 rush proved to be extremely good for sluicing, being covered to considerable depths by rich gold-bearing soil, eg. some 30 feet of soil was washed from the surface to bedrock at Humbug Hill. Sluicing could pay very well, eg. one party working on **Bald Hill** in the winter of 1860 was making £6 to £10 per man weekly.² Due to the dryness of the environment, sluicing was extremely seasonal, and when a good stream of water came through, work was carried on day and night. This was the case on **Humbug Hill** in the winter of 1859, where a sluicing party worked shifts (6 hours on, 12 hours of) washing 1,500 cubic yards of soil before the water run out. For their efforts they obtained 245 ounces of gold.³ The Humbug Hill operation, which involved cutting faces, turning the water along the base of the face and collapsing blocks of ground from 20 to 50 tons, appears to be the principal sluicing technique used at Creswick. A more novel sluicing technique was described by the mining registrar in 1862 at **Lucknow Hill**, where a sluicing party ploughed and harrowed the surface after which the upturned soil was thrown into various races for washing.⁴ Apart from lack of water, the sluicers also had their operations retarded, as was the case in the winter of 1860, by floods which washed away their catchment dams.⁵ The supply of water for sluicing was improved in 1864 when the Creswick Borough Council completed a water race from Bullarook to their **White Hills reservoir**.⁶ The use of horse-powered puddling machines was widespread on the Creswick field. The mining registrar reported 159 of these machines at work in August 1859, and this number appears to have remained fairly constant until a prolonged drought in 1865/66 forced many of the puddlers out of business.

1 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
2 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1860
3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1859
4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1863
5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1864

Although puddling could only process a fraction of the ground to that worked by sluicing parties, it held one great advantage over the latter - it required much less water and thus the puddlers generally had a much longer mining season. Both sluicing and puddling required capital, and many alluvial miners were unable or unwilling to invest in the necessary machinery. For these, the old way of tub, cradle and tin dish mining continued. The hope of these miners, by now referred to as fossickers, was to drop onto a rich patch missed during the chaos of the early rushes; a party, working on Banjo Lead, Mopoke Gully were lurking in 1860 - their haul after 1_ months work was 142 ounces.⁷ Despite the odd success story, miners working the shallow ground gradually declined in number through the 1860s. On at least two occasions, in June 1863 and March 1866, the mining registrar reported mass migrations from the Creswick field citing drought and news from the New Zealand goldfields as reasons for the departure. Diggers also left for the Gippsland goldfields. By the end of the 1865/66 drought only the Chinese were still persevering with alluvial mining at Creswick, particularly sluicing. Chinese sluicers were very successful in the 1870s when the Spring Hill leads were opened; eg. in 1874 a party sluiced up a 96 ounce nugget in Mosquito Gully, near Spring Hill.⁸

1860's: cont...

Cement mining

This branch of mining commenced in 1859 when two companies - **Hard Hill and Enterprise - took out claims on Hard Hill.**⁹ Both companies erected steam-powered crushing batteries (12h.p./12-head of stamps, 10h.p./8-heads respectively) and washed the crushed material in puddling machines. The first crushing-washing obtained by the Hard Hill Company (5_ ton for 28 ounces) caused a small rush which saw mining operations spread to nearby **Clarke's Hill, where the Little Wonder and Friendship companies** erected crushing mills. Besides crushing cement, the four batteries also treated headings and refuse from puddlers. Although the returns from the latter materials were often quite poor, it was profitable because its acquisition required little effort. The importance of cement mining at Creswick had declined by the end of 1863 when the cement mining companies were unable to work the deeper ground due to water.¹⁰

Early quartz mining

The first period of quartz mining at Creswick was not extensive or successful, and what mining took place did not proceed much past the water level, around 180 feet. Only one auriferous reef, **Frenchman's**, was being worked by 1859, and only a handful had been discovered by the end of the 1860s - including **Amargh, Springhill, Opossum, Sulky Gully, and Scandinavian.** Frenchman's Reef was to be the main focus of quartz mining during the 1860s: in May 1860 there were six claims being worked on this reef by small parties of working miners, and the **Frenchman's Quartz Crushing Company** were operating the division's first steam-powered quartz crushing battery (12-head of stamps). Two other companies - **Prince of Wales Reef and Springhill - also erected batteries in 1860.**¹¹ The yields from the three quartz crushing companies were uniformly poor, eg. in June 1860, the Frenchman's Reef Company crushed 240 tons for only 65 ounces of gold.¹² All the companies had ceased work by the end of 1862. The **William Tell Company** also erected a battery (22h.p./12-heads) in 1864 **on Scandinavian Reef;** and in 1865 the **Kuboid Quartz Mining Company, on White Horse Reef,** constructed a 300ft long, 15ft high, reservoir across Schicer Gully and installed a 25h.p engine/10-head battery on its lease.¹³ Both these companies were unsuccessful and it was not until the late 1890s that anything of note was to take place in this branch of mining.

1860's: cont...

Early deep lead mining

After the 1854 rush, miners began to trace the various shallow leads down the hills and under the covering of volcanic rock (basalt) of the plains. Mining was now on

7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1860
 8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1874
 9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1859
 10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1863
 11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, April 1860
 12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
 13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865

freehold land and the miners had to negotiate settlements with land owners. The sinking of shafts through the basalt was the main method employed to reach the gutters of the ancient river system. There was, however, some tunnelling into the sides of hills, eg. at **White Hill where the Princess Alexandra Company** drove an adit some 1,250 feet.¹⁴ In this early period of deep lead mining most companies used horse-powered haulage whims; eg. in May 1860 there were 120 whims at work compared to 14 steam engines. The washdirt extracted from the gutters was washed in puddling machines. By 1865 some of these puddling machines were constructed of cast iron.¹⁵ The deep leads worked during the late 1850s/1860s all trended in a northerly direction, and shafts sunk to reach the gold got progressively deeper as the miners advanced in that direction. The deep leads worked during this time provided mixed results. Some, like the Havilah and Banjo leads, both opened in 1860, proved unpayable and where abandoned; while others, like the **Sulky Gully and Graham's Hill leads provided some rich rewards**. The former was worked successfully by the **Little Extended Company, and the latter, by the Republic and Garibaldi companies**. Another of the more rewarding leads was **Rocky Flat Lead which was mined with some profit by five companies - Jupiter, Golden Gate, You Know, Golden Emporium and Smythesdale**. **The Bald Hill lead was successfully prospected in November 1859 at a depth of 100 feet**¹⁶ and as it was traced northwards it proved to be extremely rich - in 1860 the mining registrar reported that miners on the lead were averaging £10 to £15 per man weekly.¹⁷ By this time, shafts on the lead were down 140 feet. The lead continued to provide miners with large profits until 1863, when the deepness of the ground placed its profitable working beyond the scope of small companies. In June 1864 there were only three companies at work on the deep ground of the lead, including the **Better-late-than-Never and Great Eastern**.¹⁸ These companies were unable to find the lead, and after another unsuccessful attempt by the **Great Extended Company** in 1865, the lead was abandoned. **The Red Streak lead proved to be one of the main gold-bearing gutters of the ancient river system**. It was the continuation of a shallow lead (Black Lead) which was worked with great success in the early days. In 1859 the mining registrar reported that the Red Streak Lead was the principal place in the division where new ground was being opened; that all the leads coming from the east and south of Creswick tended to drain into it; and that it had the deepest ground.¹⁹ The depth of the lead made mining a very difficult undertaking. In 1860, **the Crown or Ten Acre Company** was the principal company at work on the lead; and when this company lost its shaft (swamped by drift at a depth of 146 feet) it was cited by the mining registrar as a serious impediment to the development of the deep leads in the area. Mining on the Red Streak Lead had recovered after the Crown's mishap by 1865 and at least seven companies - **Imperial, Grand Trunk or Key (original Red Streak), Australasian, Sir Charles Darling, Junction, Rose of Allendale, and Hit-or-Miss** - were mining with considerable success. **The Hit-or-Miss Company became notable as one of the greatest gold producers of the 1860s**.²⁰ From the mid 1860s many companies began to cease operating because they had worked out the faces of their old drives, or had, like the Imperial Company used up their original starting capital with out getting gold sufficient to pay expenses. During the late 1860s several of these companies were re-organised and erected more powerful plant so as to sink deeper and extend new drives.

The new ventures during this prospecting phase were commonly referred to as progressive companies. Leading the way for the progressive companies was the **Golden Trunk - in 1865 this company was prospecting the deepest ground ever tried at Creswick**.²¹ **It was to be the Australasian Company, formed in 1867, which was to have the most influence on the direction of the field**. In March 1868, the company was prospecting at 275 feet and by the end of the year was obtaining payable gold. It had proven the richness of the deep country. The next few

14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1864
 15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1865 and March 1866
 16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1859
 17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
 18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1864
 19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1859
 20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1865
 21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1865

years, until 1872, were comparatively dull for deep lead mining as the other claims on the Red Streak sunk deeper and drove towards the rich ground prospected by the Australasian Company. The Australasian Company continued to mine profitably until the mid 1870s. The stoppage of this mine was cited by the mining registrar as a serious loss to the district, as, besides the loss of employment by a number of miners, it was the most advanced claim on the Creswick deep lead system.²²

1870's:

Second period of deep lead mining - discovery of the Spring Hill leads

Deep lead mining was shaken from its dullness in May 1872 when Carter, Brown and Graham discovered rich gold (at a depth of 100 feet) on Spring Hill. Their discovery, in Bloomsfield Gully, which run from the north side of the hill caused a rush which led to three distinct leads being found - Lewers Lead (prospectd by Lewers Freehold Company); Reserve Lead (prospectd by Reserve Company and later Hawkins Company); and Spring Hill Lead (prospectd by Southern Cross Company).²³ With the discovery of the new leads a familiar scene unfolded during the mid 1870s as they were traced down the hill to the plains, and under the basalt. With past experience in mind, the Ballarat Seven Hills Estate Company purchased the rich agricultural land that lay ahead of the three leads and commenced leasing to other mining companies. Two of the Spring Hill leads junctioned just before the purchased land, and the third junctioned within its boundaries.²⁴ The united lead (main gutter) was to be traced northwards where it, and the Red Streak combined and became known as the Berry Lead, which became synonymous in the 1880s and 1890s with Victoria's greatest and richest deep lead mines - Madame Berry, Berry Consols, Lone Hand, Ristori, and New Australasian.

Working the Spring Hill leads

The mining of the Spring Hill leads down to the united gutter known as the Berry Lead spanned three golden years, during which at least ten companies - Baron Rothschild, Bunyans Freehold, Richardson's Western Freehold, Robinson's Freehold, Cummings Freehold, Kingston Park, Richards Freehold, Hawkins Freehold, Lewers Freehold and Western Lewers Freehold - mined with some profit. Sometimes the yields from these mines were considered to be extraordinary, eg. the Richardson's Freehold Company obtained 1,032 ounces in a week²⁵, and the Baron Rothschild Company unearthed a nugget weighing 242 ounces.²⁶ By the late 1870s deep lead mining on the Spring Hill leads had reached another familiar situation - with several of the richest claims having been worked out and new progressive companies being formed. Matters on Creswick's other main, and now converging gutter, the Red Streak, were in a similar state to that on the Spring Hill Leads. This prospecting period spanned four years from 1876 to 1880, reflecting the increasing difficulties faced by companies to mine at increasing depth. The progressive companies of the late 1870s were aided by the introduction of the diamond drill and confidence in the field were maintained by gold production from companies like the New Australasian, Cameron's Freehold, Ryans Junction, Dykes Freehold, De Murska and Ristori Freehold.

22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1876

23 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, pp416-417

24 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, pp416-417

25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1875

26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1875

1880's:

Boom - halcyon days of Creswick's deep lead mining

In 1879 there were encouraging signs from both the Red Streak and Spring Hill Leads. On the former, the New Australasian Co were obtaining rich yields and had caused tow **new claims to be taken up in the area - Australasian Extended and Davies Junction Freehold; and on the latter lead, the Lone Hand Co (the furthest advanced on the lead) was expected to soon was gold.**²⁷ By this time the Berry section of the lead was being worked and progressive mines along its course were beginning to join the list of gold producers, including the **Madame Berry** (Victoria's greatest deep lead mine). **Mining speculation was now rife, and in 1881** the mining registrar reported that nearly all the country north of Spring Hill, and extending beyond the limits of his division, had been taken up under lease.²⁸ This speculation, aided by the use of the diamond drill for prospecting work, opened up a **new tributary to the main gutter, known as the Kingston or Hepburn Lead.** This new lead drained into the Berry lead from the east and was **prospected by the Lord Harry Co in 1883.**²⁹ The 1880s saw a continual stream of progressive companies working on the three leads - Red Streak, Berry and Hepburn - move onto, and dominate in various years, the division's gold producing list: **Loughlin Lone Hand and Madame Berry companies (1881); North Australasian and Lord Harry companies (1883); Ristori Freehold (1884); Australasian Freehold and Australasian and Eaglehawk companies (1885); Hepburn Estate, Midas, and Lady Hepburn (1886); Berry Consols and Earl of Beaconsfield (1888); Midas Co (1889); and Berry No. 1 (1891).** The Midas Co was particularly lucky in respect to nuggets: in 1887 the company uncovered the "Lady Loch" (617 ounces) and "Lady Brassey" (167 ounces). Five of the 1880s companies - **the Madame Berry (387,313 ounce), Berry Consols (190,799 ounces), Lone Hand (126,030 ounces), Ristori Freehold (104,224 ounces), and New Australasian (90,203 ounces)** - were to produce such large amounts of gold as to put them amongst Victoria's greatest deep lead mines.

New Australasian gold mining disaster

Apart from entering the record books as a major gold producer, the New Australasian Company also holds a less enviable record. On 12 December 1882 a drive from the company's No. 2 shaft was flooded and 22 miners perished.³⁰ To date, this is Australia's largest gold mining disaster.

1880's-1890's:

Machinery and technology

Mining machinery installed on the Creswick deep leads varied in cost and size, but through necessity got more extensive as mining moved northwards and progressed through the 300 feet to beyond 400 foot. Thus **the most spectacular machinery installed on the field was on the Berry lead.** All the deep lead mines shared common features - steam engines for pumping, winding and puddling; steam boilers and brick chimney stacks; wooden poppet heads, and raised tramways and cast iron puddling machines. **Some companies, such as Madame Berry, also had crushing batteries** (15-head of stamps) to treat cement raised from the gutter.³¹ **Horizontal acting engines were the norm for the Creswick field. Two companies, Berry No. 1 and Hepburn Leasehold Estate, erected Cornish vertical beam engines.** Shaft sinking on the field was a very complicated business. The main problem was sinking through drift (a quicksand-like deposit of gravel and sand). In 1883 the mining registrar reported **three different techniques being used: the Davies Junction Company were using "travelling shaft"; the Australasian Consols "iron box"; and Berry Consols "iron cylinder".** The latter system involved forcing iron cylinders - one inside the other, like a telescope - through the drift by hydraulic pressure.³²

1880's-1890's: cont...

Formation of towns

As the agricultural land was taken over for deep lead mining several mining villages sprung up along the lead system. These included Allendale and Broomfield. In 1881 the new town of Allendale held only 18 houses and 139

²⁷ Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1879

²⁸ Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1881

²⁹ Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1883

³⁰ Hanging Files, Historic Places Section, 16 May 1986

³¹ The Berry Deep Lead, Historic Places Branch, October 1986

³² The Berry Deep Lead, Historic Places Branch, October 1986, p.15

inhabitants; by 1891 the number of houses was 315 with 1,562 inhabitants. The hamlet of Broomfield was enumerated in the census for the first time in 1901 - 100 dwellings and 482 inhabitants.³³ Today only Creswick survives as a large town. The other places have few physical remains, except for a few houses.

1890-1900:

End of large scale deep lead mining

By the early 1890s the Halcyon days of Creswick deep lead mining had passed - its greatest mine, the Madame Berry closed down in 1895. In 1900 the Creswick field only produced 35,000 ounces of gold, and in 1901 only 10,686 ounces and by 1911 the yield had dropped to 5,642 ounces. On overview of Creswick's deep lead mining in 1899 (in the Australasian Mining Standard) **calculated that from 1881 miners had obtained 1,333,759 ounces of gold from the Spring Hill-Berry leads, valued at £5,488,935 and paid out dividends to shareholders of £2,260,343;** and concluded that every known auriferous lead near Creswick had more-or-less been worked to a distance of six or more miles north.³⁴ Deep lead mining at Creswick did continue after the demise of its great mines. **In 1903 there were still two companies at work - the Madame Berry West and the West Berry Consols. These two mines worked until the commencement of the First World War** and both, at times, employed considerable workforces: eg. in 1906 the Madame Berry West annual workforce averaged 145 men, the West Berry Consols, 185 men.³⁵ **The New Madame Berry and Central Leads Co was floated in 1908** to determine whether blocks of underworked ground in the old Madame Berry lease existed. The new company sunk a shaft and opened out onto wash but found nothing payable.

Decline of deep lead field

As the deep lead mines closed down their machinery was sold and removed from the field. As early as 1908 the railway saw a use for the mining by-products and carted off mullock and pebbles for ballast. The heaps were later quarried for road making material.

Another attempt at quartz mining

With the demise of deep lead mining the local community put their energies towards quartz mining. **Most of this type of mining appears to have carried out around Allendale** - in 1885 the mining registrar reported that a great quantity of stone had been raised and crushed, and that quartz was being obtained at a greater depth than hitherto before and the number of men engaged in work had doubled.³⁶ **Two companies who erected crushing plant during this time were the Surprise Co on Mills Reef (a 10-head battery)³⁷, and the Creswick Working Miners.³⁸** Quartz mining flourished for a brief time in the late 1890s. **In October 1897, the New Working Miners Co was floated, and shortly afterwards the New Nuggetty Gully mine was opened. The latter company erected a battery, both were unsuccessful.** The New Nuggetty's plant was sold off in 1903.³⁹ **The mine was taken up again in 1913 by the Creswick Quartz Mining Co.** This attempt was also a failure and was cited as the third or fourth time that winding equipment had been erected on the shaft.⁴⁰ There was also a failed quartz mining attempt in 1911 by the **George Reef Co.**⁴¹

Early 1900's:

Successful bucket dredging and pump-sluicing

In 1899 the *Australasian Mining Standard* reported that **Mr M'Queen had nearly completed the construction of a bucket dredge, for the purpose of working the bed of Creswick Creek.** Negotiations were also reported underway for the division's first hydraulic sluicing plant.⁴² By 1903 there were two dredges at work along the creek, operated by the **Creswick Creek and Enterprise Bucket companies;** and in 1905 it was estimated that that some 85 men, not including wood

33 The Berry Deep Lead, Historic Places Branch, October 1986, p.12

34 Australasian Mining Standard

35 Annual Report, 1906

36 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1885

37 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1887

38 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1891

39 Annual Report, 1903

40 Annual Report, 1913

41 Annual Report, 1911

42 Australasian Mining Standard

cutters and carters, were being employed by the various dredging and hydraulic sluicing companies. The industry peaked during 1906-1908 with the two dredges operating along with at least eight sluicing plants. Companies working the latter type of plants included **Great Creswick Sluicing Company, Creswick Gold Estates Sluicing Company, Creswick Sluicing Company (Slaty Creek), Portuguese Flat Sluicing Company, Creswick Spring Gully Sluicing Company, Creswick Black Lead Sluicing Company and Creswick Nuggetty Gully Sluicing Company.** The **Creswick Black Lead Company was reported to have had one of the most powerful plants in the district,** being required to remove some 70 feet of overburden to get to the gold. In 1906 this company was employing 25 men.⁴³ The sluicing industry declined dramatically in 1908 when one bucket dredge and four hydraulic sluicing plants were forced to close down due to unprofitable yields. **The last sluicing plant to remain in operation was the Creswick Sluicing Company on Slaty Creek;** it was still working payable ground in 1918.

1930's:

1930s Depression

During the depression there were various attempts made to revive the Creswick deep leads. The 1936 there were a number of miners engaged in prospecting, many being assisted by governments grants. None of the prospecting proved successful. The reasons given for the lack of success included a lack of experienced deep lead miners, lack of companies whose combined efforts were needed to properly drain the leads; and the high costs of equipment and mine labour.

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Daylesford Mining Division
HISTORICAL NOTES

The actual area in which 'Jim Crow' name applied locally was an area around the junction of Spring Creek with Jim Crow Creek. ¹

Another widely known name for the Daylesford goldfields was "Wombat Flat Diggings."²

Mining centres: Daylesford ... Other in order of importance, these probably rates as Blanket Flat, Eganstown, Coomoora, Yandoit, Shepherd's Flat, Spring Creek-Hepburn, Dry Diggings, Glenlyon, Deep Creek, Sailor's Falls district.³

1851 to 1856: Alluvial Leads - It is said that the first alluvial gold was discovered at Golden Point, Hepburn, in 1851. The first rush to Jim Crow (as Daylesford was then called) took place in the year 1853, the principle workings being Connell's Gully, Sailor's Creek, Wombat Flat, the old Race-course and Doctor's Gully - all alluvial. A second rush took place in 1855, but the heaviness of the timber, dense undergrowth of scrub and fern, the cold and wet of these high, and out-of-the-way regions, and absence of roads, etc., much retarded the development of the field. The third rush in 1856 brought the subsequent possessors of large fortunes, many among them Swiss, which gives Daylesford at the present time almost the character of a Swiss settlement.⁴

March 1852: The Wombat Flat Diggings became the earliest town centre and became worked out first. ⁵

1853: The Daylesford (formerly Jim Crow) district was first brought into prominent notice during the year 1853, from the rich and extensive alluvial deposits which were discovered underlying the basaltic hills in the neighbourhood of the present township and Spring Creek, and the unearthing of the auriferous treasures so freely distributed in the flats and gullies and which, at an early period, were thought inexhaustible. The Jim Crow Creek is the main stream which intersects the Daylesford gold-field and may be mentioned that all its tributaries from its head, three or four miles south of Daylesford township, have proved auriferous ... In the neighbourhood of Corinella Paddock, Keep-it Dark, Old Tom, Spring Creek, Wombat Flat, Sailor's Gully, and Deep Creek, the alluvial workings have been of a few extensive character.⁶

1854: The first reef opened out and worked was the Mauritius, "Kidd's Gully" ... The stone was burned, and then passed through a Chilian Mill, yielding 2oz. to the ton. Burdon's Reef, Doctor's Gully, also realised 2oz. to the ton about the same period. Temby, Addis and Brook opened out Cornish Reef (so informed) which went 3oz. to the ton, during 1854, the same ground being now included in the present Cornish Company's lease. ⁷

Daylesford - The auriferous belt is under a mile in width, and can be traced north and south for some miles. It includes the following reefs - Rising Star, Specimen Hill, Colliers, Freeman's or Front reef, Wombat Hill or Cornish (including the Black and Roman Eagle reefs and the Red and Mullocky lodes), Fearnot, Crown, Nuggetty Ajax, St. George, Eugenie, and Hepburn, and Mauritius (Victory) ... It has been a curious feature in the Daylesford district that it has apparently rarely been able to support more than one good dividend-paying mine at a time. These have followed one another in the following succession, Cornish and Specimen Hill (both dividend-paying at the same time), Rising Star, North Cornish, and No. 1 North Cornish.⁸

1854: The Mauritius reef, in Kidd's Gully, is said to have been the first reef opened out in 1854. The Cornish was the first to make a show ...⁹

1854: In the early days of our gold-fields history all the appliances in use for the working and development of quartz mines and the treatment of ores were of the most simple and primitive

¹ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.7

² Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.7

³ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.7

⁴ Geological Survey of Victoria, Progress Report, 1894,p.15

⁵ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.8

⁶ Mining Surveyors Reports, June 1889

⁷ Mining Surveyors Reports, June 1889

⁸ Geological Survey of Victoria, Progress Report, No. VIII, 1894, p.6

⁹ Geological Survey of Victoria, Progress Report, No. VIII, 1894, p.6

character, and to add to the many other difficulties the quartz miner had to face in this district was the almost impassable barriers of dense forest, steep ranges, and swift-flowing creeks, without bridges or any semblance of roads; hence the miner, in his isolated condition, was pretty much left to his own resources in devising means or methods for extracting gold from the stone. Thus it was that the first plant erected on 'Jim Crow' for crushing purposes comprised an upright piece of timber, 10 feet in length and about 6 inches square, shod at the foot with boiler plate, and held in position by a cross beam and two posts. This stamper was lifted to a height of 4 to 6 inches by means of a lever or handle, something like the movement of the proverbial cow with the iron tail; but to the single-handed battery or stamp man the labour partook more of the performance of a galley slave. However, as the gold obtained, even by this crude process, was considerable, and the stone plentiful and easily got, it became necessary that some more effective and speedy method should be found for its extraction. The party, now consisting of four men, displayed their enterprise and ability to use the axe and adze, as well as the pick and shovel, by setting about the construction of a new machine, composed of a pair of huge wheels or rollers made out of the messmate trees, which were readily obtained on Wombat Hill (now the well-known beautiful public gardens of Daylesford). These wood rollers were about 6 feet in diameter and 1 foot broad, bound with iron tires, these being fixed to a centre-key and axle, from which extended a long beam or arm, which was drawn slowly round by a single horse. At first these wheels ran upon a hardwood floor, until a cast-iron trough or basin was obtained. At first, both by this improved process and the single-stamp battery, the stone treated was simply crushed to dust in a dry state, and the gold panned off by the tin dish; but it was soon found requisite to introduce water while crushing, as much to lessen the friction as to save the finer particles of gold; but neither the shaking cradle, copper plates, or the blanket tables were attached for the purpose of gold saving, nor was the mundic, pyrites, or any other by-product of quartz considered to be of the smallest value; and for many years thousands of tons of pyrites and sand that could have been easily saved was permitted to go to waste, and was carried away by the waters of Smith's Creek. If these early local inventions as quartz crushing machines had been preserved just where they were first erected, at the southern end of the Cornish claim, they would now, doubtless, create as much interest to the miner, by comparison with the splendid, highly-finished, and powerful steam crushing battery constantly at work close by, as does the original locomotive 'Rocket' of the Stephenson's to engineers and people travelling by rail, as they now do at the rate of 60 miles an hour.¹⁰

- 1854:** First reef discovered, believed to be near the later Colliers shaft, was uncovered by sluicers Ch. Parsons, and J. Cocksley. ¹¹
- 1854+:** Colliers Reef was opened by Collier & Woodward. ¹²
- 1854+:** The Sandstone Reef was found by Ducknard and party. ¹³
- June 1854:** Government Surveyor Fraser laid out a township site of 80 chains square and he used the name "Wombat" ... changed to Daylesford, and this name was first officially used in the Government Gazette on 23 August 1855...¹⁴
- 1854:** Italian Hill, south-east side of Daylesford town and Smiths Creek ... discovered by Swiss miners in 1854.¹⁵
- 1854+:** Doctors Gully Reefs, Doctors Gully - one of the richest alluvial gullies in the 1850s ... been deeply sluiced at the head of Birdport Street, down to Hospital Street.
- 1854:** First crushing from Burdons Reef in the east slope of Doctors Gully ... yielded 2oz to ton. This was followed in 1857 by Ridge and Co. working the Warrior claim. ¹⁶
- 1854+:** The Sandstone Reef was found by Ducknard and party. ¹⁷

¹⁰ Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1888

¹¹ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

¹² Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

¹³ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

¹⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.8

¹⁵ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.16

¹⁶ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.47-48

¹⁷ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

Daylesford was Victoria's most diversified and long lived gold field and the largest in area, having 300 square miles of auriferous grounds...¹⁸

1850s: Grey Mare was opened in the fifties, Rocky Lead District, Daylesford ... the party working it followed down a line of gold-bearing stone for about 80 feet, crushing it in a little 3-head mill erected on the mine. When it became necessary to employ machinery the venture collapsed ... it remained deserted until about four years ago ¹⁹

They came, in those years from all lands, and numbered among those in Daylesford goldfields were some hundreds of Swiss-Italian speaking migrants from the southern Swiss Canton of Ticino. Frenchmen, Germans, Danish settlers, Austrians ... Late in the 1850s, a lot of experienced Cornish and Welsh miners also joined the throng. ²⁰

The township of Spring Creek was located along the Daylesford Road south of where Doctors Gully joined Spring Creek.²¹

1855: By the end of 1855 big rushes were experienced in the Yandoit area (then known as Zandit) ... Nuggetty Gully area and King William Gully on the north-west side of Yandoit Creek ... There were many tunnels into the Yandoit Creek hills ... These diggings continued north to Clydesdale and Strangways near the Loddon.²²

Coomoora Goldfield - 1856 to 1880, continuation of the Daylesford Township Lead Main mines of the Coomoora area, 1856 to 1869.

1856: The first gold panned east of Daylesford was by Morganti and party in 1856 in Leech's Creek. Back towards Daylesford, Pozzi and partners found gold in alluvial leads coming out from under the basalt overlay, and these discoveries brought others to the Coomoora or Wallaby Creek area.²³

1856-1867: Cornish Quartz Mining Company, Capital £4,550, in 1300 shares £3-10-0. The property of the company is situated on the Wombat Reef, area of 23 acres, being Crown Lease No. 622. The mine was opened in the year 1856 by a party of thirteen experienced Cornish miners, who worked together on a co-operative principle until August 1867, and obtained gold worth £50,000.²⁴

1856: Formation of first Cornish Company - The successful working of these early machines, inadequate as they were, led to the enlargement of the Cornish party to thirteen men, including a miner, smith, carpenter, and engineer ...²⁵

late 1850s: First steam battery on lower western slope of Cornish Hill was erected by Mr. C. Wilson. ²⁶

1850s: First crushing on the Crown Reef (shafts in Queensberry St.) was Montgomery, Barkley & Brown, and yielded 45 oz. per ton. ... Most shafts did not go below 300ft because the Crown Reef then dipped westward into the Cornish lease.²⁷

1856: Montgomery and Crozier and party crushed 4 oz. per ton. ²⁸

1857: Johnson and Williamson's party sunk to waterline 70ft. ²⁹

18 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.8
19 Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 3, Rocky Lead District
20 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.10
21 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.10
22 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.12
23 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.36
24 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1888
25 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1888
26 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23
27 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23
28 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23
29 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

- 1857-1867:** Operations of the first Cornish Company - By the year 1857 the company had become the holders of all the ground on the various reefs mentioned from the crown of the hill near Queensberry-street as their northern boundary, to the south end of their claim where it joined the Argus Company's survey; and in order to work this large area, which at the time was considered to be a vast monopoly, the Cornish party sent two of their number to Ballarat and elsewhere to obtain an engineer of 24 horse-power, and a battery of 12 heads. This plant was obtained at a cost of £2,000, and as quickly as possible erected at Wombat Flat, on the west side of King-street, and to this site a track was cut, and a tramway laid down from the claim on the hill, a distance of nearly half-a-mile. On this tramway were two trucks connected with a stout rope running over sheaves or pulleys, the loaded truck containing nearly one and a half tons going down hill to the battery, and at the same time drawing the empty truck to the claim on the hill to be refilled. This system was in operation for several years, and conveyed many thousands of tons of stone to the stamper boxes that otherwise would not have paid the high price of cartage of those days; and during the first ten years of persevering labour the party obtained 15,000 ounces of gold. The greatest depth at which ground had been worked for this amount of gold was 120 feet, and the only appliances used for hauling the quartz to the surface being the whip and whim.³⁰
- 1858:** John Conyngham McCausland, J. W. Trimble and John Addis combined.³¹
- 1858:** Sampson & party sank first shaft on Crown Reef at south end.³²
- late 1850s:** Doctor's Gully - Lucini in the late 1850s owned and mined the Lucini Reef, or Swiss Mount Reef Gold Mine ... It was one of a group of reef mines along Doctor's Gully.³³
- late 1850s:** In the hills up the east of this first Police Camp at Spring Creek was the late 1850s Commissioner's Reef gold mine opened up by Swiss pioneer miner, Vincent Perni ... The mine was first worked as an open cut.³⁴
- 1857-1859:** Connell's and Nuggetty Ajax line of reefs - Gold miners had swarmed between Connell's Gully and Tipperary Point on Sailors Creek ... The first recorded party to have worked consistently on reefs discovered there was Willard and party in the 1857-1859 and obtained 4,000 oz. between 4 me ... Nuggetty Co., first workings was an open cut at the head of Connell's Gully just north of the present shaft.³⁵
- late 1850s:** Doctors Gully Reefs - Pitchers Reef, a tunnel and shaft operation, just south of where West Street crosses Doctors Gully ... re-opened as the North Maxwell in the 1930s until 1942. Lucini's Reef, north of Pitchers Reef ... later known as Swiss Mount and continued for about 40 years reaching 400 feet ... had one of the first crushing plants in late 1850s ... west end of 7th Street, Hepburn Springs ... north of the Swiss Mount was Peacock's Venture, just where Doctors Gully crosses the Hepburn Road.³⁶
- late 1850s:** Yandoit Goldfield, first rushed 1855-56. German Gully, Yandoit ... six miles north of Keep It Dark, Eganstown ... opened up in the late 1850s ... here there was the All Nations, Cerebus, Huggett's and Goldsmiths claims ... they were amalgamated in the early 1860s under the Golconda Co. and machinery put on and shaft sank to 400ft ... One of the German Gully mines, the Criterion Co., was an offshoot of a Clunes company Frenchman's Hill reef, then Glamorgan Reef, opened in 1859, then Steels, the Pioneer and the Mamburg ... Reefs continue north into Yandoit 3 or 4 miles away: here the Hamburg Reef was opened by Joachim in 1860. Frenchman's Reef was discovered, south of Yandoit, discovered by Figget in 1859. Forty-Foot paddock, east of Yandoit, and on to the north several deep lead mines whose dumps still cover the landscape up to Clydesdale. Homeward Bound Reef, across Jim Crow Creek. King William Gully Reef, west of Yandoit Malcolm's Reef, north of town. Sardines Reef, west of Yandoit, on the New Nuggetty Gully, first worked in 1860. New Nuggetty Gully famous from 1855 to 1910 for nuggets, biggest was 750 oz. Grand Junction Co. was north of town. Christmas Reef, east of and near Jim Crow Creek.³⁷

30 Mining Surveyors Reports, March 1888

31 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

32 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23

33 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.10

34 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.11

35 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.32-33

36 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.47-48

37 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.48-49

- 1850s:** Mines east of Hepburn Road, the Frenchman's and the Mineral Springs. Freehold United claims along Hepburn Road - This line of reefs was thought to be the northern extension of the Cornish reefs ... western edge of Kidd's Gully, they were worked down to 70ft by the end of the 1850s.³⁸
- 1850s:** Mauritius mining area - north along the top of the sharp ridge between Spring Creek and Whitefield Gully, road now shown as Whitefield Road, runs to the 1854 Mauritius mining area continuing down this ridge one reached the dumps of the Frenchman's Reef mine. It was much later than the Mauritius, and the early miners sunk to 180ft and had a tunnel halfway down which run out to Whitefield Gully.³⁹
- June 1859:** Quartz reefs. Doctor's Reef, Doctor's Gully ... discovered about three years ago. Sailor's Reef, Sailor's Creek ... This reef has been worked upwards of two years. It is situated in the creek bed ... owners at present making arrangements for the erection of steam machinery, the present crushing machine (worked by water) and the pump (worked by horsepower).⁴⁰
- June 1859:** Yandoit - A rush to a swamp or flat near King William Gully; and Forty-Feet is progressing.⁴¹
- July 1859:** 14 quartz crushing machines - 5 steam, 4 waterpower, and 5 worked by horse. There are 65 puddling machines ... the plentiful supply of water has been fully appreciated by our puddling and sluicing population. From Shepherd's Flat, on the Jim Crow Creek, up the heads of the different creeks - Wombat Creek, Blind Creek, Stoney, Spring and Sailor's creeks - races meet the eye on most of the ranges, flushed with water. Hill sluicing about Wombat seems to be in great favour with our miners ... Although most of the claims, besides incidental expenses, pay £3 or £4 per week for water to speculation race-owners, puddling and sluicing in general average from 12s. upwards per day ... Sluicing in the beds of the creeks is effectually stopped for the season.⁴²
- July 1859:** A new crushing machine just completed ... junction of Kidd's Gully with Spring Creek.⁴³
- July 1859:** Yandoit. Donna Maria Reef, recently opened on the Frenchman's Hill. A powerful engine to be erected on Clement's Reef New rush, northern slope of a hill facing on Green Hill Creek, and situated 66 degrees SW of Yandoit and Frenchman's Hills - new tunnel ground.⁴⁴
- July 1859:** Tunnelling - Formerly parties running adits into a hill assuming different frontages, very often intersected one another, and owing to the crookedness of the tunnels, it was in most instances impossible for the parties concerned to form any idea whether they were working their own or their neighbours' ground ... Most of those engaged in tunnelling being Italians.⁴⁵
- August 1859:** Water race - Enterprising party are at present trying to bring the Kangaroo Creek into Wombat.⁴⁶
- August 1859:** Yandoit - prospecting the Green or Bald Hills, Yandoit.⁴⁷
- August 1859:** Mining population - upwards of 2900 ... for a mining community, rather settled than otherwise. The great majority of the miners have been here for years, and are fully aware that although, with such appliances as are commonly in use, no great fortunes are likely to be made, still stuff affording them £2 to £3 per week abounds in quantities, and will for many years to come; and men with families are, therefore, better satisfied to settle here than to rush about from one place to another.⁴⁸

38 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.40

39 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.40

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- August 1859:** Parker's Reef is one of the oldest quartz workings in the division...⁴⁹
- August 1859:** Dry Diggings Creek has been opened for years ... When opened the creek was very rich, and even now, having been worked over and over with tub and cradle, it would pay very well for sluicing ... Immediately after rain the creek has quite a busy appearance; and a host of Chinamen have begun taking the upper part in a face and seem to be doing very well.⁵⁰
- August 1859:** The upper part of Middleton's Creek was also worked profitably years ago, but is now wholly deserted.⁵¹
- August 1859:** Mount Franklin Creek and Washerwoman's Gully had also been considered worked out and abandoned, but a party of Chinamen began last summer sluicing immediately below the junction.⁵²
- Sept 1859:** Companies - three applications for gold mining leases ... No. 1, 10 acres on Wombat Flat, No. 2, 15 acres on Shepherds Flat, and No. 3, 600 yards on Adam's Reef ... I may here mention that the mining community favourably regards the movement, as promising permanent employment on ground, which, is workable at all by individuals, at best would only pay for a few months in the year. I should not be surprised to see the example set by capitalists followed up by co-operative associations among our working miners.⁵³
- August 1859:** Persons were busy prospecting our old deserted reefs, and am truly gratified to learn that one p the Cosmopolitan, from Clunes - have on Commissioners Reef, obtained a prospect which they consider fully satisfactory ... by introducing first-class machinery into the district, will facilitate the working of several reefs now deserted.⁵⁴
- August 1859:** Puddling and sluicing - A number of claims have lately been purchased by Chinamen, who seem on the whole to be getting on very well on Jim Crow. Parties of 10 or 12 bring their earnings from other diggings to purchase sluicing claims here ... A number of Chinamen are fossicking about our old alluvial workings; but I believe most of them are only watching an opportunity to begin sluicing or paddocking.⁵⁵
- August 1859:** Parker's Specimen Reef, head of Dry Diggings (geological map, No. 1 a, east). Claim No. 1 - said to have produced upwards of £3,000 for a length of 80ft. Claim No. 2 - Best on the line, yielded as much as 70 oz. per ton near the surface, and having presented its owners with £10,000. Map shows tunnel and tramway, and burning kiln. Claim No. 3 - Map shows tramway, kiln, and tramway to Mr. Wilson's crushing machine on Middleton's Creek. Claim is 45 ft in length, and produced £3,000 or £4,000.⁵⁶
- Oct 1859:** Yandoit Quartz Mining Co.'s machine.⁵⁷
- Oct 1859:** Eganstown - Adams Reef was for a long time deserted ... Clunes party took up 320 lineal feet.⁵⁸
- Nov 1859:** Specimen Hill Reef, Wombat Creek, Messrs Trimble and Co. have applied for mining lease. Wombat Reef, Connell's Reef, and a number of others are paying. Cosmopolitan, on Commissioners Reef, is driving for reef.⁵⁹
- Nov 1859:** Yandoit - Clement's Reef and Christmas Reef claims turning out good gold.⁶⁰

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- Nov 1859:** Tunnelling, a rush to Deep Creek, the ground is situated 9_ miles from Mount Franklyn and 4_ (?) miles from Smeaton Hill, and forms part of those large basaltic plains extending from the Deep Creek to the west of Clunes.⁶¹
- Dec 1859:** The Tunnel rush in Glengower, Deep Creek, is progressing well, it is rumoured that two or three tunnels have lately broken through and struck gold.⁶²
- Dec 1859:** Parker's Specimen Reef and Sportsman's Reef (probably a continuation of the first (, head of dry diggings, animated appearance.⁶³
- Dec 1859:** Wombat Hill (known today as Cornish or Argus Hill) - On Collier's Reef, Wombat Hill, Messrs Winther and Company are now and again reported to have got some first-rate stone; and on Wombat Reef, the parties at work are getting well paid ...⁶⁴
- Dec 1859:** Nuggetty-Ajax line of reef: On Connell's Reef, Messrs Villard, the only party working, are doing well ... A new vein, called the Nuggetty Reef, was lately discovered, running parallel to and about 40 yards west of Connell's Reef.⁶⁵
- Dec 1859:** Water races - The nature of our watershed offers every facility for the construction, at comparatively little cost, of lakes or reservoirs.⁶⁶
- Dec 1859:** Tunnelling - may be considered, for steadiness of yield, and for the length of time it affords profitable employment, as one of our chief resources, although in some instances very considerable outlay of capital and labour is required before payable gold is obtained. Some of our tunnels have obtained a length of 1,800 or 2,800 feet without striking gold.⁶⁷
- Dec 1859:** Yandoit - New Nuggetty Gully, a large number of miners at work.⁶⁸
- Dec 1859:** Boot's Bald Hill and vicinity also in great favour, and in Elliger's Gully more people are at present employed than when the gully was first opened.⁶⁹
- 1859:** Corinella Creek, not worked at first because passed through Egan's PR ... but there were diggers in shallow alluvial south of here for miles, and also in Deep Creek. About 1859 several tunnels were driven westwards from the Deep Creek banks for distances up to 2,800 feet. These were the Italian Tunnel, Ballarat Tunnel, the Sailors Prince Tunnel etc. They worked for a long time before striking the sought after gutters. Corinella Creek, east end - road leads off towards Brandy Hot-Basalt-Shepherds Flat area, passing by some very rich shallow reefs and gullies. Some of the early Brandy Hot claims cleaned up 20 to 50 oz. per week.⁷⁰
- 1860:** Havelock Q. M. Co., north end of Crown Reef near Stanbridge Street was first worked by Sam Pitt and James Barkly in a party of four, in 1860 ... Havelock Company closed about 1870s, their main lode dipped westward into the Cornish lease.⁷¹
- 1850s:** Head of Dry Diggings Creek worked by Colmo, Clark & Fairbairn ... they sluiced the head and also drove some tunnels into the south side of the creek. Other tunnels were: Colmos party - tunnel near the mouth of Dry Diggings Creek, which ran under the main road near Excelsior Hill. Amies tunnel - east of above, north from creek. Gillies' tunnel - going up the creek further east. Jews Gully - top of gully, comes out in Spring Creek above the Breakneck Gorge Bridge. Menz's tunnel - near Jews Gully tunnel ... and south are a number of Chinese tunnels. Phillip's tunnel - under Elevated Plain from the north side of Breakneck. Black's tunnel - south of Breakneck, under Hepburn Sports Ground, in from Jim Crow side. Vanzetta's tunnel - running west from 18th Street ... they had 5-head water powered battery. Going north towards

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70 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

71 Maddicks, H. T., 1951, p.24

Shepherds Flat are many more tunnels and various diggings on both sides of the road. Just after crossing Excelsior Bridge, above the road on the west is the Caledonia field; above the creek flats on the east is the Fry Pan Hill fields.⁷²

1860: Blanket Flat (Eganstown) - Corinella G. M. Co., Egan's homestead paddocks ... first company formed in December 1861 ... four main leads believed to pass through the land (Blanket Flat, Golden Point, Brandy Hot and Champagne) ... first shaft sunk 80-ft found 3,500ft wide lead of wash dirt ... lead was going deeper, they were compelled to sink a new shaft to 170ft ... at this point the company was re-organised... company worked until 1912 ... it employed about 120 underground miners and worked 3 shafts plus a tunnel from Deep Creek, Golden Point side..⁷³

late 1850s-1860s: Water races. By 1857 many small races were in use, but in 1857 larger ones began to be built: Wardell's Race - but in 1857 a party of Wardell, Glennon and Rose obtained a licence to construct a race from the headwaters of Wombat Creek, running along above Italian Hill, they had reached Connell's Gully by Sept 1857 ...they added another one from the Kangaroo-Musk Creek area, race in 1858. Four important races led along the northeast banks of Wombat and Sailors creeks, one tier being 50-ft above the next. By this means water could be brought into the heads of gullies for sluicing [Walkers between Central-Sutton and Tipperary Mineral Springs use these old races today as walking tracks]. Late 1860s there were 240 miles of water races serving the various diggings. These were: Millers Specimen Hill race, Wombat Creek into Specimen Hill, Wardell's race, 18 miles. Lewis's or Menadue's race, 12 miles, starting above Sailor's Falls, along west hills of Sailors Creek through Eganstown, with branches, and onto Basalt. Liepolds, started lower in Sailors Creek, Wombat Creek junction, and continued along the west bank, just above Tipperary Springs and into Bald Hill areas, approx 20 miles. They had another race from Bald Hill to Basalt. Hunts race into Dry Diggings, about 15 miles, later extended to Middleton's Creek. Phass & Co., northeast bank of Spring Creek, went as far as Jim Crow Creek junction, race auctioned in 1859. Sutton's race was also on the northeast side of Wombat Creek. Edwards race started about Wombat Flat and ran along south side. [now walking track between Central and Sutton Springs on the south side of the creek. It also served old Tom Hoath's water wheel battery a few hundred yards up Sailors Creek.

Dunstan's race in Kidd's Gully was also used to work a water wheel, and much further down Spring Creek early this century Vanzetta Bros. run a small water wheel 5-head battery. Shorter races leading along Sailors Creek were: Coppocks, 1858 Elderfields, 1858 Miller, 1857 Along Wombat Creek were: Higgs' race McQueen's race Spence's race started above Jubilee Lake and finished in his Blind Creek claim, traces of it can be seen in the parking area at the lake. Bald Hill Creek, Liepold's had another race, which ran west into the head of Boots Gully, 3 miles long. McCullums race also served claims in the area.⁷⁴

1860s-1870s: Glenlyon, Dry Diggings. The alluvial claims around the head of Middleton's Creek were rich and this led to shallow reefs being opened up. Battery owner Wilson had a mill on Middleton's Creek ... Claims such as the Beehive and Parkers Specimen Ref were extremely rich down to 100ft ... The Great Leasehold Company sank to 230ft Hunt's race started south of Coomoorra on Kangaroo Creek and continued right through Dry Diggings and then north to Middleton's Creek. Among the alluvial companies working Dry Diggings and Middleton's Creek in the 1860s/70s were Hunts, Clapham & Co., Sawpit Gully party, Pride, Kirkham & Co., Shimmins & Co., Colmo, Clarke & Fairbairn, Bleakley & Co. Shimmin opened a reef mine at the north, within sight of Mt Franklin. Another nearby Reef was the Grace Egerton. North of the reefs, the Shakespeare Co. sank on an alluvial lead, they were a party of 24 Welsh miners and followed the lead westwards towards Shepherds Flat. Just south of the Dry Diggings, near the junction of the Hepburn Springs road ... the Glen Moana Reef mine started in the 1890s and continued to WWI. Sawpit Gully, east foot of Mount Franklin, a favoured area for fine-gold panners. West of Dry Diggings to Jim Crow Creek: Dry Diggings Creek starts on the north side of the Elevated Plains, and cuts its way through the rough country of the western hills above the Old Dry Diggings township ... eventually runs into Jim Crow Creek.⁷⁵

1860: Havelock Q. M. Co., north end of Crown Reef near Stanbridge Street was first worked by Sam Pitt and James Barkly in a party of four, in 1860 ... Havelock Company closed about 1870s, their main lode dipped westward into the Cornish lease.⁷⁶

⁷² Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.42-43

⁷³ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

⁷⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.30-32

⁷⁵ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.42-43

⁷⁶ Maddicks, H. T., 1951, p.24

- Jan 1860:** Wombat and Collier Reefs are on an average paying. Perseverance Reef in Sailor's Creek is progressing as usual very good stone ... water powered battery.⁷⁷
- Jan 1860:** New Reef - Old Nuggetty Reef, Old Nuggetty Gully.⁷⁸
- Jan 1860:** New Reef - Oliver Cromwell's Reef, Glengower.⁷⁹
- Jan 1860:** Kidd's Gully rush - large number of puddlers and sluicers employed.⁸⁰
- Jan 1860:** Tunnelling - this branch of mining is almost exclusively in the hands of Swiss and Italians.⁸¹
- Feb 1860:** New Reef - Emerald Reef, between Stony Creek and Lanky Gully.⁸²
- Feb 1860:** New Reef - Pioneer Reef, Forty-Foot, Yandoit. Also mentions: Christmas Reef - deepest vein is 80ft ... King William Gully is literally swarming with Chinamen. Malcolm's Reef - Private land.⁸³
- Feb 1860:** Beehive Reef, near Dry Diggings Gully, taken up by Thomas and Co. ... only machine in neighbourhood is Wilson's machine, Middleton's Creek.⁸⁴
- Feb 1860:** Cosmopolitan Co., Commissioners Reef - erecting whim.⁸⁵
- Feb 1860:** Specimen Q. M Co., Specimen Hill, Wombat Creek, 7 acres of ground applied for.⁸⁶
- Feb 1860:** Tunnelling - Elevated plains on Spring Creek and Italian Hill on Wombat Creek are the principal hills being worked by tunnels, and on the Fiery and Sebastopol Hills, Deep Creek.⁸⁷
- Feb 1860:** Principal scene in alluvial sinking is on Whitehead's Lead, at the head of Kidd's Gully.⁸⁸
- May 1860:** New reef - Hamburgh Reef, Forty-Foot, Yandoit.⁸⁹
- May 1860:** Parker's Specimen Reef, head of Dry Diggings, five of the old claims have been worked to water level, and have lately amalgamated.⁹⁰
- May 1860:** On Wombat Reef the Cornish party is till getting payable stone ... Colliers Reef, Wombat, Messrs Winther...⁹¹
- May 1860:** New Nuggetty Reef, Connell's Gully, still turn out first rate stone.⁹²
- May 1860:** Doctors Reef, Doctors Gully, Needham had bought the whole mine.⁹³

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- May 1860:** Mr. Wilson's race from Wollowbee Creek comes across the elevated plains.⁹⁴
- June 1860:** New reef - Trogisch's Reef, near German Gully, Yandoit.⁹⁵
- June 1860:** Glengower Deep Lead - Boatswain's, Sardinian and Christieson's reefs ... total absence of crushing machinery.⁹⁶
- June 1860:** On Wombat Hill, the Cornish party, employing 15 or 16 men, making fair wages.⁹⁷
- June 1860:** A site for crushing machine has been applied for on the Jim Crow Creek, near Franklinford.⁹⁸
- June 1860:** On Table Hill, near Connell's Gully, a few claims have lately been taken up.⁹⁹
- June 1860:** Wardle and Co. are bringing in a race, commanding Connell's Gully and surrounding ranges from Kangaroo Creek, the length of which, including 2 miles of fluming, will be about 17 miles, cost about £1100.¹⁰⁰
- June 1860:** Alluvial sinking dull - apart from New Nuggetty Gully, Yandoit ... discovery of 277 oz. Nugget. Upwards of 200 miners at work.¹⁰¹
- July 1860:** Welcome's Reef Co.'s machine now commenced operations.¹⁰²
- June 1860:** Puddling and sluicing - satisfactory ... Tunnelling, our principle Basaltic hills are at present in full work.¹⁰³
- June 1860:** Principal, and I may say the only, localities for tub and cradle work are Boots and Yandoit.¹⁰⁴
- June 1860:** Burnt Swamp alluvial workings - two parties who have cut races from the head of the swamp and Splitter's Creek.¹⁰⁵
- August 1860:** Yandoit looks as busy as when the Forty-Foot Lead was in its glory ... due to splendid returns obtained from several reefs ... may result in a permanent quartz reefing district. Mainly from Pioneer and Hamburg reefs.¹⁰⁶
- August 1860:** Wombat reef, the Cornish party have their own crushing machine...¹⁰⁷
- August 1860:** New Nuggetty Reef, Connell's Gully, has purchased Trimble and Co.'s machine.¹⁰⁸
- August 1860:** Pioneer Reef, opened in March ... 11 to 15 oz. to ton; and Hamburg Reef, discovered in May, by Lodigers, Loft and Co., has been till now the richest in the district; Glamorganshire Reef, opened in July; also Malcolm's Reef, New German Reef, Cosmopolitan and Trogish reefs continue to yield well; plus new reefs opened since August - Homeward Bound, Welshman's Reef (south continuation of Pioneer), Rising Sun, Fisher's Reef, and Spread Eagle Reef (north continuation of Hamburg).¹⁰⁹

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- August 1860:** Some of the old tunnels along Bald Hill Creek are again being put in working order.¹¹⁰
- August 1860:** Alluvial sinking - no new ground, daily becoming a more precarious means of living ... New Nuggetty Gully appears almost inexhaustible and therefore, the principal locality for tub and cradle operators around Yandoit.¹¹¹
- Sept. 1860:** The principal lines of reef in Yandoit are taken up, and being prospected for miles ... several crushing machines spoken of as likely to be erected if the present impetus to quartz mining in Yandoit establishes the permanency of our reefs.¹¹²
- Sept. 1860:** Crushing from Glamorganshire Reef at Franklinford mill (water-powered).¹¹³
- Sept. 1860:** Morrison's crushing machine on Jim Crow Creek.¹¹⁴
- Sept. 1860:** New powerful engine bound for Old German Reef.¹¹⁵
- Sept. 1860:** Wombat Reef - handsome profit by Cornish party, owing more to their superior method of working than the quality of their stone.¹¹⁶
- Sept. 1860:** Boots Gully - the flat has been taken up by sluicing parties, using Cortial's race from Sailor's Creek.¹¹⁷
- Sept 1860:** Tunnelling is one of our most profitable branches of mining.¹¹⁸
- Oct 1860:** Quartz mining on Jim Crow proper is till in the old claims profitable.¹¹⁹
- Oct 1860:** In Yandoit, the first excitement of the rush is gradually subsiding into a legitimate well-directed and energetically prosecuted system of prospecting; almost every hill within miles, where any prospect of striking a reef, ringing with the sound of pick and axe.¹²⁰
- Oct 1860:** A few parties have started tunnels from Jim Crow Creek into the tableland below Shepherd's Flat.¹²¹
- Nov 1860:** Strangways - Pickpocket Hill has lately engrossed the attention of the Chinese.¹²²
- Nov 1860:** Summerside Reef, Keep-it-Dark Gully ... good prospect.¹²³
- Nov 1860:** Melvin's Reef, head of Blind Creek, Adams and Needham's machine removed thither from Benoil's Reef, Doctors Gully.¹²⁴
- Nov 1860:** Tunnelling, only news is that the hills along Jim Crow Creek, north of Shepherd's Flat, have mostly been taken up ... On Elevated Plains, Italian Hill, and Stony Creek Ridge, most of the

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deserted ground has been re-occupied ... On Fiery and Sebastopol Hills, Deep Creek, the Ballarat Co.'s tunnel is also working.¹²⁵

- Nov 1860:** New Nuggetty Gully - nearly all the inhabitants of the gully have united in the formation of three companies ... intended to cut one main drain for the 3 companies, and then face out and puddle the whole of the gully.¹²⁶
- Dec 1860:** Jim Crow portion, most of the known reefs are occupied - Melvin's Reef, Wombat Reef, Welcome Reef, New Nuggetty Reef in Connell's Gully.¹²⁷
- Dec 1860:** Doctor's Reef, taken up by Ballarat company.¹²⁸
- Dec 1860:** Parkers Specimen Reef ... Mr. Wilson, occupying adjoining claim north, having established a sawmill in connection with the engine driving his crushing plant ... Sportsman Reef, continuation.¹²⁹
- Dec 1860:** Apparent dullness in Yandoit ... demise of Yandoit Q. M. Co.¹³⁰
- Dec 1860:** Old German Reef, site for machinery dam and tramway has been granted, Messrs Hutton and Rankin's claims ... Goldsmith Q M. Co., immediately north.¹³¹
- Dec 1860:** Great Reef Co. purchased the defunct Yandoit Q. M. Co.'s plant.¹³²
- Dec 1860:** Upper parts of Keep It Dark and Boots Gully being systematically worked, drained and faced out bodily.¹³³
- Dec 1860:** Lower part of Bald Hill Creek taken up by Chinese for sluicing.¹³⁴
- Dec 1860:** Yandoit - New Nuggetty Gully Co. and two other companies ... engaged in cutting a tail drain.¹³⁵
- Jan 1861:** In Yandoit matters in regards quartz mining have been unusually dull. A large number of persons prospecting for quartz having attained the water level, and either not have the means or not seeing sufficient inducement to erect machinery.¹³⁶
- Jan 1861:** Old German Reef, Rankin and Company and Hutton and Company have amalgamated under the firm Rothschild and are making arrangements for erection of machinery ... Goldsmith's Co., on the same reef, have nearly got their engine ready.¹³⁷
- Jan 1861:** Great Reef Co., Pioneer Reef, pumping and crushing.¹³⁸
- Jan 1861:** In puddling and sluicing, matters have continued the same as usual. Puddling has at least in most instances been continued, and although the proceeds generally speaking cannot be called brilliant; still the steadiness of employment and the yield is fully appreciated by our miners. Hence the greater majority always prefers even comparatively poor sluicing or puddling ground to the uncertainty of tub or cradle workings.¹³⁹

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- Jan 1861:** Several patches of very good shallow ground have been found near the heads of Brandy Hot and Butterfly Gullies.¹⁴⁰
- Feb 1861:** About Boots a number of reefs cropping out of the surface have in the last month began to attract notice of the alluvial miners in the surrounding gullies and companies are being formed to prospect them.¹⁴¹
- Feb 1861:** Melvin's Reef, crushing machinery at work.¹⁴²
- Feb 1861:** Yandoit, quartz mining - a kind of uncertainty hangs over the place that cannot help showing its depressing influence on business in general.¹⁴³
- Feb 1861:** The reservoir in Wombat Creek is now rapidly advancing towards completion.¹⁴⁴
- Feb 1861:** Between Shepherd's Flat and Yandoit a number of tunnels are going in.¹⁴⁵
- Feb 1861:** In the Green Hills or Bald Hills Yandoit, a tunnel put in years ago at a distance of 900 feet discovered deep ground.¹⁴⁶
- Feb 1861:** In Jim Crow this branch of mining is almost exclusively confined to the vicinity of Butterfly Gully and Blanket Flat.¹⁴⁷
- March 1861:** Gibson's Reef was discovered last week in an alluvial shaft, sunk in old ground in Scotchman's or Brandy Hot Gully.¹⁴⁸
- March 1861:** On Adam's New Reef, Old Tom Gully ... a prospecting claim a kiln will shortly be crushed.¹⁴⁹
- March 1861:** Melvin's Reef, head of Blind Creek ... has crushing machinery.¹⁵⁰
- March 1861:** New German Reef ... purchasers of claim have brought boiler, stampers and other gear to the ground.¹⁵¹
- March 1861:** Creek sluicing, almost exclusively carried on by the Chinese.¹⁵²
- March 1861:** A lead has been found extending through Daylesford township from the head of Doctor's Gully. Several tunnels have been started for the same lead in the southern part of Daylesford.¹⁵³
- March 1861:** Deep ground has been found in Blanket Flat, near Deep Creek; the deepest shaft is down 130 feet, and has a considerable amount of water to contend to.¹⁵⁴
- April 1861:** New Nuggety Reef, also in Connell's Gully ... erection of steam machinery for baling.¹⁵⁵

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- April 1861:** New German Reef, Cuthbert and Co. are busy erecting their battery near the Yandoit Creek ... tramway of upwards of 1,000ft.¹⁵⁶
- April 1861:** Puddling has during the last month received quite an impetus. From Bendigo and Forest Creek, where generally puddlers are considered more expert than elsewhere parties are weekly coming in, and most of them after a while take up claims and domesticate themselves in Jim Crow, a circumstance that augers well for the prosperity of the coming winter ... The creek beds are in full occupation by Chinese.¹⁵⁷
- April 1861:** In Blanket Flat, between Daylesford and Deep Creek, deep ground has been found, apparently traceable to Black Jack's Gully and trending in a north-westerly direction towards Mr. Egan's station ... three shafts going down, one bottomed on a reef at a depth of 135ft.¹⁵⁸
- April 1861:** The Grand Junction has purchased an engine, and the rest of the Yandoit plains are just being taken up by a strong party.¹⁵⁹
- May 1861:** The Perseverance Co., in bed of Sailor's Creek, near Tipperary Point, has by the setting in of the wet season been compelled to suspend operations.
- May 1861:** Pioneer Reef, Pioneer Co., boiler has arrived.¹⁶⁰
- May 1861:** A considerable number of puddlers from Bendigo and Forest Creek have lately settled in Jim Crow, and seem to be very well satisfied with this locality. Puddlers machines are gradually being erected in the outlying western gullies, Shicers, Sulky, and Champagne and surrounding gullies.¹⁶¹
- May 1861:** The greater portion of the old ground on Italian Hill, Wombat Creek, is fully occupied ... The same may be said of the elevated plains and other basaltic hills on the Spring and Sailors Creeks, and from thence downwards long Jim Crow Creek through Franklinford towards Yandoit fresh tunnels are going in at short intervals.¹⁶²
- May 1861:** In the Green Hills, on Yandoit Creek, several claims have lately been taken up, the Manchester Co. being duly expected to break into the gutter.¹⁶³
- May 1861:** In Alluvial ... the principal feature is the progress of the township's lead in Daylesford, the lead having as far as hitherto traced, proved itself of more than usual richness, £10 per week per man, being the minimum yield in several of the claims.¹⁶⁴
- May 1861:** King William Gully, Yandoit, the Young Extended Co. have shifted their engine.¹⁶⁵
- June 1861:** Immediately below Bryce's Flay, Sailors Creek, Reynolds and Co. are sluicing the surface.¹⁶⁶
- June 1861:** Yandoit ... a very great number on which 6 or 8 month's labour has been extended, as yet unsuccessful, are reserved for want of funds, excess water, or other reasons; a frequent one of which is the contributing shareholders neglecting to pay up their calls, thus compelling the working shareholders to look to the surrounding alluvial workings for their existence.¹⁶⁷

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- June 1861:** In Yandoit the whole of Frenchman's Hill has been taken up for tunnelling; a race has been cut from the Yandoit Creek and most parties are doing well ... The Manchester Co. has sunk a shaft on Yandoit Hill. ¹⁶⁸
- July 1861:** Melvin's Reef, the whole ground has been deserted, engine is about to be removed. ¹⁶⁹
- July 1861:** The Fearnought Company (Addis and Co.) mining under Camp Street are eclipsing most of the quartz mining companies about Jim Crow, 250 tons yielded at a rate of 2_ oz. per ton. ¹⁷⁰
- July 1861:** Adelaide Reef have purchased and refitted a mill worked by water wheel on sailor's Creek. ¹⁷¹
- July 1861:** On Parkers, Specimen Reef, the Dry Diggings Co. have now made arrangements with a party from Sandy Creek to furnish machinery. ¹⁷²
- July 1861:** Trogish Reef, prospectors getting a kiln ready. ¹⁷³
- July 1861:** New German Reef, erecting steam crushing machine on Yandoit Creek. ¹⁷⁴
- July 1861:** The destruction of the Hepburn Reservoir on 14 July through drifting timber accumulating in the bye-wash. ¹⁷⁵
- July 1861:** The only notable event in sluicing has been the cutting of new race from the head of Sailor's Creek towards the heads of Old Tom, German Gully, and vicinity, and six or seven sluicing claims have been taken up in these gullies. ¹⁷⁶
- July 1861:** Tunnelling - In Italian or Hard Hill, Stony Creek Ridge, and Elevated Plains, a considerable number of miners are now engaged. ¹⁷⁷
- July 1861:** Wombat Hill Co., sinking shaft ¹⁷⁸
- July 1861:** The Shepherd's Flat G.M. Co. is engaged in removing engine to new shaft. ¹⁷⁹
- July 1860:** Forty Foot - The Phoenix Company, t the head of Forty Foot, have got their shaft down 2 30ft. ¹⁸⁰
- July 1861:** Glengower ... Only about 30 or 40 people are now living in the locality, and apparently making a good living. ¹⁸¹
- August 1861:** Wombat Reef - The Cornish party have been laying down tramway, completing their machinery, pumping and otherwise ... South of this company a large claim has been taken up by a company to be called the "Argus" is in course of formation to work this ground by bringing in a tunnel from Smith's Creek ... On Colliers Reef ... The Havelock Co. intend bringing in a tunnel from the foot of the hill. ¹⁸²

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- August 1861:** Parker's Specimen Reef ... company called the Prince Llewellyn.¹⁸³
- August 1861:** Discovered reefs in Jim Crow include Gray's Reef, Frenchman's, Luther's, Mauritzians, Doctors and Commissioners.¹⁸⁴
- August 1861:** The only new ground taken up for puddling and sluicing has been the head of Old Tom Gully, Champagne, and surrounding workings in the western portion of Jim Crow ... a race has been cut to the ground from Sailor's Creek above the Sailor's Creek Fall.¹⁸⁵
- August 1861:** On Hard Hill, Stony Creek, 3 tunnels have now broken into the gutter.¹⁸⁶
- August 1861:** Table Hill and most of the basaltic hills along Sailor's Creek and Doctors' Gully are fully occupied.¹⁸⁷
- August 1861:** Northern portion of Elevated Plains between Breakneck and Excelsior hotel, five tunnels are going ahead across the old workings ... Between Shepherd's Flat and Franklinford one tunnel in Moore's Gully, prospecting for the northern continuation of the Elevated Plains Lead, has struck a narrow lead.¹⁸⁸
- August 1861:** On the Township Lead, Spence and Co. tunnel have broken into the gutter.¹⁸⁹
- August 1861:** In Glengower, on Deep Creek, hill worked two years ago by tunnels being looked at again.¹⁹⁰
- Sept 1861:** Specimen Reef, or the White Reef, Specimen Hill, Wombat Creek ... company has been formed.¹⁹¹
- Sept 1861:** Colliers Reef - Reilly, Duckworth & Co., Woodworth & Co., Cowham & Co., Sampson & Co., Connolly & Co., and Crohzier & Co.¹⁹²
- Sept 1861:** On Emu Reef, the Hong Kong Co has purchased an engine.¹⁹³
- Sept 1861:** Adelaide Reef or the Welcome Reef, head of Don't-wake-em ... several claims working.¹⁹⁴
- Sept 1861:** Parker's Specimen Reef, Prince Llewellyn Co. ... erecting machinery ... and have purchased Wilson's race, from Wallowbee Creek to Shepherd's Flat, passing through the company's site for machinery, and dam, for the sum of £115.¹⁹⁵
- Sept 1861:** Glengower - last 18 months shafts have been sinking on Oliver Cromwell Reef, Sardinian Reef, and Boatswain's Reef.¹⁹⁶
- Sept 1861:** Discovery of Whiskey Lead, near Champagne Gully.¹⁹⁷
- Sept 1861:** Glengower - some 50 or 60 miners are working with various successes in the old shallow ground, principally Stockyard Gully.¹⁹⁸

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- Oct 1861:** Sportsman Reef, Dry Diggings, Blythman & Co. erecting machinery.¹⁹⁹
- Oct 1861:** The principal localities for puddling during last season were Chinaman's Flat, Blind Creek, and surrounding gullies, commanded by water races and generally where running water was easily available, near Spring Creek, Sailor's Creek etc; but this season puddling machines are gradually making their appearance in the western portion of the division - such as Old Tom, Champagne, Brandy Hot, Break-of-Day, and adjacent gullies...Sluicing does not this season employ so large a number of miners as formerly; the principal reason for which is, that the beds of our creeks and adjoining low banks are nearly worked out, and to cut races now sufficiently high to work the high ground would be too expensive in proportion to the length of the time such races would be likely to supply the claims. The principal more extensive races already cut, command water-rights out of the creeks, according to their date of construction, and races cut now would therefore, in all probability, hardly be able to obtain water for more than two or three months during the season. Several of these races, already cut, have attained a considerable height above the creeks, and might, perhaps be profitably extended to localities where hitherto sluicing has been an impossibility; but to carry these races for any distance would, owing to the broken nature of the ground, and consequent frequent crossing of deep gullies and creeks, in some cases more than 200 feet beneath the height of the race attained, be a work of more than ordinary magnitude, and generally too expensive to be undertaken by private enterprise.²⁰⁰
- Oct 1861:** In tunnelling the principal news during the last month come to my knowledge is the breaking through to reef of Messrs Hart and Company, and Respini and Company, on the Elevated Plains, immediately north of Mr Meggett's private property ... The rest of the plains to the north-westward is taken up, and tunnels are busily being driven in.²⁰¹
- Oct 1861:** On Italian Hill ... a number of parties are at work. Stony Creek Ridge, Fiery Hill, is now nearly completely gutted out, and a great portion of the old workings has settled down from the surface. Sebastopol Hill, most of the workings have shared the same fate.²⁰²
- Oct 1861:** Along Jim Crow Creek, from Shepherd's Flat to Yandoit, nearly all the ground is occupied, and the few tunnels broken through are doing well ... In Yandoit, the greater portion of the Green or Bald Hills are taken up for tunnelling.²⁰³
- Oct 1861:** Township Lead is nearly worked out between Doctors Gully and Vincent Street ... productive companies further along the lead include Emerald G. M. Co. and Wombat Hill G. M. Co.²⁰⁴
- Nov 1861:** The alluvial companies in Yandoit are, one after the other, disappearing. They have all got gold in their respective claims, but the ground will not pay for it is being worked on a large scale, the gold generally being found in a few narrow gutters, and the quantity of stuff therefore not being adequate to keep the machines employed. The last of the companies, the Grand Duke, have also suspended operations [end of deep lead mining at Yandoit?].²⁰⁵
- Dec 1861:** Melvin's Reef ... lately taken up again.²⁰⁶
- Dec 1861:** On the Stony Creek Ridge, dividing Long or Black Swamp from Blind Creek, several claims have lately been taken up for prospecting.²⁰⁷
- Dec 1861:** Wombat Reef, Wombat Hill, the Cornish party are principally crushing for hire ... Colliers Reef, whole of the claims are at a standstill ... Connell's Reef, the whole of the ground is deserted.²⁰⁸

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- Dec 1861:** Prince Llewellyn Co, crushing machine ... Sportsman's Reef, crushing machine being erected.²⁰⁹
- Dec 1861:** Hoggett's Reef, the Morning Star Co. busy fitting up a new steam engine intended to drive a battery of 12-heads.²¹⁰
- Dec 1861:** Oliver Cromwell's Reef, intended to erect a battery powered by water wheel.²¹¹
- Dec 1861:** Tunnelling - this branch of mining is mostly prosecuted by Italians, from whom it is very difficult to obtain any information.²¹²
- Dec 1861:** Township Lead is still paying handsomely ... Emerald Co. and Wombat Hill G. M. Co.²¹³
- 1860-1864:** The Cornish Q.M. Co. was an amalgamation of 16 Cornish miners' grounds worked as a Co-op syndicate who bought out various other small claim owners who had worked the ground between 1854 and 1860. This syndicate had sunk only with whims and whips, using independently owned crushing machines between 1860-1863. ²¹⁴
- 1860-1864:** Cornish Company paid in dividends, from 1860 to 1864, an amount of £24,000 ... The company's lease is traversed by the Crown Reef, Black Reef, Collier's Reef and Roman Eagle Reef²¹⁵
- 1860s:** First known as Wombat Hill Reefs: Eureka or Eastern Reef, top of the hill, Stanley Street region. Crown Reef, next west, running roughly along Queensberry Street; Cornish Reef, slightly below Queensberry Street, and crossing Orford Street; Bonard's shaft, Orford Street, mullock dump and site of Thomas's Lookout in the 1940s, close to the corner of Orford's and Grant's Streets; Cornish shaft, south of Bonard's, but not as far as Houston Street; Colliers shaft (renamed Mitchell's), south of Bonard's, on the line of Orford Street, junction of Orford and Houston streets, the shaft was right in the junction and was on the earliest reef opened up by Parsons and Cocksley in 1854 (Colliers Reef); Sandstone Reef, between the Cornish and Colliers reefs.²¹⁶
- early 1860s:** Mines associated with the Corinella were - Grand National, originally known as Blanket Flat Co. (1862); Great Extended Co. and the United Military Co. (top of the range). Both 1865. Brandy Hot was north of the deep lead mines and was a 'jewellers shop'. Keep it Dark alluvial and reef is - north of Brandy Hot ... first opened by James Walker in the late 1850s. Walker got some fantastic crushings from the shallow depths on the reef 16 tons/235 oz. and 12 tons/321 oz in 1872. Walker also managed the Keep it Dark Co. ... other mines were South Keep it Dark, Last Chane and Salmon's claim. East of the Keep It Dark area and east of the road to the Don't Wake Em Gully was prospected by Richardson and party about 1860 ... it was already a well worked alluvial gully all the way down into Bald Hill Creek. One of the reefs found was the General Gordon and a little south were the Dannevirke and Adelaide Reef companies.²¹⁷
- 1860s:** Cornish Company's battery on top of spur that runs out to the Argus area.²¹⁸
- early 1860s:** One of the mines between Coomoorra and Glenlyon was the Bank of England in the Kangaroo Creek area ... there was intensive alluvial mining in this part of Kangaroo Creek.
- early 1860s:** North-eastern slopes of Italian Hill, leading down into Jubilee Lake are several very early tunnels ... Wilson drove three tunnels high up in the north-eastern slope. Paganetti's Italian Hill tunnel was the longest from the Lake area and goes in close on a mile, to near the British Champion shaft. Cacerote's Federal tunnel - western face of hill, beside the later Ballarat rail

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 214 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.26
 215 Mining Surveyors Reports, June 1889
 216 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.24
 217 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23
 218 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.24

line ... on the north were the British Empire and the Royal Standard ... On the north-east was the Magenta tunnel and the south-west Wombat Creek. Pozzi and Fumbergers Long Tunnel was discovered in 1857 and worked continuously by the party, or syndicates, from 1862 to 1912. It is about 1 mile long, going eastwards ... Water from the tunnel was used in the State Government battery ... Walker's worked the tunnel in the 1930s. Mouth of Long tunnel, just below the road leading to Jubilee Lake Road eastwards up Patterson Street. The much-reduced dump of this mine is just south of where this road leads off eastwards.²¹⁹

- early 1860s:** The minor rush of 200 men to a gully east of Adam's Hill gave birth to the Garibaldi mine on the north, followed by the Daylesford Alluvial, the Golden Gate and Fountain Head. Adam's Hill under Smiths Street ... On the opposite side, east of Wombat Hill, the Red White & Blue Co. ... Danish Danne Broge Co., worked Deadman's Lead ... also on the lead were the California Co., the Scottish and Cornish ... further east was the O'Hara Burke party and another lead going to Coomoora.²²⁰
- early 1860s:** Deep Lead - At Eganstown the Corinella Lead also proved highly successful.²²¹
- early 1860s:** Deep Lead - Continuation of the Township Lead ... The really successful mines of the early 1860s were those formed to follow the Township Lead of buried alluvials ... originally worked as Doctor's Gully ... companies formed to work it included the Township Lead Co. Commercial Union Co. Wombat Hill Co. Union Co. Haphazard Co. and Royal Oak Co. To the mid-1860s, the lead had won yielded some 250,000 oz. of gold ... Other companies included Defiance, White Star, Exchequer Co. Concordia Tunnel Co. and Astley Co. ²²²
- early 1860s:** Chinese mining and camps. Many of the tunnels into the elevated plains, south-eastern slopes, opposite Hepburn were also known as Chinese tunnels ... Chinese alluvial workers were spread along Spring Creek, Jim Crow Creek and up Sailors and Wombat creeks and gullies. Their chief camp was in Hepburn, right on top of the steep bank of Spring Creek between the present 17th and 20th Streets ... there were market gardens at the south end of Perrins St (now covered by Lake Daylesford) and others in Sailors Creek, Stony Creek and Kidd's Gully.²²³
- early 1860s:** Specimen Hill reefs and early alluvial sluicers. The Specimen Hill Q.M Co. was the leading Daylesford quartz mine in the early 1860s ... formed in 1862 ... shafts greatest depth was 600ft. The mine was closed about 1877 ²²⁴
- c.1864-1869:** Main mines of the Coomoora area ... the next claim was the Perseverance, its dump can be seen opposite the Porcupine Ridge turn-off. Next was Newton's (these two later amalgamated) and then just 1,000 ft south of the coming Coomoora township site was the first Wallaby claim. After persistent efforts with water it closed in 1864, and another was started nearer the road by Corkill and Co. Around about Coomoora town were smaller mines such as the Pig, the Squirrel, the Energetic, the Creavey and opposite Snake Hill, near the flour mill was the Duke of Cornwall, where finally the supposed still Daylesford Township Lead was lost. The Duke of Cornwall mine was a wealthy mine ... Many other mines were sunk through the basalt trying to trace this lead, but only one the Daylesford struck another tributary with some success. They ran a tramline to wash their dirt at the Wallaby machines, 29 in numbers. Theirs was a fine white gravel much prized for town footpaths ... Eastwards of Coomoora various tunnels into the western bank of the Loddon - with little success.²²⁵

²¹⁹ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.17-18
²²⁰ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20
²²¹ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.12
²²² Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.13-14
²²³ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.39
²²⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.37-38
²²⁵ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.15

- mid 1860s:** The deep leads of Mt. Franklin and Franklinford. Two main leads were enriched by the Dry Diggings Reefs ... first of several shafts of the Shakespeare Co ... Further north the lead was sunk on near William Strawhorn's present home ... shaft was 157ft deep ... the lead was a wet one, and in an attempt to drain it a tunnel was driven in from Jim Crow Creek, just opposite where the creek runs alongside the road west of the area ... went in for a 1,000 yards. Leviathan Company. North of the Township of Franklinford the lead was worked by the New Era, just north of the Franklinford Cemetery ... the same lead continues running down to the Yandoit-Jim Crow bridge, and has been worked from tunnels coming in from the creek and heading eastwards. Directly to the west of Mt. Franklin another lead headed from Jim Crow Creek and was worked by the Robert Burns ... Other mines to work these leads were the Champion, Knickerbocker and the Mt. Franklin Co.²²⁶
- 1863-1864:** First free companies to register were the Old Cornish in the centre about where Orford and Houston Streets cross. At the south end, just above the Smiths Creek northern side the Argus claims, and on north of Stanbridge Street the Fear Not Co.²²⁷
- 1863-1864:** Deep lead mining, then northern end of the Crown Reef is thought to have been the source of the Union-Township Lead, and various tunnels had been driven north-east under Stanbridge and Queensberry Street ... One of the these was the Spillacis Tunnel of about 1400ft running north-east under the North Crown lease in Queensberry Street ... Swiss miners.²²⁸
- 1864-1889:** The Cornish Quartz Co. was registered with the capital increased to 1300 shares of £3-10-0 each. Most were taken up by the original 16. Some of them retired and went home to Cornwall. With the formation of a company and new winding engine, the shaft (Bonnards) was bailed out, but the results were disappointing. So a new shaft was sunk nearer the Havelock, seeking the Crown lode ... eventually the company sank to 600-ft. using the two main shafts, Bonnards and Colliers. The original Cornish Co. continued as a good dividend up until 1886. Wound up in 1889.²²⁹
- Jan 1863:** A considerable number left the division for New Zealand. Quartz mining is reported to be attracting a large share of public attention, but no new discoveries ...The want of water much felt, and puddling and sluicing operations are at a standstill.²³⁰
- Jan 1863:** Tunnelling is progressing much the same as usual. This branch of mining is not so much affected by the scarcity of water as others, because of the general rule, the tunnel from which the gutter is worked produces water enough to feed a puddling machine, and the more gravelly stuff is therefor stacked until the following winter, only sufficient of the most clayey stuff being washed to keep the party going. A couple of large claims have been taken up at the head of Sailor's and Copper's Creeks, near the dividing range.²³¹
- March 1864:** **Pickpocket** - Pickpocket, Chance Reef, Clements and Christmas Reef, Petticoat and Scotchman's Gully. Yandoit and Forty-Foot - Shicers Gully and Flat, Old Nuggetty Gully, New Nuggetty Gully, Yandoit Creek and Bald Hills, Jim Crow, below Shepherd's Flat, King William and Cocker's Gully, Forty-Foot Gully and German Gully. **Boots** - Green and Welcome gullies, Boots and Shicers gullies, Butterfly and Porter gullies, Yorkey and Humphries gullies, Splitters Flat, Bald Hill Creek and Italian Gully, Bald Hill, Don't-wake-em, Sulky and Keep-em-Dark gullies, and Adelaide Reef. **Blanket Flat** - Old Brandy Hot, New Brandy Hot, Deep Creek and Italian Gully, Blanket Flat, Whiskey and Champagne, Black Jack and Emu, Old Tom Gully, Switzerland, New Adam's, Frenchman's, German and Biggam's Gully. **Wombat** - Burnt Swamp, Feehan's Gully, Lanky Gully, Stony Creek, and "The Ridge", Blind Creek, Cameron's Gully, Melvins Reef, Specimen Hill and Wombat Creek, Italian Hill and Smiths Creek.
- Daylesford, Glenlyon, Sailors Creek, Spring Creek** - Spring Creek and Old Racecourse, Doctors and Cobblers Gully, Kidd's Gully, Welshman's Gully, Woman's Gully, and Elevated Plains. **Dry Diggings** - Dry Diggings, Middleton Creek, and Sawpit Gully. **Fryingpan and Shepherds Flat, Glengower.**²³²

226 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.44
 227 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23
 228 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.25
 229 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.24
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Blanket Flat (Eganstown). The centre of Eganstown was the rich alluvial flat along Champagne Gully ... it was generally known as Blanket Flat.²³³

- 1864:** Parties at Blanket Flat and Whisky Lead were Terry and party using Bianci's race; Miser and party; Dutson, Goldie, Manners near Corinella Hotel in an adit; Emil Hall and party at Sailors and Stony Creek. Baird and party, Prince of Wales Co. in Don't Wake Em Gully. Champagne Gully, north into Egan's PR - not worked till late, when sluicers, the Sullivan Brothers, went through it and uncovered the Corinella Mineral Springs. Emu Gully and the Emu reefs (at head of the gully) were worked with an open cut and various small shafts. A little further on was a later mine, the Wheal Doria. Bell's Reef mines. Old Adams and New Adams Reef mines - between Telegraph Road junction and Sailors Falls ... Deepest shaft 300ft, largely pine forest now. Reef mines in the ranges between Eganstown and Brandy Hot and Deep Creek - included the Alabama, Olive Branch and the Tandagree.²³⁴
- March 1864:** The prosecution of deep alluvial sinking in and around Daylesford, and the prospecting generally, with promising results, of the large, comparatively new tract of ground between Daylesford and the Loddon, have caused a steady increase to our mining population²³⁵
- March 1864:** Main gold producers - Fearnot United, Cornish and York, Havelock Co., Cornish Co., Daylesford Co., Specimen Co., and Wonderful Co.²³⁶
- June 1864:** A company called "The Arastra" has been formed, and machinery erected, with the view of operating upon the large quantity of quartz tailings accumulated in Wombat Flat ... accumulated from the Cornish Co.'s engine and engines in Long and Johnson's gullies.²³⁷
- June 1864:** Puddling and sluicing - These branches of mining have enough water and are generally in full operation ... Some two or three of the more extensive races, Wardle's, Coppock's, and Prestwich's, have only commenced running ... Nearly the whole of Don't-wake-em, Butterfly, Sulky, and Scotty's gullies have been taken up for sluicing purposes, as also the lower part of Boot's, where water will be supplied by Croker's race from Sailor's Creek.²³⁸
- June 1864:** Tunnelling does not offer any new features ... the Mysterious Co tunnel at Elevated Plains has reached a new gutter. At Brandy Hot, the Tandragee tunnel is expected to break into deep ground.²³⁹
- June 1864:** Deep sinking in and around Daylesford monopolising greater attention - Haphazard, Homeward Bound, Union, Wombat, Defiance, and White Star companies are paying handsome dividends.²⁴⁰
- June 1864:** At Stony Creek, the Rob Roy Co. have enlarged their shaft and completed whim ... Greenwood Co., in same area, progressing.²⁴¹
- June 1864:** Mystery Co., Stony Creek Basin, no satisfaction.²⁴²
- June 1864:** Big Flat, Dry Diggings, the Shakespeare Co. has struck payable gold at 75ft.²⁴³
- June 1864:** Number of claims secured along Jim Crow Creek, from Shepherd's Flat to Franklinford.²⁴⁴

233 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

234 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

235 Mining Surveyors' Reports

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- June 1864:** Brandy Hot - Prince of Wales, Golden Gate, and Independent companies yielding good returns, the Morning Star also raising payable dirt.²⁴⁵
- June 1864:** At Gelgower a company formed for sinking a shaft on a plain near Campbelltown.²⁴⁶
- Sept 1864:** Chief quartz gold producers - Lucini Quartz Mining Co., Cornish Quartz Mining Co., Daylesford Quartz Mining Co., and Havelock Quartz Mining Co.²⁴⁷
- Sept 1864:** Everything in most satisfactory condition, especially alluvial mining. Although in most instances local capital has been found sufficient for present requirements, a considerable amount of foreign capital has been introduced, giving a great impetus to mining enterprise, and greatly enhancing the general value of scrip; in fact, the desire to invest has in some instances been carried as far as to partake more of speculation than legitimate enterprise ... Quartz mining has, during the late excitement, been almost lost sight of.²⁴⁸
- Sept 1864:** Puddling and sluicing - In comparison with former winters, the number of miners engaged is but small, owing to the fact, that most low lying and easily available ground has been worked out, and Messrs Coppock and Company's and Croker and Company's races have not been found sufficient to supply claims taken up in the early part of the winter, and the deep sinking around Daylesford has generally been found the most attractive employment during the season.²⁴⁹
- Sept 1864:** Coppock and Co. are sluicing Sulky Gully, once so famous for its nuggets, and although they have not washed up their tail ditch ... The race from Langdon's Creek, known as Pretswich and Co.'s, of which so much is expected, does not appear to be in use this winter.²⁵⁰
- Sept 1864:** Tunnelling does not afford any new features ... no new ground but the old favourite hills are well patronised.²⁵¹
- Sept 1864:** At Deep Creek, the Ballarat Co. are treating with a company for the sale of their claim, tunnel and plant ... At Glengower, the Glengower Gold Mining Co. have got their shaft down about 80 feet.²⁵²
- Sept 1864:** At Book Hill, a number of tunnels are being worked from Week's Flat, and these, as well as the tunnels under adjoining Elevated Plains are all clearing fair dividends.²⁵³

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- Sept 1864:** Deep alluvial sinking is, just at the present, the main attraction of the division and will, from all appearance remain so for many years ... The Royal Standard have got their engine going ... The Nelson G. M. Co. have bottomed their shaft ... The lead is supposed to trend in a north-westerly direction towards Glenlyon, and in that direction the California Co. has proved the existence of deep ground, and the O'Hara Burke Co. actually struck gold comparatively shallow. The excitement spread, and I believe, there is hardly at present, from the township to the junction of Kangaroo Creek and Loddon River, a block of private property or Crown Land that have not been secured under the mining bye-laws for mining purposes. In the meantime a company who has leased Mr. Parker's Station, and for some time boring, demonstrated the existence of an ancient river bed in that locality; and from the deepest bore obtained a fair sample of gold; and further down, on the supposed course, the New Year's Co. and Franklinford Co. also found deep ground, and the rush, in consequence, found vent in that direction. Between the heads of Wombat Creek and Kangaroo Creek, the Wombat Extension Co. are now down 170 feet, and expect to shortly bottom; and the ground in that locality has lately been taken up by 600 men, the companies being now in the course of formation.²⁵⁴
- Sept 1864:** Shallow alluvial mining is at a discount all over the district, except at Shicer's Gully, where a patch of payable ground has been discovered at the foot of the hill, but is only sufficient to employ miners living in the vicinity.²⁵⁵
- Dec 1864:** Main quartz companies - New Cornish Quartz Mining Co., Havelock Q. M. Co., Cornish and York Q. M. Co., and Wonderful Q. M. Co.²⁵⁶
- Dec 1864:** Mining affairs in a healthy state. In fact, on reviewing the past year, its is at once noticeable, that, on no year since the discovery of gold in the division, has the progress been at all comparable. While the yield of gold shows a very high average throughout the year, in proportion to the population: twenty-five steam engines of an aggregate power equal to 532 horses and representing a capital of upwards of £25,000 have been added to our mechanical appliances, and in addition to our dividend paying companies; nearly all the ground east of Daylesford, from the coast-range to Holcombe Station, both private and Crown lands, has been secured by well organised mining companies, mostly now in full operation ... Although the greatest attention has been directed to alluvial mining ... quartz mining has been successful, and from the splendid returns of the Specimen Reef.²⁵⁷
- Dec 1864:** Deep lead - favourite branch of mining, and on the Township Lead, the Union, Haphazard, and Wombat companies are still clearing good dividends. [Some mines not doing well] ...Hand-of-Friendship and Hope companies wound up, and Dannebrog and Red White & Blue companies are at a standstill. At Italian Hill, the Royal Standard has suffered a delay and working the lead are Nelson Co., Florence Nightingale, and Waterloo Co. Wombat Extension Co. has bottomed at 260 feet, and if the results are favourable, the consequence to the district can hardly be overrated. As far as may be judged, this would demonstrate the existence of a run of deep ground from the Dividing Range to the Comoora Co.'s ground, at Wallaby Creek.
- Dec 1864:** Another run of deep ground seems to commence from the range, near the same point, and trend in a north-easterly direction towards the Glenlyon township reserve.²⁵⁸
- Dec 1864:** At Blanket Flat the Extended Co. have also bottomed, after nearly four years incessant work.²⁵⁹
- Dec 1864:** At Brandy Hot the usual activity prevails, but some of the claims are nearly worked out ... the Tandragee tunnel is draining the deep ground. The Last Chance is waiting for machinery.²⁶⁰
- Dec 1864:** At Glengower, only one company, the Interior, are at work.²⁶¹

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- 1864-1874:** During the nine years successful mining carried out by the present company, the resources of the mine have been systematically and extensively developed, and the resulting in gold to the value of £135,000 being obtained. ... So that from the opening of the mine to the present date (1874), 140,000 tons of quartz has been crushed, yielding a grand total of 46,250 oz., realising in value £185,000. The dividends paid (exclusive of the £50,000) amount to £60,580. There are four steam winding, pumping and crushing engines constantly employed with 120 men, 60 of who are engaged on the tribute system.²⁶²
- 1864:** Some companies were both deep lead and quartz - Crown Company was first registered as an alluvial mining company; squeezed between Queensberry and Stanbridge St corner was the Havelock Company; and squeezed between Cornish and Stanbridge St. near Camp Street corner was the Roman Eagle.²⁶³
- 1864:** Crown Company, main shaft in 1864 was 210 ft, and a battery of 8 heads was used.²⁶⁴
- 1865:** Argus Q. M. Co., part of their ground crossing Smyth's Creek. their original ground included a shaft of Sampson and party which they deepened, they also ran two tunnels in from Smyth's Creek going westwards ²⁶⁵
- 1865:** Argus Company also put in three tunnels 400-ft into the Smyth's Creek heading eastwards from the south-east bank, seeking the Cornish Reef.²⁶⁶
- mid 1860s-1870s:** Main mines south of Stanbridge Street were: Cornish Company; Argus Company; Fear Not Company; Crown Company; Queens Q M Co. South of the Crown Company ... their dump now forms the south end of Queensberry Street. North Crown, north of the Crown, then Trimble and Company. Cornish & York near the Stanbridge Street corner. It was a short-lived mine.²⁶⁷
- March 1865:** Quartz mining has attracted considerable attention, principally owing to the splendid returns obtained by the Specimen Hill Co., in consequence of which 12 claims, containing upwards of 12 miles, have been taken up along the line of reef.²⁶⁸
- March 1865:** In Daylesford, the old companies that hitherto have held the sway - the Cornish, Havelock, Cornish and York, and the Fearnot United companies - do not appear t have been crushing ... The Wonderful Reef has also turned out pretty well.²⁶⁹
- March 1865:** The Dannevirke Co. has declared several dividends lately.²⁷⁰
- March 1865:** At Yandoit, the Prince of Wales has been the most successful. After working for more than a year.²⁷¹

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 263 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.25
 264 Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.23
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- March 1865:** Deep lead mining offers but little of public interest. In Daylesford, the Union and the Haphazard companies continue work with varying success ... Two of the promising prospecting companies about the district, namely, the Wombat Creek Extension, and the Great Extended on Blanket Flat.²⁷²
- June 1865:** Trafalgar Q. M. Co. have lately struck the Nuggetty Reef in their claim and obtained 10oz. per ton.²⁷³
- June 1865:** On Italian Hill, the Federal Co. has broken into the gutter at about 1,800ft.²⁷⁴
- June 1865:** At Deep Creek, the whole of Fiery Hill has been retaken up.²⁷⁵
- June 1865:** At Elevated Plains, most of the old tunnelling companies are doing well north of Meggett's paddock.²⁷⁶
- June 1865:** At Yandoit, Shicer's and Frenchman's Hill are fully taken up.²⁷⁷
- June 1865:** Deep sinking is in a healthy condition, and the confidence, lost through the rush in the end of 1864, is gradually being re-established. The White Star and Exchequer companies paying handsome dividends, and the Comoora, Wallaby and Daylesford companies have all got into deep ground. Great Central Co reported to have good prospects; and the Durham, Albert Edward, and Great Eastern companies on same lead will shortly commence operations. No definite results have yet been obtained from the Band of Hope, Great Gulf, Wombat Creek Extension, and other companies prospecting in the south-eastern part of the division, but in most of them work is being carried out with unabated vigour.²⁷⁸
- Sept 1865:** Most of the low ground and creek beds have been worked out, and barely afford employment to half the number of Chinese that used to be engaged during previous winters ... There are now two races in course of construction from Deep Creek to Yandoit; and Messrs Croker and Co.'s race from Sailor's Creek will probably be extended to the same locality, although that will in a great measure depend upon whether the lower part of Boots Gully and Bald Hill Creek will be able to afford work for another season. The race from Langdon's Creek to Champagne Gully has never been completed, and is not in fact now required, Bianchi's race from Splitters Creek, commanding nearly the same ground. It has however been so far of use to enable claimholders in the upper part of Italian Gully, Deep Creek, to sluice their ground ... Coppock and Co. are sluicing in Sulky Gully, besides supplying dams along the course of their race, and several sluicing parties in the upper end of Boot's and Don't-Wake-em gullies.²⁷⁹
- Sept 1865:** Tunnelling continues the same ... At Italian Hill the New Federal G. M. Co. have reached the gutter at about 1800ft ... At Deep Creek the principal tunnels under Sebastopol Hill are in full work ... At Stony Creek some half a dozen tunnels are still occupied.²⁸⁰
- Sept 1865:** Elevated Plains continues tolerably well, most of the tunnels from dry diggings being in full work, including St Helena G. M. Co and Britannia G. M. Co. ... Further down Jim Crow Creek a few tunnels on private property, north of Franklinford, continue to yield handsome returns.²⁸¹
- Sept 1865:** Yandoit - Shicer Hill is fully occupied ... Frenchman's Hill is now exclusively in the hands of Chinese.²⁸²

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- Sept 1865:** This branch of mining still labouring under a depression, caused by the rush in Sept and Oct last year ... The Newton, Wallaby, Comoora and Daylesford companies, and Duke of Cornwall, are all reported to have struck gold, but the "salting" of the Bank of England claim is till borne in recollection.
- Sept 1865:** Towards Shepherds Flat matters are healthier, the Champion Co. opened on payable ground. The principal difficulty appears to be finding a suitable means of washing a sufficiently large quantity of stuff and disposing of the tailings. Sluicing has hitherto generally been found the most expeditious, and the same time safest mode of washing ordinary drift, but in this instance the stuff is rather clayey, and the fall available not sufficient to permit that operation being carried out to advantage. The remaining claims of note in that locality are the Royal Oak, Robert Burns, Knickerbocker, New Year, and Leviathan...²⁸³
- Sept 1865:** At Yandoit Plains, the Daylesford Extended G. M. Co. are busy erecting their engine.²⁸⁴
- Sept 1865:** At Glengower nearly all the available ground on the supposed course of the lead, or rather deep ground, struck by the Glengower G. M. Co.²⁸⁵
- Sept 1865:** Blanket Flat - nothing worthy of remark about Great Extended Co., and New National.²⁸⁶
- Sept 1865:** Nothing of note re Last Chance Co., Brandy Hot.²⁸⁷
- Dec 1865:** Depression - simply the inevitable reaction consequent upon over speculation ... At present half of out progressive companies are at a temporary stand ... Deep sinking is at present in a languishing condition, and money is so scarce that the prospects of a speedy recovery are by no means flattering. In all directions operations have been suspended...²⁸⁸
- Dec 1865:** Tunnelling - Ballarat Tunnel Co., at Sebastopol Hill and Federal Co., Italian Hill, continue looking well.²⁸⁹
- March 1866:** Dannevirke Co., on Adelaide Reef, is now erecting powerful machinery.²⁹⁰
- March 1866:** Deep sinking still depressed.²⁹¹
- June 1866:** The Specimen Hill Co. have not for some time been crushing, having been engaged in procuring and erecting additional powerful machinery; and the Nuggetty Reef Company have also bee temporarily halted.²⁹²
- June 1866:** The Cornish, Havelock, Crown and North Crown, as also the Fear-not United companies continue in a healthy condition.²⁹³

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- June 1866:** In deep sinking - two companies are being watched ... Leviathan Co., private property, near Mount Franklin; and at Deep Creek, the Smeaton Estate Co. have their machinery completed, and are now engaged driving for a lead worked in the Ballarat Tunnel Co.'s tunnel. ... The Ballarat Tunnel Co. mine has been swamped, now spoken of erecting a steam engine at the end of the tunnel.²⁹⁴
- Sept 1866:** Smeaton Estate Co. calling for tenders to erect additional puddling machines.²⁹⁵
- Dec 1866:** Chief quartz gold producers - Old Cornish, Wonderful, and Specimen Hill ... The Wombat Hill quartz reefs. Extending in parallels therefrom, are being worked with varied success by the Cornish Co.²⁹⁶
- Dec 1866:** In Alluvial workings - the lead running north-easterly from Wombat Hill is being worked by the Exchequer, Cosmopolitan, Wallaby and Daylesford companies.²⁹⁷
- Dec 1866:** The Deep Creek Lead is one of importance, and is being worked by large parties of men from the bridge to Smeaton ... The Ballarat Tunnel Co. the Smeaton Estate Co., Messrs Christensen, Morganti, Franconi, and others, are working hereon, and employ hundreds of men, together with the machinery of almost every description, and of considerable value.²⁹⁸
- 1867-1874:** Cornish Quartz Company - In the year 1867 thought advisable to sink below the water level, and to erect pumping and winding machinery, and also to erect more crushing power. A new 16-head battery was erected under the supervision of Mr W. Burall, of this town, and pumping gear attached which worked a 6-inch lift in a shaft near the site of the present battery; and at the same time it was resolved to register the company under the Act as a limited company, and in this style work was pursued anew, and the shaft now known as the 'Old Shaft' on the Wombat lode was commenced and continued to its present level, viz., 520 feet; and from this shaft the books of the company show that very nearly 200,000 tons of stone have been raised to date, producing a yield of 51,964 oz 16 dwt 6 gr of gold. Winding and pumping machinery was erected on this shaft as the depth requiring such was reached. Operations at this shaft were discontinued by the late manager, but within the last year it has again been placed in thorough repair and work resumed; and the manager is of the opinion that a very large quantity of stone will yet be raised from this part of the mine, and it is to be hoped that it will prove sufficiently remunerative to meet the heavy outlay in other parts of the claim; but as we purpose saying something presently of what is going on at the new (or main) shaft, we will digress a little by stating that in the year 1874 the company occupied the premier position in the Hepburn district.²⁹⁹
- 1867 to 1888:** Cornish Company crushed 169,809 tons for 51,067 oz ... They have paid no dividends since 1884 ... The Company have the most powerful and elaborate plant in the district, comprising all the most improved mechanical appliances for winding, pumping and crushing. The drainage from the underground workings is of a very formidable character, viz., 8,000 gallons an hour, costing £54 per week, the number of men employed on average being 80.³⁰⁰
- 1867-1880:** Argus Company, 17,799 tons at 4_ dwts per ton.³⁰¹
- 1867:** Trafalgar amalgamated with neighbour, formed the Nuggetty Ajax ... Nuggetty Ajax, old shaft lies directly in the far western part of the middle of Raglan Street ... mine's dam is the reed covered one just north-west of the shaft in Connell's shaft.³⁰²
- March 1867:** 12,500 oz. have been obtained from both quartz and alluvial workings; and the best authorities allot 4,500 oz. at the least from quartz reefs, and the remaining 8,000 oz., eight of our numerous companies working alluvial claims (viz. the Cosmopolitan, Corinella, Concordia,

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Exchequer, Ballarat Tunnel, Smeaton Estate, Duke of Cornwall, and Daylesford Extended G. M. companies) have contributed over 4,000 oz. ³⁰³

- March 1867:** Yandoit companies - Chance, Morrisons, and Glamorgan - temporarily suspended ³⁰⁴
- March 1867:** The European mining population ... now engaged advantageously on their newly acquired farms, resulting from the efficacious working of the 42nd section of the Amending Land Act 1865. Our rich volcanic soil opening up a field by which mining and farming can be easily and advantageously combined. ³⁰⁵
- March 1867:** Iveson's Reef, in Blanket Flat and Deep Creek portion of the division - 50 tons/367 oz. from 125ft down. ³⁰⁶
- March 1867:** Wonderful Reef ... company engaged in sinking a pumping and winding shaft, and contemplate the erection of an additional 12-head of stampers. ³⁰⁷
- March 1867:** Astley Co. has broken into the Cosmopolitan's workings ... their new steam engine. ³⁰⁸
- March 1867:** The late Corinella, now London and Phillip... ³⁰⁹
- June 1867:** Dee lead - The lead running north-easterly from Wombat Hill has been definitely followed to the Springs in Stanbridge PR; its is now heading through the Astley Co.'s claim, in a south-easterly direction towards O'Hara Burke's old claim. ³¹⁰
- June 1867:** Iveson's Reef, completed erection of engine and battery, one mile south-west of Corinella and south of Sebastopol Hill. ³¹¹
- June 1867:** Nuggetty Reef. Company about to renew operations, and also to include the Trafalgar. The machinery ranks with the best in the district. ³¹²
- 1867-1883:** Ajax line of reef worked extensively by McMillan and party from 1867 to 1883 down to 280 feet ... this line is slightly east of the two Nuggetty Ajax mines ... a few hundred yards north of the present rubbish tip gat ... Mcmillan dome well, pocketed £40,000 ... after 1883 working was spasmodic and shallow ³¹³
- Sept 1867:** The Astley Co. is erecting a second engine. They have purchased 10-heads of stamps. ³¹⁴
- Sept 1867:** Doctor's Reefs - The Swiss Mountain, Warrior and Pitcher's Quartz companies are vigorously working and obtaining remunerative returns. ³¹⁵
- Dec 1867:** Abundance Quartz Mining Co. is erecting powerful machinery and plant on the Scandinavian Reef. This will be found to be of great service to the Deep Creek and Blanket Flat quarter. ³¹⁶
- Dec 1867:** Cornish Quartz Mining Co., on Wombat Hill south, have recently extended their claim to 22 acres; they lately declared a dividend. ³¹⁷

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- Dec 1867:** The Astley United G. M. Co. have been crushing cement, completed erection of 10-head battery; the average width of the gutter is 50ft, and depth is 138 ft; one engine of 27hp for pumping, and crushing; and a second engine for winding.³¹⁸
- Dec 1867:** Federal Tunnelling Co., Italian Hill, is 2,500 feet, at a depth of 185 feet from grass.³¹⁹
- Dec 1867:** Fern Tree Hill Co. has erected a battery of 6-stamps/10hp engine.³²⁰
- Dec 1867:** Ballarat Tunnel Co.'s, Deep Creek, abandoned ground taken up by Sailor Prince Co. ... expected to strike gutter 1800 feet from tunnel mouth.³²¹
- March 1868:** Old Corinella Co.'s ground, Blanket Flat, yielded 2,580 oz.³²²
- March 1868:** A great number of claims have been taken up at Blanket Flat and Deep Creek.³²³
- March 1868:** Galatea G. M. Co., Fern Hill, down 11ft, supposed to be on same lead as Exchequer and Wombat Hill lead.³²⁴
- March 1868:** Duke of Cornwall Quartz Mining Co. ... working the ground formerly known as the claims of the Havelock and North Crown companies, situated between the Cornish Quartz Co. and the Cornish and French ... The Cornish Quartz Mining Co., may be ranked with the first in the district.³²⁵
- March 1868:** Cogley and party, St George's Reef, Kidd's Gully - battery of 4-heads.³²⁶
- June 1868:** Argus Quartz Mining Co., Wombat Hill south ... upon this claim are 5 distinct veins - Colliers, Sandstone, Cornish, Mullocky and Crown reefs ... The Duke of Cornwall's second engine erected.³²⁷
- June 1868:** St. George's Reef Quartz Co. has erected an engine on their claim ... the reef is southerly from the Mauritius Reef.³²⁸
- June 1868:** Pietro has completed the erection of his engine at Commissioners Reef.³²⁹
- Sept 1868:** A great number of smaller co-operative parties have been working on various unmentioned reefs throughout the district.³³⁰
- Sept 1868:** Rising Sun Quartz Mining Co., formerly Veal and party, at Frenchman's Reef, near Specimen Hill - 10hp and battery of 8-heads.³³¹
- Sept 1868:** Parkers Specimen Reef Quartz Mining Co. has purchased their plant, consisting of two engine and battery.³³²
- Yandoit - At Goldsmith's Reef, Hamburg and Steele's Reef, Sardine Reef, Hoggett's Reef and Malcolm's Reef, parties, principally from Ballarat have taken up numerous claims.³³³

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- Sept. 1868:** Treatment of pyrites may be attempted soon, though on a rude scale, at the Wombat Hill companies claims.³³⁴
- Sept. 1868:** Sebastopol Hill, ground formerly worked by Ballarat Co., worked by 20 men, the Sebastopol G. M. Co.³³⁵
- Dec 1868:** Argus Quartz Co., Wombat Hill South, is making arrangements to work jointly with the South Cornish Co.³³⁶
- March 1869:** Prince of Wales Q. M. Co. working south of the Argus Co. March 1869: March 1869: Yandoit, Engine of Daylesford Extension Co. to be erected at Sardines Reef.³³⁷
- March 1869:** Cornish Co., Wombat Hill, re-erected engine.³³⁸
- March 1869:** Astley Co. - crushed 4,974 tons of cement/799 oz.³³⁹
- March 1869:** Glengower - tunnelling vigorously being carried out.³⁴⁰
- June 1869:** Wheal Dorey Mining Co., erecting powerful machinery.³⁴¹
- June 1869:** Wallaby Co., Comoora, obtained 297 oz. from 2,376 loads of washdirt.³⁴²
- June 1869:** Hadden & Co., Wallaby Creek, have completed machinery for driving 16-heads of stampers. A good crushing of dirt gave 27ozs.³⁴³
- June 1869:** The Great Tunnelling Co., Italian Hill, is now ready to commence operations.³⁴⁴
- Dec 1869:** Astley continues to pay dividends.
- Dec 1869:** The numerous tunnel claims are being more or less worked by parties of co-operative miners, and in most cases pay fair wages.³⁴⁵
- Dec 1869:** Specimen Hill Quartz Mining Co. - 17 heads of stampers, Hungarian mills, Chilian mill, and buddle; and also the furnace.³⁴⁶
- March 1870:** Astley Co. removing plant to Perseverance Co.'s property.³⁴⁷
- March 1870:** The Wallaby and Coomora United Co. have the deepest ground, and returns sufficient to erect stampers.³⁴⁸
- March 1870:** Gladstone G. M. Co. is in their tunnel a 1,000 feet from its mouth at Stony Creek.³⁴⁹

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- March 1870:** Freehold Quartz Mining Co., inside the town boundary - works are an open cutting 150ft long, 10ft wide and 40ft deep.³⁵⁰
- March 1870:** Ellesmere Co., down 55ft, about to erect a battery and engine of stampers.³⁵¹
- March 1870:** Wheal Dorey and Hercules Quartz Mining Co. are both about to erect batteries of stampers.³⁵²
- June 1870:** Wallaby Co., Comoora, work their claim with 36 men ... they have a second engine to drive 10-heads of stamps ... 8,649 trucks, equal to 2,883 tons, 216 oz.³⁵³
- June 1870:** Astley Co. ... their valuable plant, including 12-inch pumps, and have added ten additional stampers.³⁵⁴
- June 1870:** Righetti's tunnel, 700 feet in, under Elevated Plains ... they crush by waterpower all the wash.³⁵⁵
- June 1870:** Pedrini and party at Franklinford are in 940ft.³⁵⁶
- June 1870:** The Great Tunnelling Co. is in 1,515ft.³⁵⁷
- Dec 1870:** Alluvial claims, especially those of sluicing and puddling, have, in consequence of the rainfall, contributed to swell our gold crop, which, from all sources, has considerably 10,000 oz. for the quarter ... The gold raised in this division during 12 months is nearly 35,000 oz.³⁵⁸
- 1871:** Rocky Lead District, Daylesford - Nine years prior to the commencement of the Great Northern Parker (1880) a party of men opened a large formation of quartz situated about 3 miles north-west of the Great Northern Parker. This was known as the Try Again Company. Its mine is near the ridge of the divide Original party put shaft down 75 feet ... a new shaft was put down to 200 ft.³⁵⁹
- 1871-1878:** Old North Cornish Company, 16,015 tons for 6,360 oz.³⁶⁰
- 1872-1876:** Fearnought Company, 12,699 tons for 3,111 oz.³⁶¹
- June 1871:** Quartz mining has been vigorously proceed with, the North Cornish being amongst the most prominent, 1655 tons yielding nearly 1 oz. per ton ... New Fear Not, Wombat Hill, are at 270ft. Cornish Quartz Mining Co. at work.³⁶²
- June 1871:** Hepburn Consols, at Mauritius Reef, are sinking.³⁶³
- Dec 1871:** A pyrites kiln is being erected at south of the Argus Co., which cannot but be of great benefit to this division.³⁶⁴
- Dec 1871:** Alluvial mining is principally confined to sluicing and puddling operations³⁶⁵

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| 359 | Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 3, Rocky Lead District |
| 360 | Mining Surveyors Reports, June 1889 |
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- Dec 1871:** Deep sinking - Wallaby Gold Mining Co. at Comoora and Sailor Prince at Sebastopol are progressing ... The Astley has been sold and the splendid plant will be worked by a company named the Victoria at Comoora.³⁶⁶
- March 1872:** North Cornish - struck main lode at 300ft; No. 1 North Cornish - shaft 225ft; Ajax Company, Richardson's Reef, sunk engine shaft to 100feet and about to erect machinery; Cornish Extended Quartz Mining Co., Wombat Hill South, have sunk shaft to 160 feet, and are erecting a 20hp engine; and the Fear-not are at a depth of 313ft.³⁶⁷
- March 1872:** The Daylesford Pyrites Co. have a 6hp engine and furnace 30ft long; they also have two arastras; they expect to commence roasting and crushing quartz and pyrites immediately.³⁶⁸
- March 1872:** Wonderful Co., are again re-formed and refitting the engine and plant.³⁶⁹
- March 1872:** Victoria Quartz Co., Stony Creek, is swamped out, about to erect machinery.³⁷⁰
- March 1872:** Vineyards Quartz Co., St George's Reef, will open out at 145ft.³⁷¹
- June 1872:** Cornish, North Cornish, and other companies on the same line, still continue to most successfully work. The North Cornish are erecting and additional engine.³⁷²
- Sept 1872:** Dunstan and party, Mauritius Reef ...purchased an engine and 8-head of stamps.³⁷³
- Dec 1872:** Keep-it-Dark Reef - An engine of 12hp and 10-head of stamps has been erected.³⁷⁴
- Dec 1872:** Alluvial working is principally carried on by small sluicing co-operative parties³⁷⁵
- March 1873:** The Band of Hope Q. M. Co., Nuggetty Reef, are about to replace machinery on old Nuggetty Co.'s shaft.³⁷⁶
- June 1873:** Argus United Quartz Mining Co. - driving on the 573ft level ... Cornish Q. M. Co., excellent yields, continue to pay dividends.³⁷⁷
- June 1873:** Italian Hill Quartz Mining Co., struck good quartz at 200ft north of shaft ... The Cornish and Crown, Italian Hill....³⁷⁸
- June 1873:** Band of Hope, Nuggetty Reef ... intend to erect machinery³⁷⁹
- June 1873:** No. 1 South Quartz Mining Co., St George's Reef ... tributers have succeeded in finding a shoot ... this has caused a spurt in mining operations in the immediate locality.³⁸⁰
- June 1873:** The Helvetia Q. M. Co., Wheelbarrow Point are in from the mouth of the tunnel 280ft ... four heads of stamps at work.³⁸¹

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- Sept 1873:** Greater part of the gold for the quarter obtained from quartz mining.³⁸²
- Sept 1873:** The Burall's Co., Black Jack's, after fine prospects are erecting a battery and shaft deepened to 100 feet.³⁸³
- Dec 1873:** Nothing striking to note respecting mining operations.³⁸⁴
- Dec 1873:** The Cornish Quartz Co. still maintains its position as a good dividend payer.³⁸⁵
- March 1874:** Cornish Quartz Mining Co. Wombat Hill ... dividends paid regularly.³⁸⁶
- March 1874:** Eureka Quartz Mining Co., Milkman's Reef, intends erecting machinery; they are cutting an adit tunnel to the Welshman's Gully.³⁸⁷
- June 1874:** Cornish Quartz Mining Co. - a fourth engine to be erected shortly.³⁸⁸
- June 1874:** Risk's Quartz Mining Co., Glengower .. the battery is finished.³⁸⁹
- June 1874:** The Bongaghilmu (south of Anson's), Spring Creek, have erected an engine 8hp, 8-head of stamps.³⁹⁰
- Sept 1874:** Galatea G. M. Co., Fern Hill, have cleaned out abandoned shafts, have erected whim and puddling machine.³⁹¹
- Sept 1874:** The Long Tunnel, formerly Great Tunnelling Co., Italian Hill, have recommenced and laying down a substantial tramway and iron rails.³⁹²
- Sept 1874:** The Cornish Co., maintains first position, have erected fourth engine - total 80hp will work up to 100hp.³⁹³
- Sept 1874:** Specimen Hill Co., being rewarded for their perseverance; the mine looks exceedingly well and dividends are being paid.³⁹⁴
- Dec 1874:** Cornish Co., added 6-stamps to machinery ... dividends regularly paid from 1866 to date; £140,000worth of gold obtained ... 125 men are engaged.³⁹⁵
- 1874:** Cornish Company ... About this time the claim and plant of the Havelock Quartz Mining Company and the ground of the old Crown Company was purchased. These two claims whilst working had given a return (for 120,000 tons crushed) of 28,000 oz. Within this increased area ... and more particularly as a large proportion of the stone was of a low quality An additional crushing power of (8) heads was therefore erected, making in all 24 heads ... but the company (1888) contemplate shortly erecting a large battery, with all the latest improvement. A new shaft was also commenced in the Old Havelock ground, which ... in 1888 ... had reached 976 feet.³⁹⁶

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- March 1875:** North Cornish has dismissed tributers ... recommencing.³⁹⁷
- March 1875:** Jefferies quartz mill, at Mauritius Reef, was destroyed by fire.³⁹⁸
- June 1875:** Williams and party, Warrior Reef, have erected a portable engine, 10hp, 7-inch lifts.³⁹⁹
- June 1875:** Argus United has sunk No. 1 tribute ... 30 men and boys now employed.⁴⁰⁰
- June 1875:** Long Tunnel is in 2,800 feet, have payable wash.⁴⁰¹
- Sept 1875:** A few who follow the occupations of farmers and miners combined have turned their attention solely to farming for the present, thus showing an apparent diminution in the number of miners.⁴⁰²
- Sept 1875:** The water races are all running freely, but cannot do so much longer; 150 heads is the nearest number that can be stated at work; the prices vary from 5s. to 35s. shift of 8 hours, but many of the race owners adopt the system of payment by results.⁴⁰³
- Dec 1876:** The Pyrites Co. have purchased 2,000 tons of tailings from Lauriston to operate upon here.⁴⁰⁴
- Dec 1876:** One engine from South Argus and one from Eureka are being re-erected at the North Star.⁴⁰⁵
- Dec 1876:** A new engine is being erected at Ineson's Reef, and some are removed from the division; there are now 29 engine in the division in quartz workings, value £28,870.⁴⁰⁶
- March 1876:** A new venture, the Spelling Bee Co, Specimen Hill, is down with a new shaft.⁴⁰⁷
- March 1876:** Daylesford Q. M. Co., German Gully, down 300ft.⁴⁰⁸
- March 1876:** Union tunnel, from Whitfield Gully, is in 320 feet.⁴⁰⁹
- March 1876:** Perrin's tunnel, King William Gully, is in 360 feet.⁴¹⁰
- March 1876:** Victor's North Star engine, Doctor's Gully, has started.⁴¹¹
- March 1876:** Ritter's, Smyth's Reef, have sunk four shafts.⁴¹²
- June 1876:** The Specimen Hill Company are erecting a fourth engine (winding), purchased from the Cornish Company.⁴¹³
- June 1876:** Cornish Co., employ 70 men.⁴¹⁴

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- June 1876:** Glengower - The Spring Hill Lead being supposed to run through Middle Creek township, 50 men's alluvial claims have been taken up, also 50 quartz claims.⁴¹⁵
- Sept. 1876:** The Franklinford Gold Mining Company is re-opening an abandoned shaft and is placing an 8 horsepower engine and 120 foot 7-inch lifts.⁴¹⁶
- Dec 1876:** Specimen Hill Co. are at work ... dividends paid regularly, the tributers are getting gold on upper levels.⁴¹⁷
- 1877-1886:** A very important discovery was made of a reef at Blind Creek, a locality about 1_ miles south-west from Daylesford, giving rise to the formation of the Rising Star Co. ... After the first two crushings, the party sank a new shaft and erected a small battery of eight stamps, with pumps, etc ... The company has an excellent plant comprising seven boilers and five engines - viz., one 20-in cylinder, 18-in, 16-in, 14-in, and 10-in; also 1,000 feet of pumps, and seven of Halley's tables ... Up to Jan 1886, main shaft had been sunk to a depth of 630 feet; £43,920 declared in dividends.⁴¹⁸
- 1877:** South Cornish Co., started on the south bank of Smyth's Creek. This latter being a Ballarat-based group ... re-opening Williams shaft of 1877.⁴¹⁹
- late 1870s:** The New Specimen Hill Co. was then started, used a 20head battery and produced payable crushing to the end of WWI⁴²⁰
- 1877:** Specimen Hill - Rising Star line of reef is about 600ft west of Specimen Hill line, discovered in 1877 by Rolleri & Massiminos party ... their 8-head battery. The shaft also finished up at 600ft. Up to 1886 dividends of £44,000 from 33,000 oz. ... Other mines were South Star and North Star, both did well⁴²¹
- March 1877:** Franklinford Company is erecting an engine purchased at Smeaton some time since⁴²²
- March 1877:** Union Co. are in a tunnel at Whitfield's Gully, 663ft.⁴²³
- June 1877:** Some good quartz has been obtained From the Union Tunnel, north of Mauritius Reef. The South Argus engine and battery are being moved there⁴²⁴.
- Sept. 1877:** Wilson's, Blind Creek, are down 70 feet; they have finished erection of engine and battery; eight heads stampers are at work⁴²⁵.
- Sept. 1877:** Union tunnel has got a good run of stone towards New North Hepburn lode.⁴²⁶
- Dec 1877:** The Cornish, Specimen Hill, and New North Cornish companies have been working from the surface to the lower levels by tribute.⁴²⁷
- March 1878:** Early in January a small rush occurred in Stoney Creek⁴²⁸

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418 Bulletins of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 29, Some Daylesford mines, pp 9-10
419 Maddicks, H. T., 1951, p.23
420 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.37-38
421 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.37-38
422 Mining Surveyors' Reports
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- June 1878:** The old Daylesford Lead has been re-opened by means of a shaft at the rear of the Commercial Hotel⁴²⁹.
- June 1878:** The Keep-it-Dark South Claimholders are erecting a battery and machinery⁴³⁰.
- June 1878:** Franklinford G. M. Co. shaft down 100ft.⁴³¹
- Sept. 1878:** The Rising Star, Frenchman's Reef, is a comparatively new venture⁴³².
- Sept 1878:** The Franklinford G. M. Co. has put on 25 Chinese tributers, who are working on the gutter.⁴³³
- Sept 1878:** The Keep-It-Dark South Co. has started their engine.⁴³⁴
- December 1878:** The Rising Star at Blind Creek is sinking a new main shaft⁴³⁵.
- December 1878:** The Specimen Hill Company's plant and machinery were much injured by bushfires on the 1st January⁴³⁶
- December 1878:** The Argus Company is putting in pumps and lifts⁴³⁷.
- March 1879:** The Specimen Hill Company's claim and machinery have been purchased by Messrs MacMillan and Co⁴³⁸.
- March 1879:** The Argus Company are still erecting machinery over main shaft, and are placing 9_inch pumps and lifts to 300 foot levels⁴³⁹.
- March 1879:** The township lead is again being tested. Kessell and party have sunk a shaft from Miller's property⁴⁴⁰.
- March 1879:** There are numerous reefs in this division which have been, comparatively speaking, untouched, probably due in a great measure to the want of easy access from the outer mining centres. It is hoped that the completion of the railway works now in progress may lead to the district being brought more prominently under the notice of the mining public. This division is suffering greatly through various drawbacks, the most prominent of which is the want of outside capital to develop the goldfield.⁴⁴¹
- March 1879:** A crushing of wash is being done at Freeman's battery.⁴⁴²
- June 1879:** Alluvial working is but partial, as the races are not yet running, consequently many sluicers and puddlers are comparatively idle. The want of water for mining purposes is still severely felt. Great depression generally prevails in the region⁴⁴³.
- Sept. 1879:** The Specimen Hill Quartz Mining Company is standing idle⁴⁴⁴.

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- Sept. 1879:** The Cornish Quartz Company is working in various shallow shafts on their claim⁴⁴⁵.
- Sept 1879:** Many sluicing parties await the washing of large heaps of washdirt, not altogether for want of water, but because custom exists of allowing such work to stand till the termination of the rainy or wet season in November.⁴⁴⁶
- December 1879:** The Argus Quartz mining Company manager reports that one of Allan's safety cages has been obtained⁴⁴⁷.
- December 1879:** The Cornish Quartz Company is down 300 feet in the new shaft situated east of the old shaft⁴⁴⁸.

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- 1880-1887:** Rocky Lead District, Daylesford - Great Northern Parker lode, near Korweinguboora - yielded from the two mines which operated on it, about 3,000 oz. of gold, 2,000 oz. of which came from Jones' mine, situated at the northern end of the worked parts ... The greatest depth reached by the miners does not exceed 300 feet from the surface, but at this depth no opening works worth mentioning have been conducted. In fact, no stoping, below the 150-ft level. The yield from the mine averaged little more than 1 oz. per ton ... Shafts are about 3,000ft apart ... The Great Northern Parker's efforts commenced in the year 1880 and its mining ended in 1887
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- March 1880:** The Rising Star Company, Blind Creek, are erecting pumping and winding equipment as well as an engine and battery at the new shaft⁴⁵⁰.
- March 1880:** The employment of men t harvesting operations and on the railway works, together with the want of water, have, in a great degree, interfered with mining for alluvial gold.⁴⁵¹
- June 1880:** On the South side of Stanbridge St. a tunnel is being put in⁴⁵².
- June 1880:** The Rising Star Co., have put up a new battery and an extra engine of 15hp, 16-heads of stamps in all.⁴⁵³
- June 1880:** The Argus Q. M. Co. has drawn the lifts, and the mine is standing idle for want of means to sink deeper.⁴⁵⁴
- June 1880:** Cornish Q. M. Co. - the mine remains idle, the shareholders being about to re-organise the company.⁴⁵⁵
- In Samson and party's claim, named the Rising Moon, at Stony Creek, a new lode of quartz has been struck.⁴⁵⁶
- Sept. 1880:** The Cornish Company has purchased the North Cornish Company's claim⁴⁵⁷.
- Sept. 1880:** The management of the Argus Company has changed hands⁴⁵⁸.
- Sept. 1880:** The old Leviathan Gold Mining Company's ground, at Franklin, has been reopened for mining purposes, a tunnel being commenced from Jim Crow Creek⁴⁵⁹.
- December 1880:** The Cornish Quartz Mining Company intends to erect machinery on their newly acquired North Cornish claim. The intention includes; engine, 22in. cylinder and boiler having arrived previously; boiler 33ft. 6in. x 6ft. 6in. in diameter, eight Galloway tubes⁴⁶⁰.
- December 1880:** The Rising Star Quartz Mining Company has purchased a new engine for winding and pumping⁴⁶¹.
- December 1880:** Bell's Quartz Company, Black Jack's-The machinery will soon be completed and the battery ready⁴⁶².

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| 449 | Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 3, Rocky Lead District |
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- March 1881:** Numerous ventures have started justified by the success of the Star Companies prospects from Bell's Reef, Yandoit⁴⁶³.
- March 1881:** The Morning Light (tunnel) Quartz, Milkmaid Flat, one-mile north of Post-Office, is in 400ft.⁴⁶⁴.
- March 1881:** The Victoria Q. M. Co., Whitefield's Gully has sunk a shaft to a depth of 135 ft.⁴⁶⁵.
- March 1881:** The Sailors Prince Alluvial Co. are in 5,000 feet at a depth of 320 feet from the surface ... 1,296 tons have been operated upon.⁴⁶⁶
- March 1881:** The German Gully Q M Co., Yandoit has their shaft down 190 feet.⁴⁶⁷.
- March 1881:** The South Star, Blind Creek, is down 223 feet. Water being heavy, machinery is being obtained.⁴⁶⁸.
- March 1881:** Russel's Freehold Company, Porcupine Ridge, has their shaft down 134ft ... great hopes are entertained.⁴⁶⁹.
- March 1881:** The deep gutter at Dougall's farm, Franklinford, formerly called the Leviathan, is again being tried by tunnelling.⁴⁷⁰
- The Rising Star Q.M. Co. Blind Creek, work at 195 and 250-ft levels ... 12 additional stampheads are in the course of erection; also large boilers, engines and pumping gear.⁴⁷¹.
- June 1881:** The Cornish Quartz Company, having discharged the liabilities of the old company, has erected new and powerful machinery⁴⁷².
- June 1881:** The Haidz Quartz company, Rocky Lead. Part of the machinery is on the ground and preparation is being made to sink a shaft⁴⁷³.
- June 1881:** The Western Star Q.M., west of Blind Creek, The Shaft is down 200 ft. A 12 horsepower Tangye (3-inch cylinder) pump, capable of raising 5000 gallons of water will be erected⁴⁷⁴.
- Sept. 1881:** The Cornish Quartz mining Company's main shaft is being cut down to admit the pumps now being placed in position.⁴⁷⁵
- Sept. 1881:** The Rising Star Quartz Mining Company has erected 7 of Halley's patent percussion tables for treating the pyrites⁴⁷⁶.
- Sept. 1881:** The Criterion Quartz Mining Company, German Gully, is erecting a 10_horse power-winding engine⁴⁷⁷.
- Sept. 1881:** Mount Franklin Estate Gold Mining Company has completed the open cutting⁴⁷⁸.

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- Sept. 1881:** A number of claims at Boots, Yandoit have been recently taken up⁴⁷⁹.
- Sept. 1881:** The Porcupine Ridge G.M. Co. have sunk a shaft 130 ft. and have struck a good ash containing gold. An adit tunnel is being driven towards the shaft, and is now in 200 ft⁴⁸⁰.
- December 1881:** Hepburn Rocky Lead Company are sinking their main shaft and erecting a larger pumping engine⁴⁸¹.
- December 1881:** The Mount Franklin Estate Gold Mining Company have a steam and rock-boring plant on their claim and will shortly be erecting it⁴⁸².
- December 1881:** The Hepburn Home Paddock Co. Smeaton, Have declared a dividend of 2s. per share on 18,000 shares⁴⁸³.
- March 1882:** The Argus Quartz Company's ground and machinery have changed hands, Macmillan having purchased the plant and claim⁴⁸⁴.
- March 1882:** The Rising Star Q.M. Co. has yielded over 5dwt. per ton; the Co. have now ceased operations pending the erection of a new engine and a thorough overhauling of the mine.⁴⁸⁵
- June 1882:** The Forest Quartz Mining Company, Bullarook, have sunk a shaft and installed a portable engine and battery of eight heads of stampers have been erected at about 20 chains from the shaft to which the tramway is laid⁴⁸⁶.
- June 1882:** The Mount Franklin Estate Gold Mining Company has procured an American rock-borer at the cost of 800 pounds⁴⁸⁷.
- June 1882:** The Rising Star Quartz Mining Company has installed an engine of increased horsepower to replace the one formerly in use⁴⁸⁸.
- June 1882:** The Morning Light Quartz Mining Company, Wonderful Reef, has erected a battery of 8 heads of stampers⁴⁸⁹.
- June 1882:** The South Star Quartz Mining Company have erected a twenty horse power engine and plant, with boiler 28 ft. x 6 ft 6 in. in diameter. Eight-inch pumps are also on the claim⁴⁹⁰.
- June 1882:** The Hepburn Rocky Lead Alluvial Gold Mining Company have erected 2 engines, each 22 inch cylinders. Two boilers are being erected; 26 ft x 6ft 6in.⁴⁹¹.
- Sept. 1882:** Western Star Quartz Mining Company is erecting a 10 horsepower engine⁴⁹².
- Sept. 1882:** The Electric Light Quartz Mining Company, Wonderful Reef, have driven their tunnel 289 feet from the Wonderful Creek but have not yet struck the reef⁴⁹³.

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- Sept. 1882:** Hamburg and Glamorgan Quartz Company, Yandoit, Have been engaged in sinking a main shaft⁴⁹⁴.
- Sept. 1882:** Yandoit Grand Junction Alluvial Gold Mining Company have erected a 20 horse power engine with winding , pumping, puddling machine and lift of 10 inch pumps⁴⁹⁵.
- December 1882:** The Western Star Quartz Mining Company on the Rising Sun line of reef, have finished the erection of a 10 horse power engine⁴⁹⁶.
- December 1882:** The Mount Franklin Gold Mining Company, Franklinford have added some open-cutting⁴⁹⁷.
- 1880s:** Just in Time Co., found by the local prospecting committee in the 1880s. Later worked in 1934-1950 as the Maxwell.⁴⁹⁸
- 1883-1894:** North Cornish Company was registered ... By 1886, this company had three shafts in operation, the deepest being 700ft.It then took over the former Cornish Co. ground and continued until 1894. The main North Cornish shaft is just south-east of the junction of Camp and Stanbridge Streets, in the present pine plantation ... paid out over £100,000 in dividends between 1885-1894 ... The North Cornish (Freeman's) battery and dam was below the No. 1 shaft in the corner of Duke and Stanbridge Streets. .⁴⁹⁹
- 1883-1903:** No. 1 North Cornish Company commenced, its shaft was 200 yards north of Stanbridge Street (now houses) ... managed to carry on until McLeod's re-organisation of the Cornish line took effect after 1903. ⁵⁰⁰
- June 1883:** The Argus Quartz Company United is now the Cornish Extended Company⁵⁰¹.
- June 1883:** The Old Fearnot Company situated on the northern boundary of the Cornish Company's claim and are now called the North Cornish Company⁵⁰².
- June 1883:** The Rising Star Quartz Mining Company, at South Frenchman's Creek or Blind Creek, have 28 stamp heads continually going⁵⁰³.
- June 1883:** The Hepburn Rocky Lead Alluvial Gold Mining Company have fixed a new 20 horse power with 2 cast iron puddling machines⁵⁰⁴.
- June 1883:** Hepburn Home Paddock Company, Smeaton, at No.2 shaft, are erecting an 18 inch cylinder pumping engine with a set of pumps; and an 18 inch cylinder winding engine and gear, with 2 Cornish flue boilers 30 feet long by 6ft 6 in.; also 2 puddling machines. Tributers to the company are also erecting a Quartz mill and engine⁵⁰⁵.
- Sept. 1883:** The Cornish Extended Q.M. Co. (formerly "Argus") has purchased another 21_inch engine and it will be erected at once⁵⁰⁶.
- Sept. 1883:** The Florence Q.M. Co., late Samson and Co. in Kidd's Gully have purchased a crushing engine, with 16_inch cylinder, and have erected 12 revolving stampers. They are raising quartz to supply their battery from a 160-ft shaft⁵⁰⁷.

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| 494 | Mining Surveyors' Reports |
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| 498 | Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.47-48 |
| 499 | Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.26 |
| 500 | Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.26 |
| 501 | Mining Surveyors' Reports |
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- Sept. 1883:** The Toorak Q.M. Co., on Pitcher's Reef, Doctor's Gully, have sunk a shaft to 120 ft. and intend to continue until they strike Pitcher's Reef⁵⁰⁸.
- Sept. 1883:** The Smeaton Estate Alluvial G.M. Co. has erected splendid machinery⁵⁰⁹.
- Sept. 1883:** The Yandoit Grand Junction G.M. Company's alluvial ground is worked by steam machinery consisting of a 20 horsepower engine with boiler, 10 inch pumps, and an iron puddler⁵¹⁰.
- The Yandoit Freehold Alluvial G.M. Co. have sunk a shaft 44 ft. into basaltic rock, and they are now engaged in erecting pumping and winding gear⁵¹¹.
- Sept. 1883:** The Christmas Reef G.M. Co. have sunk a shaft to the water level and they now propose erecting a large plant, as the ground is very wet, and cannot be mined without powerful machinery⁵¹².
- December 1883:** The Rising Star Q.M. Co. has fixed a 9-inch plunger⁵¹³.
- December 1883:** The Cornish Extended Co. is busy fixing a 35 horsepower engine for pumping⁵¹⁴.
- December 1883:** The Hepburn Home Paddock Co., Smeaton Have during the year 1883 paid a dividend of 2658 pounds 16s. 6d. for royalty and declared dividend amount to 4950 pounds⁵¹⁵.
- March 1884:** The North Cornish Q.M. Co. are finding water to heavy and so have purchased the Stone Barn plant, at Kingston, which will be at once placed on the claim⁵¹⁶.
- March 1884:** The Hepburn Home Paddock G.M. Co., Smeaton have obtained 3027oz. 10dw. of gold. The Co. paid in dividends 4050 pounds and the royalty paid has been 978 pounds 1s. 6d.⁵¹⁷.
- March 1884:** The Christmas Reef Q.M. Co. Yandoit, intend to erect large pumping machinery⁵¹⁸.
- March 1884:** The Sailor Prince Extended Co. tunnel is in 5200 ft at a depth from grass of 320ft⁵¹⁹.
- March 1884:** The Cornish Extended Q.M. Co. Have finished the erection of their plant, which consists of a new 21-inch cylinder engine, with 2 boilers. No.1 is 28ft. by 6ft. 6in. diameter. No.2 boiler is 26ft. long by 6ft. diameter. The engine house is 90ft. long by 32ft. wide, with outer connections. 60 000 bricks and 250 load of stone were used for the foundations, boiler and chimney.⁵²⁰
- June 1884:** The Cornish Q.M. Co., Cornish Reef, have sunk their main shaft to 775ft. They are still sinking deeper and the pumping is getting easier on account of the Cornish Extended Co. commencement of pumping⁵²¹.
- June 1884:** The North Cornish Q.M. Co. Wombat Hill, have nearly completed the erection of their new plant. The engine is a 16-inch one, The boiler being 26ft. long and 6ft. 6in. in diameter. Over it is erected a substantial building the outer covering being of pine, and the roof of corrugated

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iron. They also erected a very substantial chimney stack, and will now commence to sink their main shaft deeper to strike the Cornish Reef⁵²².

- June 1884:** The Hepburn Rocky Lead G.M. Co. has opened out their shaft to 330ft.⁵²³
- June 1884:** The Hepburn G.M.Co. Smeaton, have got 2471oz. 1dwt. of gold⁵²⁴.
- June 1884:** The Wombat Creek water race contains 10 sluice heads of water, and it is nearly all used at present in sluicing out the bed of the Hepburn Gold-fields reservoir, by Paganetti and party⁵²⁵.
- June 1884:** The Kangaroo race contains about 15 sluice heads of water, which at present is all used in the Dry Diggings district. When the council supply water from the pipes for mining purposes the charge is 10s per day.⁵²⁶
- December 1884:** The Rising Star Q.M.Co. pay dividends regularly to the amount of 4680 pounds⁵²⁷.
- December 1884:** The Cornish Extended Q.M.Co. have sunk their main shaft to 665ft.⁵²⁸.
- December 1884:** The Wombat Creek race containing 10 Sluice-heads, is used by Paganette and party for sluicing⁵²⁹.
- December 1884:** The Kangaroo Creek race contains 15 sluice-heads of water, which has hitherto gone to Dry-Diggings for sluicing purposes. One crushing plant recently erected in Sportsman's Reef is now driven by water power from this race⁵³⁰.
- March 1885:** The Rising Star Q.M.Co., Frenchman's Reef, has raised stone of a payable character enabling the Co. to pay dividends regularly to the amount of 2520 pounds⁵³¹.
- March 1885:** Christmas Reef Q.M. Co., Yandoit, have erected during the quarter, winding and pumping machinery, 30 horse-power which will be ready in a couple of weeks⁵³².
- March 1885:** Hepburn Consols G.M. Co. Smeaton, struck payable pay dirt at 320ft.⁵³³.
- March 1885:** The Sailor Prince Extended G.M.Co. Deep Creek, are now waiting for the arrival of a Government diamond drill to bore for deeper ground⁵³⁴.
- June 1885:** The Rising Star Q.M.Co. have extended their shaft by 29ft. to 640ft. They paid dividends of 1440 pounds. The Co. also started to sink a new main shaft⁵³⁵.
- June 1885:** The Christmas Reef Q.M.Co. Yandoit, started their new machinery during the quarter⁵³⁶.
- June 1885:** Hepburn Consols G.M.Co., Smeaton, had a yield of 2176oz. 7dwt⁵³⁷.

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- June 1885:** Hepburn No.1 G.M. Co., Smeaton, struck payable washdirt. Stacking wash for puddling. Puddling machines in course of erection⁵³⁸.
- June 1885:** Their appears to be little or no grounds available for sluicing, or at any rate ground considered payable, as there is no demand for water for sluicing purposes. The Wombat Hill race is at present rented by Fumberger and party, for the Long Tunnel Co; but the Kangaroo Creek race, which carries 15 sluice-heads of water has been open for rent for a considerable time without any applications. Steam engine and crushing equipment are also supplied by the same source⁵³⁹.
- Sept. 1885:** The North Cornish Q.M.Co. have fixed Roots patent air-blower, with connecting engine. They also have purchased a 21-inch cylinder pumping engine with new boiler, and propose to have same erected on the claim at once⁵⁴⁰.
- Sept. 1885:** Jackson and party on the head of Middleton Creek near Dry Diggings discovered a good shoot⁵⁴¹.
- Sept. 1885:** Iveson and party have taken up the old Keep-it-Dark Reef. They have sunk a new shaft to 170ft. and expect to keep their battery of 8 heads going⁵⁴².
- Sept. 1885:** The Murray Q.M.Co., Tipperary Point, have fixed a portable engine, connected with 7-inch lifts. They have sunk their main shaft to 70ft⁵⁴³.
- Sept. 1885:** The Florence Q.M.Co. Kidd's Gully, have done a lot of prospecting.⁵⁴⁴ ⁵⁴⁵.
- Sept. 1885:** The Hepburn Consols G.M. Co. Smeaton, had a yield of 1594oz. 2dw. 3gr. of gold⁵⁴⁶.
- Sept. 1885:** Hepburn No.1 G.M. Co. Smeaton, are stacking their wash for puddling, on account of puddling machines being in the course of erection⁵⁴⁷.
- Sept. 1885:** The Yandoit Grand Junction G.M. Co. had a yield of 311oz. 6gr. They paid a dividend of 253 pounds during the quarter⁵⁴⁸.
- December 1885:** The Hepburn Consols Smeaton, has been worked out⁵⁴⁹.
- December 1885:** The North Cornish M.Co. paid 4 dividends amounting to 2700 pounds⁵⁵⁰.
- December 1885:** The Rising Star Q.M. Co. purchased machinery from the Egyptian Company, Malmsbury, and it will be erected at once. They also paid a dividend of 2700 pounds⁵⁵¹.
- December 1885:** The Christmas Reef Q.M.Co. Yandoit, has been induced crushing machinery⁵⁵².
- December 1885:** Jackson and party, Middleton Creek Reef, have had another good crushing⁵⁵³.

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- December 1885:** Tatti and party adjoining Jackson and party have struck the reef during the quarter⁵⁵⁴.
- December 1885:** Hepburn No.1 Smeaton, The erection of additional machinery and puddling machines is nearly complete⁵⁵⁵.
- 1885-1889:** North Cornish Company, crushing operations commenced in 1885 ... From March 1885 to December 1888, the company crushed 58,612 tons for 22,189 oz. ... Their main shaft is now down 71 feet.
- 1886-1902:** Rocky Lead District, Daylesford - About a mile further north of the Queen of the Forest, the Reef Hill Co. is operating on a lode ...; the mine is situated immediately on the actual divide ... the gold bearing stone was located in 1886 ... and again 12 months ago (from 1902) by loamers, who sold it to the present company, which was organised by Messrs Mitchell, Lamb and Thomas, of the Berringa Birthday mine...North of this on the same line, a lode known as the Grey Mare was opened in the fifties ... the party working it followed down a line of gold-bearing stone for about 80 feet, crushing it in a little 3-head mill erected on the mine. When it became necessary to employ machinery the venture collapsed ... it remained deserted until about four years ago, when a local party of miners cleaned out the old workings ... the whim-party haulage proved to be not strong enough; and the company being in debt and unable to raise more money ... sold the lease rights ... To the east of the Pinchgut Gully, which was once rich in alluvial gold, an attempt has been made to open a quartz lode known as The Queen of the Forest ... About a mile to the west of the Grey mare area are the remains of a mine opened some years since by a railway party. It was called the White Light Co-operative Party ... Since my visit to this field, a lode known as Scotty's has been opened up a mile or two to the south of the Reef Hill mine .⁵⁵⁶
- March 1886:** The North Cornish Q.M. Co. have purchased the Freeman's crushing plant, consisting of 16 head of stamps, situated close to the North Cornish shaft⁵⁵⁷.
- March 1886:** The No.1 North Cornish M.Co. have erected whim and sunk their main shaft 10ft x 6 x3 ft. clear⁵⁵⁸.
- March 1886:** The Christmas Reef Q.M.Co. Yandoit, have purchased and are erecting a 20-head battery, and will be ready for crushing in a month's time⁵⁵⁹.
- March 1886:** The United Freehold Q.Co. has been formed consisting of a large amalgamated claim property, situated within the township of Daylesford, formally held and worked by a number of companies: The Vineyard, Crown, No.1 South, Dunstan and the Freehold Q.M.Co. The great want of the former workings was a central pumping plant, applicable to the whole of the mining group. This property is held in high esteem by the mining community of Daylesford. The Co. has purchased a strong and powerful plant. The principle interest is held by Adelaide, South Australia speculators⁵⁶⁰.
- March 1886:** The Great Western G.M.Co. Franklinford, has erected 2 engines,35 horsepower, connected with 9-inch lift and started sinking their main shaft⁵⁶¹.
- June 1886:** The North Star Q.M.Co. have purchased from Belltopper Co., Malmsbury, another 10 head battery, also a 25 horse-power engine, which is now in course of erection near their own battery, consisting of 16 head stamps⁵⁶².
- June 1886:** The United Freehold Q.M.Co. have purchased a powerful plant from Golden Bolt G.M.Co., Cape Clear, Ballarat division, consisting of 25 horsepower winding and 45 horse-power

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| 556 | Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 3, Rocky Lead District |
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pumping engine, with 3 large Cornish Boilers. Also 300ft. of 13-in. plunger-lift which is now in erection.⁵⁶³

- June 1886:** The Christmas Reef Q.M.Co. Yandoit, having completed their crushing plant and started crushing ⁵⁶⁴.
- June 1886:** The Florence Q.M.Co. Kidd's Gully, had no crushing during the quarter. They have suspended mining operations for the present in their main shaft and are sinking a new shaft 400ft. south⁵⁶⁵.
- June 1886:** The Great Western G.M.Co. Franklinford, have bottomed their shaft at 93ft.⁵⁶⁶.
- June 1886:** The New Era G.M.Co. Franklinford, have extended their tunnel to a distance of 3000ft.⁵⁶⁷.
- December 1886:** The North Cornish Q.M. Co. have erected an additional 10 head of stamps which will give the company a total of 36 head of crushing power⁵⁶⁸.
- December 1886:** The Cornish Q.M.Co. have purchased the lease and machinery of the Cornish Extended Q.M.Co. adjoining the Cornish Co. South making one large lease with 7 powerful horizontal engines, varying from 11 to 29 inch cylinders, in all about 220 horsepower. There are also 3 Tangye and 28 head crushing plant. The Co. has also purchased from Mount Franklin Co. an American rock-borer which is now to be placed in position to sink the main shaft a further depth of 100ft. from the present depth⁵⁶⁹.
- December 1886:** The Great Cornish Q.M.Co., north of the No.1 Cornish, started operations during the quarter⁵⁷⁰.
- December 1886:** The New Area G.M.Co. Franklinford, have extended their tunnel to the distance of 3400ft. and have 300ft. more to drive to connect the tunnel to their shaft⁵⁷¹.
- December 1886:** The Shakespeare G.M.Co. Mt. Franklin, has started their machinery, and is preparing to sink their shaft deeper⁵⁷².
- December 1886:** The Leeoh Creek G.M.Co. have purchased machinery at Malmsbury, and are preparing the removal and re-erection of the same⁵⁷³.
- 1886:** Mines east of Hepburn Road, the Frenchman's and the Mineral Springs - the Freehold United was formed. It consisted of the Vineyard, Crown, No. 1 South, Dunstan's and the Freehold. Each had paid good dividends to their original owners ... the No. 1 shaft of 250ft was restarted as a pump shaft and the Freehold shaft was eventually deepened to 600ft ... The mine continued until about 1920 ... The mine's dumps are just east of the road about half-way to Hepburn Springs, near the head of Kidd's Gully.⁵⁷⁴
- March 1887:** The No.1 North Cornish Q.M. Co. have purchased and erected same⁵⁷⁵.
- March 1887:** The Steel's Reef Q.M. Co. Yandoit, have fixed machinery with 11-inch lifts⁵⁷⁶.

⁵⁶³ Mining Surveyors' Reports

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⁵⁷⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.40

⁵⁷⁵ Mining Surveyors' Reports

⁵⁷⁶ Mining Surveyors' Reports

- March 1887:** The Christmas Reef Q.M. Co. Yandoit, have crushed very little during the quarter⁵⁷⁷.
- March 1887:** The Shakespeare G.M. Co. Mt. Franklin, had their machinery destroyed by fire. Cause of fire unknown. They have it in good order again and will start sinking their shaft shortly⁵⁷⁸.
- March 1887:** The Louh Creek G.M.Co. Coomoorra, have removed machinery from Malmsbury, and is now course of erection⁵⁷⁹.
- March 1887:** The New Era G.M. Co. Franklinford still needs to drive 230ft. to join the tunnel with the shaft⁵⁸⁰.
- March 1887:** Very little water sold in this division for sluicing, except for boiler and machinery purposes, from the Daylesford water-works⁵⁸¹.
- June 1887:** The North Cornish Co. Declared dividends of 5400 pounds⁵⁸².
- June 1887:** The Freehold United Q.M. Co. is looking out for a powerful crushing plant⁵⁸³.
- June 1887:** The Trafalgar Q.M. Co. have erected a whim and sunk a main shaft to 180ft. Opened out west to strike the reef and did so at 180ft.⁵⁸⁴.
- June 1887:** The Shakespeare G.M. Co. has fixed another steam boiler⁵⁸⁵.
- June 1887:** The Leeches Creek G.M. Co. Coomoorra, have erected their machinery⁵⁸⁶.
- June 1887:** Yandoit Grand Junction G.M. Co. has declared 250 pounds dividend during the quarter⁵⁸⁷.
- Sept. 1887:** North Cornish G.M. Co. has declared a 6000-pound dividend⁵⁸⁸.
- Sept. 1887:** The Cornish Q.M. Co. has made an excavation for another steam boiler at main shaft which is to be placed at once⁵⁸⁹.
- Sept. 1887:** The South Keep-it-Dark Q.M. Co. have stopped mining operations during the quarter and are present erecting a portable engine on the main shaft⁵⁹⁰.
- Sept. 1887:** A new company called the Cornish and York Claim, which gave such excellent returns in former years, east of the adjoining North Cornish Co. has been Floated. They have purchased a double 10 inch cylinder portable engine, and have let contract for moving and erecting same at once at their main shaft⁵⁹¹.
- Sept. 1887:** The Shakespeare G.M. Co. Mt. Franklin, are making arrangements for fixing another steam engine and puddling machines⁵⁹².
- Sept. 1887:** The Leech's Creek M. Co. Coomoorra, have completed sinking their shaft at 148ft.⁵⁹³.

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- Sept. 1887:** The Great Western M. Co. Franklinford, will start washing as soon as puddling machines are erected⁵⁹⁴.
- Sept. 1887:** The New Era G.M. Co. Franklinford, have extended their tunnel to 2890ft. ⁵⁹⁵
- December 1887:** The North Cornish Q.M. Co. are trialing a Frue Ore Concentrator or "vanning machine", an American Invention. They declared a dividend for the quarter of 4200 pounds⁵⁹⁶.
- December 1887:** Bear and Co. have applied for a lease for Flamburgh and Glenmorgan reefs, Yandoit⁵⁹⁷.
- December 1887:** The Cornish and York Q.M. Co. have erected machinery⁵⁹⁸.
- December 1887:** The Hepburn No.1 G.M. Co. Smeaton, are making preparations for a large pumping engine⁵⁹⁹.
- December 1887:** The Shakespeare G.M. Co. Mt. Franklin, have purchased another engine and puddling machine, and let contract for erecting same, to be completed by the 8th March⁶⁰⁰.
- December 1887:** The New Era G.M. Co. Franklinford, are driving in good ground in their tunnel⁶⁰¹.
- December 1887:** The Leech's Creek G.M. Co. Coomoorra, have driven their drive 90ft. It is hoped that this Co. will form the pioneer of a great deal of mining enterprise in the locality.⁶⁰²
- 1888:** Daylesford Pyrites Works ... 6 acres of land to the west of the Hepburn Road, and about halfway to Hepburn ... six reverberatory furnaces connected by flues to a big chimney stack ... a chlorination plant was also added and this replaced the grinding-amalgamation plant run by Williams in Smith's Gully in earlier years. - Dumps immediately west of the rubbish tip
- c.1888:** Cornish Company ... contemplate shortly erecting a large battery, with all the latest improvement ... At the new shaft ...Havelock company's old ground, commenced in 1874 .. is erected the most extensive and powerful pumping and winding plant in the district, with National air compressor and rock borer, and a double-cylinder air winch ... The company has, on various parts of the mine, no less than ten engines of various descriptions, making it one of the best and most complete plants to be found out of *Quartzopolis*. . It is certainly the opinion of very experienced miner in the district that a great future awaits the company in opening up their deeper ground, for the reason that, with the experience gained at Sandhurst and Stawell ... there is every inducement to go to a depth of 2,000 feet ... The company have recently added to their already large area by purchase of lease and plant of the claim south, known as the Argus Company ... So far as can be ascertained, 650,00 tons of stolen have been crushed by the Cornish Company from the various reefs mentioned, for a yield of 173,500 oz. ⁶⁰³
- March 1888:** The North Cornish Q. M. Co. declared dividends of 4,500 ... same company are taking down their plant of 16 square stamps and replacing same with 20-heads of revolving stamps ... when completed their plant will be 40-heads of revolving stamps.⁶⁰⁴
- March 1888:** The Criterion Co. German Gully, have purchased a 16-inch cylinder winding engine at Ballarat, depth of shaft 437 feet, the Golconda Q. M. Co.⁶⁰⁵

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- March 1888:** Jackson and party have sold their claim and plant to Ellesmere Q. M. Co.⁶⁰⁶
- March 1888:** Hepburn No. G.M. Co., Smeaton, is still engaged in enlarging their shaft, and erecting more powerful machinery.⁶⁰⁷
- March 1888:** New Era G. M. Co., Franklford, have connected their tunnel with shaft.⁶⁰⁸
- March 1888:** The Shakespeare G. M. Co., Mount Franklin, are erecting pumping and puddling machines.⁶⁰⁹
- June 1888:** The North Cornish Quartz Mining Co. ... they have now 40-heads of stamps in full work.⁶¹⁰
- June 1888:** The North Cornish No. 1 ... have purchased a new 10-head battery ... they also intend to erect two Frue Ore Concentrators or "Vanning machines", seeing that this new invention is giving great satisfaction at the adjoining battery, North Cornish, for saving a great deal of labour and cost in collecting pyrites.⁶¹¹
- June 1888:** The Ellesmere Q. M. Co., engaged in fixing a portable engine to battery.⁶¹²
- June 1888:** The Golconda Q. M. Co., late German Gully (not Criterion as I reported last week) has near finished fixing their machinery.⁶¹³
- June 1888:** Yandoit Grand Junction and the Yandoit Freehold G. M. Co. have amalgamated in one company "Yandoit Grand Junction United G M Co. ... have sunk a new shaft and machinery will be removed soon.⁶¹⁴
- June 1888:** The Shakespeare G. M. Co.. Mount Franklin, have stopped their machinery.⁶¹⁵
- June 1888:** The Hepburn No. 1 G. M. Co., Smeaton, are still doing progressive work.⁶¹⁶
- Sept 1888:** The North Cornish Q. M. Co., declared dividends to £3,600 ... They have started to clean out the old Fear-Not shaft. ⁶¹⁷
- Sept 1888:** The North Cornish No. 1 have fixed a new 10-head battery, with 16-inch cylinder, which is built in with a substantial building.⁶¹⁸
- Sept 1888:** The United Freehold Q.M. Co. has purchased the Florence crushing plant.⁶¹⁹
- Sept 1888:** There is a new company floated at Spring Gully, about 3 miles north of Daylesford, called Golden Spring Quartz Mining Co.⁶²⁰
- Sept 1888:** The Shakespeare G. M. Co. ... puddling machine is ready for use.⁶²¹
- Sept 1888:** Sepold and party of four, having a sluicing claim at Boot's Gully, near Keep-it-Dark Reef.⁶²²

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- Dec 1888:** The North Cornish Q. M. Co., have cleaned out and re-timbered the Old Fear Not shaft, at present engaged fixing a 21-inch cylinder, attached to the same a new Cornish steel boiler 26 x 6 x 6 ... company has paid dividends to £4,800.⁶²³
- Dec 1888:** The United Freehold Q. M. Co. has completed fixing their crushing plant.⁶²⁴
- Dec 1888:** A powerful company is formed, and obtained a lease, on Spring Creek road, Daylesford, to fix pyrites works (the Newbery-Vautin chlorination process), and at present are fixing machinery.⁶²⁵
- Dec 1888:** The United Grand Junction have removed and fixed their plant from No. 1 to No. 2 shaft; machinery is working well.⁶²⁶
- Dec 1888:** The Golden Stream G. M. Co., present sinking No. 2 shaft.⁶²⁷
- March 1889:** The North Cornish Q. M. Co. have declared dividends £4,200 ... they have also erected 8 more Frue Ore Concentrators at a cost of £2,000 ... nearly completed erection of machinery at old Fear Not shaft.⁶²⁸
- March 1889:** North Cornish No. 1, present erecting 10 additional stamps, total will be 20-heads.⁶²⁹
- March 1889:** The Golconda Co., German Gully, has completed their machinery.⁶³⁰
- March 1889:** The Golden Spring Q. M. Co., Hepburn, have completed their machinery.⁶³¹
- March 1889:** The Daylesford Pyrites Works employ the Newbery-Vautin Improved Rapid Chlorination Process for Gold Extraction. The works are situated near Spring Creek Road.⁶³²
- March 1889:** Yandoit Grand Junction ... gold for quarter 52ozs, employing 24 men.⁶³³
- March 1889:** Leeche's Creek G. M. Co., Coomora, have done a large amount of prospecting, but without success.⁶³⁴
- June 1889:** The Golden Spring Q. M. Co., Hepburn, have started their machinery.⁶³⁵
- June 1889:** Golconda Q. M. Co., German Gully, Yandoit, have their new machinery.⁶³⁶
- June 1889:** A company called the Wonderful Q. M. Co., in 24,000 shares, to work the old Wonderful Reef. Intend fixing powerful machinery.⁶³⁷
- June 1889:** The Daylesford Pyrites Works have completed their splendid plant. In constructing the chimney and other brickwork they used over 150,000 bricks.⁶³⁸

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- June 1889:** Leech's Creek G. M. Co., Coomora ... machinery looking well, 20 men presently employed.⁶³⁹
- Sept 1889:** The Cornish, Freehold United, and the Cornish and York Q. M. companies have suspended mining operations ... and are preparing to sink their main shafts deeper.⁶⁴⁰
- Sept 1889:** A new company, called the Pioneer Q. M. Co., is formed on Steel's Reef, Yandoit ... they are at present fixing machinery.⁶⁴¹
- Sept 1889:** Daylesford Pyrites Works ... engaged in building 2 more furnaces, employ 12 men.⁶⁴²
- Sept 1889:** Lewis and party (of 4) in a sluicing claim, situated at Butterfly Gully, quarter of a mile west of Keep-It-Dark Reef, about 5 miles west of Daylesford.⁶⁴³
- Dec 1889:** The North Cornish M. Co. also completed surface tunnel, to truck quartz from shaft to battery, which will enable the company to crush in the future from both shafts. They have also purchased a new steel boiler from Ballarat, size 26 x 6 x 6, to be erected at the battery.⁶⁴⁴
- Dec 1889:** North Cornish No. 1 ... declared their first dividend, 600, employ 66 men.⁶⁴⁵
- Dec 1889:** Golconda Q. M. Co., German Gully ... 10-head battery will be ready shortly.⁶⁴⁶
- Dec 1889:** The Pioneer Q. M. Co., Yandoit, have completed their machinery, fixed a 11-inch lift.⁶⁴⁷
- Dec 1889:** Nugent and party uncovered in their sluicing claim, at head of Chinaman's Flat, Stoney Creek, a quartz reef.⁶⁴⁸
- Dec 1889:** Shakespeare Co., Mount Franklin ... driving towards old gutter.⁶⁴⁹
- March 1890:** North Cornish Co. - battery of 50 stamps and 14 Frue Ore Concentrators.
- Sept 1890:** North Cornish G. M. Co ... declared dividends of £3,600, which would have been more if the company had not spent £2,000 purchasing the plant and lease of the Cornish Co.⁶⁵⁰
- Dec 1890:** North Cornish C. ... four dividends amounting to £7,200: this is the largest sum paid by a company during any one quarter.⁶⁵¹
- Dec 1890:** Good accounts have been received of the work done by the Golden Spring, Yandoit and Corinelle companies.⁶⁵²
- Dec 1890:** Daylesford Pyrites works have been regularly employed during the quarter.⁶⁵³
- March 1891:** Daylesford Pyrites works ... fixing two more furnaces.⁶⁵⁴

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- June 1891:** Two claims (namely, the United Freehold and the Cornish & York companies) have suspended operations, and this has been the means of making mining matters generally very quiet.⁶⁵⁵
- June 1891:** Yandoit Grand Junction Co. treated 3,550 tons of wash for 234-oz. gold.⁶⁵⁶
- June 1891:** Daylesford Pyrites Works ... now prepared to treat pyrites raised outside the division.⁶⁵⁷
- Sept 1891:** North Cornish Co., dividend £3,600.⁶⁵⁸
- Sept 1891:** Golden Spring Co., a good deal of progressive work.⁶⁵⁹
- 1890s:** Deep Lead mining under Table Hill. There are at least 5 tunnels under the basalt topping of Table Hill ... most of these head in from the south-west edge and at least three were worked by Sutton & Sons ... The new Midland Highway cuts across the mouth of the last Sutton tunnel ... Bert Sutton worked this until late 1940s. Two of the Sutton Bros in the early 1890s discovered Sutton Mineral Springs when sluicing in the area. Fight Em Gully - eastern edge of Table Hill, sluiced out in the 1850s right down to Wombat Creek near the present Springs. The north end of the hill also worked ... lead lost near the present highway at Christensen's Ajax shaft. Stony Creek - runs into Wombat Creek, midway between Sutton Springs and Sailors Creek. It is a steep sided creek, now sluiced out above Stony Creek Falls. Stony Creek Basin ... in the 1860s the Grand Mystery Co. sunk a shaft. Corinella Dyke also starts near the Stony Creek Basin and continues westwards to Deep Creek. West of the trotting track was the Ajax Consolidated mine of the 1860s. Sunk 120ft to work lead between Sailors Creek and Stony Creek (believed to be branch of Llewlyn Lead) ... The Llewlyn Lead was lost northwards ... though very many tunnels have been driven into the west bank of Stony Creek searching for it. Also a few short leads have been worked from the Sailors Creek side. At the north end of the ridge early alluvials were worked down the north slopes on what were known as the Albion Spurs. Albion Spurs - William Tell mine beside the old Ballarat Road (early 1860s) ... re-opened in 1910 with machinery ... shaft sunk 360 feet ... 6700 tons/3050 oz. for £3,000 dividends.⁶⁶⁰
- 1900s+:** North Nuggetty - total tons crushed 61,000/38,700 oz. ... mine closed in early 1920s, shaft 900ft. deep.⁶⁶¹
- 1900s:** Blanket Flat (Eganstown) - Corinella G. M. Co., Egan's homestead paddocks ... first company formed in December 1861 at this point the company was re-organised [?]... company worked until 1912 ... it employed about 120 underground miners and worked 3 shafts plus a tunnel from Deep Creek, Golden Point side.⁶⁶²
- 1900s:** Sailors Creek dredge worked around Shepherds Flat as far as the Breakneck ... dredge foundered just south of Excelsior Bridge. The trout fishermen still use part of its timbers as a platform.⁶⁶³
- 1900s+:** North Nuggetty Ajax, started later than the Nuggetty Ajax ... the shaft is one the south edge of the present rubbish tip ... mine closed about 1926 ... up until 1917 it produced 48,000 oz., paid dividends of £57,000 using a 15-head battery ... their sand dump occupies a lot of ground in the bush to the west ... the mine was the first to generate its own electricity.⁶⁶⁴ ... North Nuggetty, 900ft - Dumps immediately west of the rubbish tip ⁶⁶⁵

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660 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.51

661 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.32-33

662 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

663 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.42-43

664 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.32-33

665 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

- 1902:** Rocky Lead District, Daylesford - Three miles to the north of the White Light area, over a hill of basalt is the shaft of the Lady Parker Co. Here a 13-head crushing mill was doing work at the date of my visit and a steam winch did the hauling from a shaft 200ft deep ... This is the most northern mine in the area under notice, there being one mine, known as Dibden's, on a rich formation a mile or so further to the north, not being worked.⁶⁶⁶
- 1903:** Generally speaking, both quartz and alluvial mining in this division have been dull during the past year; but, owing to ground formerly held, without being worked, for many years, by the North Cornish Company, having been acquired by an English Company, which has commenced work under the name of the Victoria Cornish Co. Ltd ... Old mining and business residents of Daylesford appear to be very sanguine as to the success of this venture, and express their faith in again seeing Daylesford figure as a real live mining town.⁶⁶⁷
- 1903:** The Glenmona G. M. Co. ... crushed 5,305 tons for 1,212 oz. The company is furnished with a complete winding and crushing plant.⁶⁶⁸
- 1903:** Dry Diggings Co. ... in hands of tributers ... a very good 10-head crushing plant is erected on this company's lease. There is also a very small winding plant.⁶⁶⁹
- 1903:** Bruce's No. 1 North G. M. Co. (on Bruce's line of reefs) has done a considerable amount of prospecting work during the year ... The main shaft was sunk to 450 feet ... The mine is well equipped with winding, pumping and crushing machinery.⁶⁷⁰
- 1903:** The Norman Proprietary Co., Yandoit South, met with such ill-success during the year that all work is now suspended pending instructions from England ... shaft is now 630 feet ... the mine is equipped with winding and crushing machinery.⁶⁷¹
- 1903:** Alluvial mining in this division has been very dull indeed. Bennett and party (or the Wombat Hill Tunnel Co.) met with fairly payable results early in the year, but during the latter half did very poorly indeed.⁶⁷²
- 1903:** Great Western Alluvial G. M. Co. at Franklinford worked for the first half of the year ... a winding and pumping was erected on this mine.⁶⁷³
- 1903:** The Bucket Dredging Co., which has been operating for some years with payable results in Sailor's Creek, has now ceased operations, and is removing the plant, having worked out the payable ground.⁶⁷⁴
- 1903:** A number of small co-operative parties and individual miners, have made a living in the shallow alluvial. A good deal of tunnelling from the faces of the cliffs on either side of the creeks, under the basalt is done in this division.⁶⁷⁵

666 Bulletin of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 3, Rocky Lead District
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- 1903-1923:** McLeod's revival of Cornish Hill mines ... Town Clerk of Daylesford, Donald Macleod ... in 1903 he launched a re-organisation of the Cornish line, and from then on they became the Victorian Cornish G. M. Co., with English capital ... combined the former grounds of the North, Cornish and Argus, they enlarged Freeman's battery to 50-heads, and made tramlines connecting the mines ... they made the former Colliers shaft their main shaft, renaming it Mitchell's shaft, and deepening it to 1,000ft ... They also deepened Bonnards and the North Cornish ... For the next twenty years, up to the death of McLeod, the Victorian Cornish were big employers of Daylesford miners.⁶⁷⁶
- c.1903:** No. 1 North Cornish combined with the Fear Not ground, and they to crushed at the big Victorian Cornish battery.⁶⁷⁷
- 1904:** The Victoria Cornish ... splendid success, last crushing during the year yielded 90 oz.⁶⁷⁸
- 1904:** The Daylesford Co., on the north of the Victoria Cornish Co. ... up to the 31 Dec, 1904, nothing payable had been discovered.⁶⁷⁹
- 1904:** The Glenmona G. M. Co. has continued to work throughout the year.⁶⁸⁰
- 1904:** The Wheal Dorey Co. (a new venture) commenced work in the latter half of the year ... main shaft has been sunk to a depth of 170 feet, and a winding winch, with substantial poppet legs, etc. This mine is situated near Eganstown.⁶⁸¹
- 1904:** The New Corinella Co. has carried on work in a small way.⁶⁸²
- 1904:** Alluvial mining throughout the division has remained very quiet, no work having been done except by co-operative parties and individual miners ... none appear to be making more than wages.
- 1904:** A public company has been floated to work the Wombat Flat alluviums by hydraulic sluicing.⁶⁸³
- 1905:** Ajax Company commenced ... erected 10-head battery, paid first dividends in 1907, £9,000 ... throughout 1909 the Sajz mine was very prosperous ... in 1914 the shaft reached 1,150 ft ... by 1917 the mine had reached its maximum depth of 1240ft and had paid dividends then of £104,000 ... from 1917 up to 1927 mine operated on stopes and drives ... erected a steel poppet head in early 1920s, plant was auctioned in Feb 1929 ... at its close had paid £149,437 in dividends from 223,168 tons yielding 102,110 oz., had a 20-head battery.⁶⁸⁴ ... Ajax, 1220ft. Sand dumps are northeast of tip, in the gully running eastwards. Gully called Cobblers..⁶⁸⁵

⁶⁷⁶ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.28

⁶⁷⁷ Maddicks, H. T, 1951, p.28

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⁶⁸⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

⁶⁸⁵ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

- 1905:** Quartz mining, after lying almost dormant for a number of years, has received. The chief factor in bringing about this desirable state is the continued success of the Victorian Cornish Co ... This company (an English one) crushed 11,886 tons for 8,740 oz. ... this company has erected three winding plants, sunk and timbered a splendid new shaft (known as Mitchell's) to a depth of 735 ft ... erected a first-class tramway from Mitchell's shaft to the crushing plant, and effected considerable repairs and renewals to the crushing plant, which numbers 30 stampers. An additional battery of 20 stampers is in the course of erection. The average number employed was 185.⁶⁸⁶
- 1905:** The Daylesford Co. (also and English one) whose mine is situated to the north of the Victorian Cornish has continued work during the year ... additional 10-head battery with Wilfley tables, Wheeler's pan, and Berdan pans erected.⁶⁸⁷
- 1905:** Glenmona Co. was worked with indifferent success and it was decided to wind up the company and dispose of the lease and plant ... lease and plant bought by syndicate ... known as the New Glenmona Co.⁶⁸⁸
- 1905:** The Ajax Co. recommenced work during the year.⁶⁸⁹
- 1905:** The South Victorian Cornish Co., after erecting a complete winding and crushing plant, and cutting down a shaft to about 200 feet, suspended operations in Nov 1905 ... the mine is immediately south of the Victorian Cornish Co.'s lease ⁶⁹⁰
- 1905:** The Nuggetty Ajax - a comparatively new company, floated to work the Nuggetty and Ajax lines of reef - had only just completed the erection of a powerful winding plant over the old Nuggetty Co.'s shaft. ⁶⁹¹
- 1905:** The Wheal Dorey G. M. Co. has continued prospecting during the year without payable results.⁶⁹²
- 1905:** The Wombat Hill and Wombat Hill Extended Co-operative companies have continued operations during the year. The Long Tunnel Co-operative party has spent the greater part of the year trying to sink an airshaft.⁶⁹³
- 1905:** H. Sullivan and party of four men, of Eganstown, have carried on their sluicing operations in Evan's Paddock, with barely payable results.⁶⁹⁴
- 1905:** The Wombat Flat Dredging Co., which commenced operations early in 1905 ... barely payable.⁶⁹⁵
- 1906-1916:** Mauritius mining area - A new company was formed, and between 1906-1916 crushed 30,000 tons for 10,500 oz. The Frenchman's made a near panic when, at 460 ft, in 1911, it cut off the flow of Hepburn Springs. ... Another mine north of here, worked by Silva and Borsa, was the Whitefield Reef or North Frenchman's, had cut the mineral springs flow about 1880.⁶⁹⁶

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696 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.40

- 1906-1911:** The Ajax mine is situated about 1 mile north-west of the centre of Daylesford township, and is the most northerly of a series of mines which have caused a strong revival in mining in the Daylesford district during the past four years. The returns between Oct 1906 and March 1911 were 92,152 tons for 48,163 oz. of gold.⁶⁹⁷
- 1906:** Quartz mining has never looked so promising. Where at this time last year there were only about a dozen companies and co-operative parties, all told, at work, there are now over 40 registered companies, 24 of which have already equipped their mines with steam winding machinery. The consistent yields obtained by the Victorian Cornish G. M. Co. and the grand yields of the Ajax Co., have been the chief factors in bringing about this transformation.⁶⁹⁸
- 1906:** Victorian Cornish G. M. Co. crushed 22,296 tons for 11,629 oz. ... 50-head of stampers. There are four shafts; and twelve boilers and fourteen engines in use. Sinking operations in Mitchell's shaft (which is on the southern end of the property), now down to 892 feet. Bonnard's and Field's shafts were connected at the 966 feet level.⁶⁹⁹
- 1906:** The Daylesford G. M. Co. has continued working on payable stone (3,402 tons for 1,067 oz). This mine is equipped with winding, crushing and pumping machinery.⁷⁰⁰
- 1906:** The Ajax mine, which is at present the chief gold-producing mine in the division, and also one of the chief quartz gold-producing mines in the State, is situated about a mile north-west of the Borough of Daylesford ... the erection of the second 10-head battery similar to the first is about completed, so that in the future, as crushing will be carried on with 20-heads instead of ten ... the battery is driven by a large compound condensing engine..⁷⁰¹
- 1906:** The Victorian Star G. M. Co. (an English one) holding a large area of the ground south ... which embraces the well-known Rising Star and Specimen Hill lines of reef ... have completed the erection of powerful winding and pumping machinery on the old Rising Star Co.'s shaft, now known as Devy's shaft.⁷⁰²
- 1906:** The Nuggetty Ajax Co. whose lease adjoins the Ajax Co., on the south, has done a considerable amount of prospecting ... mine equipped with a powerful winding plant, main shaft is 270 feet deep. The Nuggetty Ajax Co. started work in July, in addition to erecting a winding winch and poppet heads, sunk a main shaft to a depth of 233 feet.
- North Ajax Co., started work in July, sunk main shaft to 103 feet and erected a winding winch and poppet heads.⁷⁰³
- 1906:** The Florence Co. commenced work in July, main shaft 230 feet, erected a steam-winding winch.
- 1906:** The Glenmona Co., work has been suspended, sold to an English company.⁷⁰⁴
- 1906:** Dry Diggings Co., commenced work in August, a winding winch with poppet heads was erected ... and 10-head battery erected on mine.⁷⁰⁵
- 1906:** The Mikado Co., winding winch with poppet heads ... old main shaft unwatered and cleaned out to 150 feet.⁷⁰⁶
- 1906:** Argyle Lake Co. commenced operations in July in a tunnel, which had been driven some years ago.⁷⁰⁷

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- 1906:** The Jubilee Lake Co. commenced sinking their shaft.⁷⁰⁸
- 1906:** The Melville Star Co., underground work suspended for erection of machinery.⁷⁰⁹
- 1906:** New Corinella Co., near Eganstown, crushed 126 tons for 175 oz. Erected a complete steam winding plant.⁷¹⁰
- 1906:** Adelaide Co., main shaft sunk to 50ft, complete winding plant erected.
- 1906:** Wheal Dorey Co., Eganstown, worked throughout the year without finding anything payable. Shaft now 309 feet deep, machinery consists of a winch and a vertical boiler.⁷¹¹
- 1906:** Pitcher's Reef Co., situated near Hepburn, enlarging an old shaft, and preparing the position for a winding plant which is now in the course of erection.⁷¹²
- 1906:** Steele's Pioneer Co. at Yandoit commenced operations, erected a winding winch on old shaft sunk by Steele's Co. to a depth of 150ft.⁷¹³
- 1906:** The Yandoit United Co. was formed to take over the property formerly held by the Hamburg Co., unwatered shaft to 270 feet.⁷¹⁴
- 1906:** The Moonlight Co. commenced early in November .. purchased winding plant from Criterion G. M. Co., located in Moonlight Gully, which bis situated about 3 miles southwest of Yandoit.⁷¹⁵
- 1906:** Alluvial mining in the Daylesford division has continued at a low ebb.⁷¹⁶
- 1906:** Wombat Hill Extended Co-op Co. has continued to work in the tunnel, which is about 5,000 feet.⁷¹⁷
- 1906:** Only one hydraulic sluicing company, viz. has carried on operations in the division during the year.⁷¹⁸
- 1906:** A number of small co-operative parties throughout this division continue to eke out a living by working the shallow alluviums, some ground sluicing, when water is available, and others by tunnelling.⁷¹⁹
- 1907:** A change for the worse has come over the mines in this division. A large number of the smaller mines have closed down.⁷²⁰
- 1907:** The Ajax Co. continued to return splendid yields - 13,360 oz. from 17,075 tons, paid in dividends £28,500. Nuggety Ajax Co., crushing with 10-head of stamps. ⁷²¹
- 1907:** The Victorian Cornish Co., large amount of developmental work, crushings poor ... at the end the mine was practically suspended.⁷²²

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- 1907:** The Victorian Star Gold Mines Ltd has carried on work in an intermittent way.⁷²³
- 1907:** Daylesford G. M. Co., suspended.⁷²⁴
- 1907:** Sailor's Falls G. M. Co. erected 10-head battery, a winding winch and a small vertical engine to drive Wilfley tables.⁷²⁵
- 1907:** Dry Diggings Co., sunk main shaft to 360ft.⁷²⁶
- 1907:** The Steele's Pioneer Co. erected an extensive 10-head crushing mill, a set of poppet legs, a pumping engine, and fixed pumps, and sunk shaft 100 feet.⁷²⁷
- 1907:** Florence G. M. Co. continued work throughout the year.⁷²⁸
- 1907:** Pitcher's Reef G. M. Co. completed erection of winding plant.⁷²⁹
- 1907:** The Swiss Reef G. M. Co., completed a very good wining plant and sunk shaft to 185ft.⁷³⁰
- 1907:** Frenchman's Reef G. M. Co. erected a winding plant, and a 5-head battery and sunk shaft to 180 feet.⁷³¹
- 1907:** The South Victorian Cornish Co., total depth 366ft.⁷³²
- 1907:** The Oriental G. M. Co., situated 5 miles south of Yandoit township, commenced operations this year, shaft 157 feet deep, erected a whim for haulage purposes .. The erection of battery under consideration.⁷³³
- 1907:** The Wombat Hill Tunnel Co. continued working with indifferent results.⁷³⁴
- 1907:** Long Tunnel Co-op Co. successful in connecting the airshaft to tunnel, treated 703 loads for 234 oz.⁷³⁵
- 1907:** One hydraulic sluicing company - Sewell's Dredging - is carrying on operations in Sailor's Creek, a short distance north of the Sailor's Falls.⁷³⁶
- 1907:** Dannevirke and Adelaide Reef companies - Both these mines opposite Brandy Hot did well. Late in 1907 the Adelaide was the scene of Daylesford's only notable mining accident ... two men died underground ... Going south from the Adelaide mine is Sam Menadue's Abundance claim. The whole area is now being planted by the Forest Commission with pines ... they also continue north of the Highway through the old Brandy Hot area. Boots Gully-Bald Hill, another goldfield that added to Eganstown's prosperity ... here several tunnels such as Allison's, Togni's, Mundic and Young's plus the alluvial in Boot's Gully and its tributaries.⁷³⁷

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737 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.20-23

- 1908:** Ajax Co. continued to obtain consistent yields. Nuggetty Ajax has pluckily continued developmental work without reward.⁷³⁸
- 1908:** Victorian Cornish Co., resuming operations.⁷³⁹
- 1908:** Old Jubilee Co., let on tribute, paid excellent wages and a dividend or two.⁷⁴⁰
- 1908:** Dry Diggings Co., indifferent success.⁷⁴¹
- 1908:** Steele's Pioneer, hard struggle for life.⁷⁴²
- 1908:** Frenchman's Reef Co., suction-gas engine has been installed for driving the crushing plant.⁷⁴³
- 1908:** The Mother Goose Co-op Co. erected a 10-head battery on the late Argyle Co.'s lease, near Hepburn.⁷⁴⁴
- 1908:** Wombat Hill and Long Tunnel co-operative companies continue to work⁷⁴⁵
- 1909:** Ajax Co., held pride of place as a gold producer .. a third new high-pressure has been installed.⁷⁴⁶
- Nuggetty Ajax, after years of struggles against adversity ... now running with the Ajax very closely for pride of place as a gold producer and dividend payer. North Nuggetty Ajax floated to work the northern portion of the Nuggetty Ajax Co.'s lease, has sunk a main shaft and erected good winch..⁷⁴⁷
- 1909:** Victorian Cornish and Daylesford companies now both suspended.⁷⁴⁸
- 1909:** The Victorian Star Co., continued to work with barely payable results ... an up-to-date crushing plant erected on the mine.⁷⁴⁹
- 1909:** Frenchman's Reef Co., replaced old crushing plant with a new battery of 10-heads.⁷⁵⁰
- 1909:** Work has been resumed at the Cameron's Ajax, Pitcher's Reef, Swiss Mount, New Florence, Argyle, Dry Diggings, and Adelaide companies.⁷⁵¹
- 1909:** Beehive Co. erected a crushing plant on the mine, previously known as the Mikado.⁷⁵²
- 1910:** North Nuggetty Ajax, erecting a crushing plant.⁷⁵³
- 1910:** Steam winding plants have been erected over the South Frenchman's and the Frenchman's and Mauritius companies shafts.⁷⁵⁴

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- 1910:** Central Ajax Co., started 1910, shaft is just on the north edge of the present rubbish tip, and is the deepest on the field ... produced 52,664 oz. from 88,379 tons and paid £89,250 dividends ... a battery of 20-heads.⁷⁵⁵ .Central Ajax, 1500ft - Dumps immediately west of the rubbish tip.⁷⁵⁶
- 1911-1926:** North Ajax - dump of this mine remains at this date north of the Ajax by several 100 metres. In the gully below may be seen some of the huge sand dump areas of the Ajax and North Ajax mine started in 1911 and closed 1926 ... paid dividends of £47,970 from 96,000 tons crushed/36,980 oz.⁷⁵⁷ ... North Ajax, 1000ft - Sand dumps are north-east of tip, in the gully running eastwards. Gully called Cobblers.⁷⁵⁸
- 1911:** The New Cornish Co., after a long term of unprofitable work, has again found payable stone and in consequence is employing a considerable number of men ... principal work being carried out from Mitchell's shaft.⁷⁵⁹
- 1911:** Ajax Co., kept its 20-head battery going with profitable results. Nuggetty Ajax, returned to the dividend list. North Nuggetty Ajax, erection of 10-head battery early in the year, since when the gold yields have eclipsed all other mines on the field. Central Ajax has sunk a shaft to about 400 feet, and erected a winding plant, is about to erect a crushing plant to treat rich stone discovered. South Ajax, after suspending operations for a time, erected a steam winding plant.⁷⁶⁰
- 1911:** Frenchman's Reef Co. continues to operate.⁷⁶¹
- 1911:** New Specimen Hill Co. has acquired a portion of ground formerly held by the Victoria Star, with plant thereon (consisting of winding and crushing machinery)⁷⁶²
- 1911:** The William Tell Co., erected a new winding and crushing plant.⁷⁶³
- 1911:** Old Jubilee Co., completed erection of crushing plant in 1911.⁷⁶⁴
- 1911:** New Dry Diggings Co. discovered payable stone.⁷⁶⁵
- 1911:** Olive Branch Co. erected a 10-head crushing plant ... This mine is now equipped with a winding and crushing plant.⁷⁶⁶
- 1911:** North Frenchman's Co. continued operations until early Dec 1911, when, owing to it being alleged that the opening of the mine has caused the Hepburn Mineral Springs to cease flowing, work was suspended, and the mine was closed down.⁷⁶⁷
- 1911:** Alluvial mining in this division has practically ceased to exist, only a few fossickers and ground sluicers therein.⁷⁶⁸
- 1911:** Connell's mine, Spargo Creek - Connell's mine is situated on the eastern bank of the Werribee River, about half a mile south-easterly from the Mineral Springs Hotel, on the Ballan to Daylesford road, about 12 miles north of Ballan and 11 miles south of Daylesford. The

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- 755 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36
- 756 Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36
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workings of the mine consist of a number of shallow shafts, now collapsed, and surface cuts, with an adit level about 80 feet below the crown of the hill.⁷⁶⁹

- 1912:** William Tell Co., since adding boiler to plant, has been crushing almost continuously with payable results.
- 1912:** Lord Roberts (a new company) sunk a main shaft, erected a winding plant ... This is the most southerly mine in Daylesford.⁷⁷⁰
- 1912:** Olive Branch, Frenchman's Reef, New Dry Diggings and Swiss Mount continued through the year.⁷⁷¹
- 1912:** Camerons Ajax carried out prospecting throughout the year. North Nuggetty Ajax, two extra boilers, making four in all, a powerful air compressor, a large air receiver, and five additional stamps (15 in all) have been added to the plant. Nuggetty Trafalgar Co., installed a second boiler, erected a large air-compressing plant.⁷⁷² Christensen's Ajax Co., erected a complete 10-head battery, driven by suction gas, with which they have crushed a considerable amount of stone. Ajax North Co. spent its time prospecting.⁷⁷³
- 1912:** New Cornish Co., continued work at 1,000ft level ... The North Cornish was floated to work a piece of ground previously held by the New Cornish.⁷⁷⁴
- 1912:** New Specimen Hill, a disappointing year.⁷⁷⁵
- 1913:** The Lady Staughton mine is situated about 1 mile east of the Spargo Creek post-office and 11 miles south of Daylesford ... In a length of 600 feet, over which gold has been traced along the surface three shafts have been sunk, viz: - Hogan's, Breathwaite's and McDonald's.⁷⁷⁶

⁷⁶⁹ Bulletins of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 29, Some Daylesford mines, p.29
⁷⁷⁰ Annual Report
⁷⁷¹ Annual Report
⁷⁷² Annual Report
⁷⁷³ Annual Report
⁷⁷⁴ Annual Report
⁷⁷⁵ Annual Report
⁷⁷⁶ Bulletins of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 29, Some Daylesford mines, p.29

- 1913:** Spargo Creek Mine, Spargo Creek - mine lies about midway between the Spargo Creek post-office and the Lady Staughton mine ... The Werribee River runs close to the mouth of the tunnel ... a few years ago some Ballarat miners erected a hand boring machine at the surface between the reefs and started to bore for saddle reefs. The work was not persevered with ... The tunnel is about 550 feet long.⁷⁷⁷
- 1913:** Foletti & Courtot, after sluicing 25 acres near Specimen Hill uncovered the reef ... in 1916 the Rising Star Extended took over the claim ... in 1919 they re-organised as Ajax Star Co. ... company closed in 1921 ... next year the name changed to South Ajax and the shaft was deepened to 500ft and worked on and off to about 1949 ... To the east was the old Jubilee mine, it was worked to 600ft and worked up until WWI.⁷⁷⁸
- 1913:** Mining in this division is not so prosperous.⁷⁷⁹
- 1913:** Ajax mine continued to pay well, doing a considerable amount of developmental work. Nuggetty Ajax Co also had a fair year. Ajax Central Co. has had a very successful year. North Nuggetty Ajax fairly successful. Nuggetty Trafalgar Co., sunk shaft to 700-ft. Ajax North Co., sunk to 800-ft, stone proved to be of some value and the erection of a battery will commence shortly Ajax Consolidated Co. took over the mine and machinery formerly owned and worked by C. Matheson and party ... the company have a 10-head battery on the mine.⁷⁸⁰
- 1913:** New Cornish Co. Ltd, continued work during the first 9 months with such ill success that they decided to cease operations and sell the mine and plant. Purchased by a syndicate and refloated.
- 1913:** Lord Roberts, satisfactory results, the erection of a battery has been decided upon, now being erected ... The North Roberts Co. has sunk a main shaft and erected a steam winding plant.⁷⁸¹
- 1914:** Ajax Co. carried out work in a vigorous manner throughout the year. The Ajax Central has had a very satisfactory year. North Nuggetty Ajax continued with payable results ... disastrous fire ... destroyed the winding engine and housing, as well as the housing over the boilers, and the air compressing plant ... The company has decided to erect a new winding and air compressing plant, and to drive the crushing and air compressing plant by suction gas. Nuggetty Ajax Co. has not had a successful year. Nuggetty Trafalgar Co., work suspended late in the year. Ajax North Co., completed the erection of 10-head battery. Ajax North Extended Co. erected a winding plant and commenced to sink main shaft. Crown Ajax Syndicate commenced work late on the year on the Ajax line of reef at a point $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the Ajax North Extended Co.'s shaft, and is now driving a tunnel across the strata with the hope of finding payable stone.⁷⁸²
- 1914:** Frenchman's Reef Co., battery being kept going by tributers.⁷⁸³
- 1914:** Cornish Co., which was floated to take over the mine and plant owned by the late New Cornish Co. Ltd, worked for a short time, and there is little likelihood of work being resumed.
- 1914:** New Specimen Hill Co. ceased operations early in the year and sold mine and plant ... now being worked by a co-operative party, with barely payable results.
- 1914:** William Tell Co., very unsuccessful year.⁷⁸⁴
- 1914:** Olive Branch Co., very disappointing year.⁷⁸⁵

⁷⁷⁷ Bulletins of the Geological Survey of Victoria, No. 29, Some Daylesford mines, pp.33

⁷⁷⁸ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.37-38

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- 1914:** Lord Roberts Co., completed the erection of 10-head battery ... work has been carried on by the North Lord Co.⁷⁸⁶
- 1914:** Wombat Hill Co-Op Co. continued to work with barely payable results.⁷⁸⁷
- 1915:** The Ajax Co. has don a considerable amount of developmental work. The Ajax Central Co. has experienced another prosperous time. Regular monthly dividends of 1s. have been declared. The North Nuggetty Ajax Co. completed the erection of a suction gas plant to drive the crushing and air-compressing machinery. The stone has been of such low grade that the utmost economy has had to be exercised in order to make the yields cover expenses. The Nuggetty Ajax sunk another main shaft and lift. The Ajax North Co. has had a successful year and has been paying regular dividends. The Frenchman's Reef Co. have worked out all the payable stone in the upper levels and is now developing 2 lower levels. The Specimen Hill Consolidated Co. has struggled along without any reward. The Ajax North Extended Co. has resumed work after a considerable lay-off and since done much development work. The Rising Star Co. commenced work last May. The Eganstown Co. commenced work late in the year and is presently engaged in sinking a main shaft with the hope of re-finding the lost alluvial lead that was worked many years ago. The following Co. closed down during the year:- Lord Roberts, North Lord Roberts, William Tell and Olive Branch⁷⁸⁸.
- 1916:** At the Ajax a lift has been added. The Ajax North has an abundance of ore reserves to operate on but rather poor to be profitable. The Ajax Central Co. has a good reserve of stone to draw from, but rather poorer than previously. The mine appears to have a profitable future. The Nuggetty Ajax mine, by diligent prospecting, discovered some profitable splices of stone in the higher levels, which has stimulated the Co. to make further efforts lower down. At the North Nuggetty Ajax a good deal of prospecting has been done with encouraging results. The Rising Star Extended Co. has not been known to make much progress owing to unsuitable plant installed. The Eganstown Co., Failing to find true bottom at 136 ft. abandoned the show and sold the plant. Mt. William. Their are still on the field about 10 Sluicers, who make fair wages when water is available⁷⁸⁹.
- 1917:** The Ajax Co. has carried out developmental work at all levels and failed to make any fresh payable discoveries. The Ajax North Co. has an abundance of crushing material but at a rather low grade. Ajax central mine. Diligent prospecting has been done without discovering any fresh makes. North Nuggetty Ajax Co. Owing to the inability to discover any missed makes of stone, by extending the old workings, operations are suspended pending re-construction. The Nuggetty Ajax Co. has pushed on various prospecting activities through promising country. The Rising Star Extended installed a suitable steam winch plant. Powell jet elevator at Daylesford keeps 3 men going for about 4 months in the year, and yields small wages⁷⁹⁰.
- 1918:** The Ajax Co. has discovered a new line of reef just in time to stop the Co. from closing down, and promises profitable employment for sometime. At the Ajax North a slight improvement in the quality of ore is noticeable, but on the whole the ore is to poor to be profitable. The Ajax Central Co. has done a lot of development work at the bottom levels. The Nuggetty Ajax operations have been confined toto taking out remnants of old stopes. The North Nuggetty adjoining is similarly situated. At the Rising Star Extended extensive prospecting at 200ft. has did not reveal any payable crushing material⁷⁹¹
- 1920s:** Depths of mines: Trafalgar Ajax, 680ft ... sand dump of Trafalgar mine were bulldozed when the New Midland Highway was made west of the town. Nuggetty Ajax, 942ft ... Tipperary Gully Road runs over the Nuggetty Ajax sand dumps, which now fill the head of Connell's Gully above the road.⁷⁹²
- 1930s:** Courtos and Powell Bros. (two hydraulic sluicing ventures) re-worked Blind Creek into the Specimen Hill areas, using the Specimen Hill race from Upper Wombat Creek ... much earlier the Courtot family had sluiced where Blind Creek junctions with Wombat Creek ... a little way downstream, just below the Ballan Road, 1990-1905, a steam dredge had worked ... the dredge

⁷⁸⁶ Annual Report

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⁷⁹¹ Annual Reports

⁷⁹² Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

pond is still there just below the Road. The larger pond above, east of the road, is a settling pond for the Govt. battery, this was on the hillside at its top end.⁷⁹³

- 1934-1938:** Webb and Olver Bros. re-opened North Nuggetty, used whip to work to 110ft ... crushed at Government battery on Jubilee Lake Road, got 780 oz.⁷⁹⁴
- 1930s-1940s:** Back on the western slopes of Doctors Gully, in West Street, were Camerons Ajax and Young Ajax. Camerons became known as the West Maxwell in 1938 to 1942. Shafts were about 300ft deep and unsuccessful. Maxwell (Just In Time) was very successful at levels from 400 to 600ft, between 1934 to 1950 employed 30 to 40 men, reached 820ft.⁷⁹⁵
- 1930s-1940s:** Try Again line of reef, just east of Spring Creek: Florence mine, north-east edge of Kidd's Gully surveyed township ... restarted in 1930s as New Florence, went until 1941. North of it are the Samsons, Morning Light (1863), Wonderful Reef, Electric Light Reef etc and then onto Commissioners Reef area east of Hepburn Springs. The Golden Spring Q. M. Co. later worked the reef at the north end. On the west side of Hepburn-Daylesford Road, west of the Freehold area was the Ophir mine, again re-opened in the 1930s.⁷⁹⁶
- 1935:** In alluvial mines the new Glenfine, Yandoit, alluvial mines at Daylesford, and others throughout the district have done most of their preliminary work, and should soon reach the production stage.⁷⁹⁷
- 1936:** The principal producers in this district have been the Italian Hill Deep Leads and the Defiance Deep Lead companies. Both these mines are well developed, and should maintain fair returns during the coming year. In Maxwell's Mine prospecting has been carried on in several drives, and though results have been unpayable, developments in one drive have been promising. Excelsior Gold Recovery have just completed the erection of an up-to-date battery and cyanide plant on their property, and should be producing early in the year⁷⁹⁸
- 1937:** Spa mine, Shepherd's Flat - crushing of 20 tons at the Maldon Government Battery ... The company has completed the erection of a 8-head battery, and recently crushed two parcels of stone.⁷⁹⁹
- 1938:** The most encouraging development of the year occurred at the Maxwell Consolidated mine, Daylesford. Rich crushings have allowed this company to be on the dividend list for the first time after the repayment of a joint state and commonwealth loan. On this field, also an old shaft known as "South Pitcher's" north of the adjoining Maxwell lease has been opened up and re-timbered to the 100ft. level preparatory to developmental work.⁸⁰⁰
- July 1939:** The most important mine in this electorate continues to be the Maxwell Consolidated mine at Daylesford, where the stone has averaged over 1oz to the ton. On the surface new machinery has been installed and a cyanide plant has been completed, thus enabling the company to treat the accumulated tailings at the mine⁸⁰¹
- 1939:** The best producer of the year was the Maxwell Consolidated at Daylesford, where the yields averaged as high as 33dwt. per ton. Considerable developmental work was carried out, the shaft was deepened to 620 ft, and a new level was opened at 600 ft. Three dividends of 6d. per share were declared, the total payment for the year amounting to 13,743 pounds. A cyanide plant was installed and the company is now been able to treat the tailings, which have accumulated at the mine⁸⁰².

⁷⁹³ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.37-38

⁷⁹⁴ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

⁷⁹⁵ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.47-48

⁷⁹⁶ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.47-48

⁷⁹⁷ Annual Reports

⁷⁹⁸ Annual Reports

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⁸⁰⁰ Annual Reports

⁸⁰¹ Mining and Geological Journal

⁸⁰² Annual Reports

- January 1940:** The Maxwell Consolidated Mine at Daylesford continues to be the best producer, and declared dividends amounting to 19,500 pounds⁸⁰³.
- 1940:** The most profitable mine in the district is the Just-In-Time at Daylesford, were work at 400,500, 600, enabled the company to distribute 27, 486 pounds or 3s. per share⁸⁰⁴.
September 1940: The most profitable operations were at Just-In-Time (Maxwell Consolidated) mine, Daylesford⁸⁰⁵.
- Sept. 1941:** Several companies are working at Daylesford, (Just-in-Time mine) is the only one that appears on the dividend list. The company has now returned 41,230 pounds⁸⁰⁶.
- 1941:** A revival of interest in the Daylesford district, which has been more or less neglected since the mining revival, as one worthy of further prospecting, is evidenced by the re-opening of the Ajax South, Maxwell West and Florence mines. Encouraging prospects at both the Ajax South and Maxwell West mines have to date justified he confidence of the investors⁸⁰⁷.
- 1942:** Yandoit: Last company to successfully work buried leads in the Yandoit area was the Central and South Yandoit Alluvial Co. ... large dump just north of the Jim Crow, Batts Bridge ... closed in 1942.⁸⁰⁸
- 1942:** Owing to the shortage of miners the management of Maxwell Consolidated N.L. t Daylesford has decided to confine operations to development and sink the shaft a further 200 ft⁸⁰⁹
- 1944:** The various workings situated on the upper parts of the Bullarook and Rocky lead ... minor tributary leads, eg. the Hepburn Rocky Lead, Fraser's Lead and the Phoenix Lead, and small companies, such as Grave United Co. and South Fraser's Co., both of which closed about 1944. The leads were relatively unimportant, although they contained occasional small rich patches.⁸¹⁰
- 1947:** An attempt to reopen the Ajax reefs by the Ajax Consolidated N.L float ... got as far as erecting new steel poppet heads, pulled down in 1979.⁸¹¹
- March 1947:** Exploratory work was carried out at the Maxwell West and Maxwell Consolidated mines Daylesford. After the shaft at the Ajax South Mine, Daylesford had been unwatered to 437ft. The shaft of the Florence mine, Daylesford, was unwatered and deepened to 475 ft⁸¹².
- Sept 1947:** At the Maxwell Consolidated mine Daylesford, work is chiefly confined to repairs. Only 24 miners are employed, and until more miners are employed only small quantities of stone can be broken for the battery. Most of the work at the Ajax South mine was carried out at No.6 and No.7 level. The shaft at the Florence mine Daylesford is completed to 487 ft⁸¹³.
- Sept 1949:** At Maxwell Consolidated mine Daylesford, a prospecting program is being carried out. The new Jim Crow dredge should commence work sometime in October. The work of unwatering and re-timbering the Ajax Consolidated mine Daylesford continues. A diesel driven compressor has been installed, together with an air receiver. The construction of poppet legs and mine buildings is well advanced⁸¹⁴.

⁸⁰³Mining and Geological Journal

⁸⁰⁴Annual Reports

⁸⁰⁵Mining and Geological Journal

⁸⁰⁶Mining and Geological Journal

⁸⁰⁷Annual Reports

⁸⁰⁸ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.48-49

⁸⁰⁹Annual Reports

⁸¹⁰ Canavan.F., Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, 1988,p.33-34

⁸¹¹ Maddicks, Henry T., 100 Years of Daylesford Gold Mining History, p.34-36

⁸¹²Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹³Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹⁴Mining and Geological Journal

- Sept 1948:** The Maxwell Consolidated N.L. Company Daylesford, is still short of manpower the average attendance being 22 men. The shaft at the Ajax South mine, Daylesford, was cleaned out and repaired to 500 ft. Crosscutting was continued east and west at the No. 4 level of the Florence mine, Daylesford⁸¹⁵
- March 1950:** The Maxwell Consolidated mine, Daylesford, has changed hands and is now known as the Aurora mine. The winding plant has been completely overhauled and re-conditioned, and the shaft has been repaired. Another new Co. has cleared its shaft to a depth of 300ft⁸¹⁶.
- Sept 1950:** Ajax Consolidated, Daylesford, The mine was closed pending the delivery of a large pump. Aurora, Daylesford. The new ventilation system is now in full operation and regular crushings are being obtained with fairly good results⁸¹⁷.
- March 1951:** Aurora, Daylesford. During 1950 the output was 1,757 tons crushed and 1,055 fine ounces of gold.⁸¹⁸
- 1964-1968:** Deep lead working was attempted at the Lady Jennifer Mine near Yandoit. Production commenced in 1964 and ceased in 1968; the return was 9.46kg of gold. This was the last deep lead underground mine in Victoria.⁸¹⁹

⁸¹⁵Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹⁶Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹⁷Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹⁸Mining and Geological Journal

⁸¹⁹ Canavan.F., Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, 1988,p.33

MOUNT EGERTON - GORDON GOLDFIELD

DATE
1853-4:

HISTORY:

Early gold discoveries

The division's first goldfield, Mount Egerton, was discovered in 1853 by a party of Ballarat miners led by George Grell.¹The field was rushed in 1854 with miners concentrating their efforts on extracting gold from one long line of quartz reefs. Some shallow alluvial mining was also taking place along several of the gullies that drained west and east from the line of reefs, eg. **All Nations Gully and West Gully**. Later on, shallow alluvial ground was also opened at **Cobbler's, Greenhill and Mount's gullies**.² The division's **other major goldfield, Gordon's, was opened in May 1858 with the discovery of Kangaroo Bob Reef**.³ Some shallow alluvial ground was also opened in conjunction with this reef, with mining mainly confined to **Parker's and Providence gullies**. The discovery of rich quartz gold at both Mount Egerton and Gordon started small rushes - in 1856 the population on the former field was 600, and the population on the latter field, when it was rushed in July 1858, quickly grew to 300. The prospecting and mining activities of these miners were to show that the two fields were actually one - the Mount Egerton-Gordon line of reefs. There was a tendency, however, for each discovery on this long line of auriferous reefs to be named something different.⁴

Early quartz mining

With quartz mining being the main industry it was not too long before machinery to crush the quartz was introduced - within a space of two years from discovery there was reported to be 25 crushing machines operating at Mount Egerton. These would have been a mixture of hand-, horse- and steam-powered devices.⁵ Mining on both fields during the latter part of the 1850s was fairly basic, with miners removing the surface payable stuff, from small 12ft square claims. The dash for quick profits saw the bulk of early quartz workings abandoned by 1858-59 when the shafts dropped onto water. During this early period there was no systematic work carried out to prove future ore bodies.

Late 1850's:

Commencement of company mining and leasing system

In August 1859 the mining registrar set the scene for the next period of quartz mining: that the abandoned reefs could be profitably mined only by large companies working large leases and through the investment of powerful efficient steam-powered mining and crushing machinery. Only these companies argued the mining registrar could secure the necessary capital and labour which was beyond the capacity of the individual or small co-operative parties of working miners. The local mining community responded quickly to the government's promotion of the leasing system; by the end of 1859 the mining registrar recorded that the entire area of the reefs had been taken up.⁶ The commencement of mining operations on the leases was to be a less rapid and certain thing.

¹ Flett, The History of Gold Discoveries in Victoria, 1979, p.374
² Flett, The History of Gold Discoveries in Victoria, 1979, p.374
³ Flett, The History of Gold Discoveries in Victoria, 1979, p.375
⁴ Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1860
⁵ Flett, The History of Gold Discoveries in Victoria, 1979, p.375
⁶ Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1859

1860:

By the start of 1860 there were only four companies doing anything at Mount Egerton, where mining was confined to the **Big Hill section of the reef**⁷; and there were only two companies, **Kangaroo Bob Reef and Parker's, at work on the Gordon end of the field.**⁸ Then some of the newly formed companies quickly installed steam powered engines (ranging from 10h.p. to 20h.p.), small batteries (up to 12-head of stamps), Chilian mills; and constructed dams and reservoirs.⁹ The Rose Company on **Little Hill Reef (Egerton) was also reported as having erected a 65 foot brick and stone chimney stack.**¹⁰ By December 1858, £9,200 had been invested new machinery.¹¹ The erection of plant, preparation and sinking of shafts dragged on into 1860. The companies who manage to raise ore during this time had poor crushings, which not only spelt disaster for them, but also sapped the confidence of those not so well advanced. Most companies, as a result, closed down. By the end of 1860, surviving companies were reduced to crushing debris and tailings that had been discarded in the fifties. **The division's only water-wheel, on Cantwell's Creek** was erected during this time to re-crush tailings.¹² Another company, the **Mount Hope Company (Gordon) was also reported engaged in roasting quartz.**¹³ By 1863 quartz mining in the division had stagnated. Only the Parker's Reef Company was at work at the Gordon end; and the **industry was almost totally being maintained by the operations of the Egerton Quartz Mining Company.** The latter company was crushing large quantities of stone obtained from an open cut.¹⁴ The mid 1860s held little joy for most companies and the bulk of the division's mining plant was sold and removed - by 1865 the value of the division's mining plant had been reduced by two thirds, to £2,500

mid 1860's:

Alluvial mining

During the 1860s the division's shallow alluvial ground received scant attention. **Both shaft sinking, tunnelling and surfacing was undertaken** with the wash being treated in mainly horse-powered puddling machines. One of the main localities worked during this time was **All Nations Gully at Egerton. Puddling proved to be particularly successful and at least one steam-powered plant operated for several years,** eg. in 1863 this machine treated 1,500 tons in three months for an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ dwt per ton.¹⁵ **Ground sluicing was also carried out along Parker's Gully and the banks of the Werribee River** (10 miles north of Gordon).¹⁶

7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1859
8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1859
9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1859
10 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1860
11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1859
12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1860
13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1860
14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1863
15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1863
16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1860

mid 1860's: cont...

Deep lead mining

In March 1865 there was failed attempt at **deep lead mining at Lal Lal, when the Lal Lal Basin Company took up a block lease, in Sawpit Gully, adjoining the leasehold of the Victoria Lignite Company (division's first coal mine)**. There were also failed attempts at deep lead mining in the 1870s: by the **Bonshaw Company and Egerton Lead Prospecting Association (All Nations Gully), and Kerrit Bareet Company (Parker's Gully)**. These companies all sunk deep shafts, eg. Bonshaw Company's shaft went down 278 feet; and all installed small steam-powered pumping and winding plants. **The last attempt in the division at deep lead mining was undertaken at Lal Lal in the early 1890s by the Yendon Company.**¹⁷ Between the brief episodes of deep lead mining, shallow alluvial mining was continually referred to by the mining registrar as being in a very depressed state and described as mainly confined to the activities of a few lonely fossickers.

Late 1860's:

Mining revival and subsequent depression

By 1867, steady and sometimes outstanding yields by the Egerton Company had revived some confidence in the field. Another company, the Black Horse at Egerton was also producing good gold.¹⁸ **In March 1868 the mining registrar reported that a large extent of ground had been taken up, stretching north from the Egerton mine to Parker's, Kangaroo Bob and Hicks reefs at Gordon. New companies formed moved to a progressive stage - including the Flying Scud, North Egerton, Prince of Wales, Hicks reef, Victoria, Kangaroo Bob, Ercildoune, Emu and Greeds Reef - and erected steam-powered mining and crushing machinery, and undertook shaft sinking and driving.** The late 1860s mining boom marks the time when mining was undertaken at considerable depth, by December 1869, **mines like the Egerton, Black Horse and Flying Scud were dropping beyond the 500 foot level.** The late 1860s mining revival proved to be short-lived.

Early 1870's:

In December 1870 the mining registrar recorded that apart from the Egerton Company, no one else was at work.¹⁹ This state of affairs was to prevail more or less through the mid 1870s. About the only excitement during this time was the introduction of a new explosive compound called 'Dynamite Patronen' (dynamite) in 1872²⁰ which proved to particularly effective reducing time taken in shaft sinking and driving. **The Egerton Company continued to carry the field, in September 1875 it was employing an average of 130 men²¹ and was carrying out extensive underground operations at two shafts - Quarry and Rose shafts.**

Late 1870's:

Rise of the New Black Horse and Parker's United mines

After 1875 two new companies - the New Black Horse and Parker's United - began to experience success equalling that of the Egerton. The Black Horse was the adjoining claim to the Egerton, the Parker's United held ground at Gordon. By 1877 the two new companies were producing rich gold and were employing large numbers of men, ie. former had 78 staff and the latter 50. At the same time, the Egerton Company was employing an average of 175 men.²² **These companies had by now very large crushing plants, eg. the Egerton was operating a battery with 43-head of stamps, the New Black Horse's battery had 22-head. All three companies were paying out large dividends to their respective shareholders.**

17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1891
18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1868
19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1872
21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1875
22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1877

Early 1880's:

New quartz fields discovered in the early 1880s

The successes of these companies sparked a small mining boom in 1883, which led to a flurry of machinery installation. Some of this machinery was erected at two recently discovered goldfields, ie. **the Great Northern Parker and Jones-Bradford companies** erected steam-powered plant at **Korweinguboorra**; and the **Summer Hill, Shamrock and South Shamrock companies** all erected mining plant, including batteries, at **Moorabool West**, to the north of Gordon. Auriferous reefs were also discovered 1 _ miles to the south-east of Barkstead, which gave some rich but very small parcels of ore. This field did not develop passed the prospecting stage.²³

Dominance of Egerton, Black Horse and Parkers United mines during the 1880s

The dominance of the Gordon-Egerton field by the Egerton, New Black Horse and Parker's United continued throughout much of the 1880s. Despite the Parker's United proved to be the lesser of the three in terms of production it does seem to have had a remarkable influence on the field's mining nomenclature with many 1880s hopefuls bearing its name, eg. Parkers Extended, Great Northern Parker, Parker's United No. 1, Central Parkers, South Parkers, North Parkers, Parkers Freehold and Parker's United Miners. The Egerton and Black Horse companies both had their turns at being the division's largest gold producer. The former held the record throughout much of the 1880s, and the latter for a shorter time during the late 1880s/early 1890s. **The Egerton was to pay out some £300,000 in dividends and the Black Horse obtained £460,000 worth of gold and paid out £178,000 in dividends.**²⁴

Retreatment of tailings by Chinese

With the three mines crushing large volumes of ore, the retreatment of tailings became a feature of the field. The work was monopolised by Chinese and was taking places as early as 1875 and continued right through the 1880s. **The Chinese treated the tailings in cradles, downstream from the batteries.** The Chinese were also recorded as treating the tailings from the Kangaroo Bob Reef battery.

Iron mining and smelting at Lal Lal

Another new industry to emerge in the division during the mid 1870s was the mining and smelting of iron at Lal Lal. **The Lal Lal Iron Company installed mining machinery (engine and boiler), erected smelting furnaces and constructed a tramway from its mines to smelting works.** The company also had a foundry at Ballarat. For a brief time in the early 1880s the Lal Lal Iron Company was another large employer of labour, eg. in December 1883 the company had a staff of 150 men.²⁵ Apart from employing miners and furnace men, **the company also had men getting limestone (flux) and firewood from its lease and making charcoal.** The Lal Lal Iron Works had ceased operations by the end of the 1880s.

Coal mining at Lal Lal

Coal was discovered at Lal Lal in 1858 as the result of prospecting for alluvial gold. The deposit was subsequently developed by the Victoria Coal and Lignite Company whose chequered career was due to a large extent to the variability in the quality of the coal.²⁶ In the late 1880s a second attempt at coal mining was undertaken at Lal Lal by the **Australian Deodorising and Fertiliser Company.** This company also only obtained moderate results.

23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1883

24 Australian Mining Standard, June 1, 1899

25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1883

26 Mining and Geological Journal, September 1950, p52

1890's:

Prolonged depression in gold mining

Throughout the 1890s the Egerton-Gordon line produced very little gold. One by one its principle mines suspended or cut back operations as known reserves were exhausted. They were uniformly unable to discover any new ore bodies. By the turn of the century, the Black Horse Company had the field to itself and was prospecting at the 2,000 ft level. Unable to sustain the cost of such deep work, the company ceased operations and the field was left to the devices of a few small prospecting parties. To assist the locals, the government installed a small battery at Egerton. During the first decade of the twentieth century there were also several parties engaged with small cyanide plants, gathering the sand from the gullies where it had previously been treated by the Chinese.²⁷

1930's:

1930s Depression - a brief moment of quartz mining glory

During the 1930s depression the price of gold rose from £4 to £8 and ounce. This rise promoted a revival in gold mining throughout Victoria. Some prospectors were to be lucky. **In September 1933 Daniel Toohey discovered the Gordon Gold reef - 60 tons from the reef crushed at the Egerton State Battery yielded 356 ounces of gold.** The exceptional richness of the first crushing drew attention to the field and numerous leases were taken up. Although some of the new companies, such as the Gordon Horse got to the mining stage, none other than the Gordon Gold Development Company (formed to work Toohey's discovery) paid dividends. **The Gordon Gold Company installed a 10-head battery and, until the company closed down in 1939, crushed 29,102 tons for 30, 121 ounces of gold. In 1936, the company, with an annual total of 7,857 ounces, was the biggest gold producer in Victoria.**²⁸

Mining of kaolin

With the demise of the Gordon Gold Mining Company in 1939, the **mining of kaolin (china-clay) became the main attraction in the division.** Kaolin mining was carried out **at both Lal Lal (by the Ceramic Kaolin Mines Pty Ltd) and Mount Egerton (by the Victoria Tile Company and Miss M. Malone Company).**²⁹ All three mines were underground operations, with a whip being used for haulage at the Lal Lal mine.³⁰ The three mines continued to mine into the fifties with much success, with demand often outstripping supply.

SOURCES:

Mining and Geological Journal.
Annual Reports, Department of Mines.
Mining Surveyors' Reports.
Australian Mining Standard, Special Edition, June 1, 1899.
The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, James Flett, 1979.

²⁷ Annual Report, 1904

²⁸ Mining and Geological Journal, July 1939, p.5

²⁹ Annual Report 1946

³⁰ Mining and Geological Journal, March 1947

RAGLAN-BEAUFORT GOLDFIELD

DATE

1854:

HISTORY:

Discovery of the gold in the division

In the winter of 1854 gold was discovered at the Yam Holes, a small hill on the outskirts of the present day Beaufort. The god's discoverers, a party comprising Windus, Johnston, Jewell and Thomas, also claimed responsibility, in March 1855, for opening the famous Fiery Creek Rush. The rush to Fiery Creek was lauded at the time as one of the most exciting, richest and violent rushes in the colony.¹ The first place opened at Fiery Creek appears to have been a section of the Main Lead known as Musical Gully.² By November 1855, most of the numerous tributary gullies draining into the Main Lead (which ran north from Beaufort for a distance of 2_kms) had been opened. The rush extended in 1856 - gold was discovered in gullies and flats, such as Wingfield Gully, Waterloo Flat and Sailor's Gully, that lay on the other side of the ranges, to the east of Beaufort. New ground continued to be opened up in the area up until at least 1858, by which time the fury and size of the rush had been greatly dissipated: the local mining registrar in December 1859 estimated that the division's mining population numbered 3,800 (3,200 European miners and 600 Chinese).³

1850's:

Limited quartz mining

The alluvial rushes of the 1850s did not result, as was the case on many other Victorian fields, in many auriferous quartz reefs being discovered; in fact, by March 1867, only four reefs had been found to be gold bearing.⁴ There were only two periods when these reefs received any significant attention. The first was in the late 1860s, when several shafts were sunk on the Sheet Anchor Reef, at Waterloo (6 miles north-east of Beaufort). In June 1868, the Sheet Anchor Company (a co-operative party of 10 men) were making a dam and installing an 18h.p. engine and 12-head of stamps. After suffering several delays, which included the bursting of their boiler, having to remove the battery to a new location (over the hill, to the next gully north), and sinking to 190 feet, the company the closed down and sold off their plant.⁵ The Red Hill Reef was also unsuccessfully prospected during this time by at least two shafts. There was also another burst of quartz mining in the early 1870s. In March 1872, six parties - Graves, Nettleton, Tullock, Brown, Downie and Lockhart - commenced prospecting. By the end of the year their efforts had led to three main ventures - the Richmond Reef Quartz Mining Company, Camp Hill Quartz Tunnelling Company and Charlton Quartz Prospecting Company. Only the Richmond Company managed to progress to the mining phase: the company erected a small battery and crushed several batches of ore from the 180-foot level (98 tons for an average of 21 dwts, and 55 tons for average of 1_ ounces). The company then closed down. Their battery was erected on the site of the old Sheet Anchor's mill.⁶ The Tunnelling Company on Camp Hill stopped work, from lack of capital, after driving 600 feet⁷; and the Charlton Prospecting Company was wound up after sinking to a depth of 180 feet.⁸

1 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, pp.310-318

2 Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, pp.318

3 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1859

4 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1867

5 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1869

6 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1872

7 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1872

8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1872

Early 1860's:

Early deep lead sinking

By the end of the 1850s, and through the early part of the 1860s, the bulk of the mining community occupied themselves with re-working the old ground with tindish, tub and cradle, horse-powered puddling machines and sluicing. A small band of more enterprising miners were commencing to prospect the shallow leads in an attempt to find untapped deeper running gutters of gold. Deep lead mining involved sinking to depths of beyond 100 feet, often through very wet and dangerously unstable ground. It was to be this type of mining, which was to provide the division with its most enduring character. Many of the men taking part in the pioneering work on the Beaufort deep leads were new arrivals, skilled in the art of deep sinking, having learnt the trade on neighbouring, more established deep sinking fields such as Brown's, Linton's, Carngham and Smythesdale.⁹ The tools of trade for these miners were horse-powered haulage machinery (either whips or whims), and for the more affluent, or go-ahead, steam engines. By 1861 the focus of deep lead mining was on two leads at Beaufort - the Southern Cross and Garibaldi (or Jock's). Each of these leads had at least eight companies sinking and driving with the assistance of steam engines.¹⁰ So concentrated was the mining at Beaufort in 1861 that the mining registrar reported that the only unoccupied mining ground was the Police Paddock. Even this was later taken up and mined.¹¹ Despite a few of the small parties hitting on some rich patches, none proved the existence of a permanent payable lead. The mining registrar gave three excuse for the failure: the lightness or inefficiency of the steam engines; the small number of men employed in proportion to the labour required for the speedy development of a lead; and that many miners had made an expensive mistake by putting drives at too low a level. According to the registrar many miners had assumed that the heaviest deposits of gold lay in the lowest point of the gutter, but experience showed that it was often deposited on the slopes. As result, the miners had to bore up from anything from 4 to 14 feet.¹² The fourth factor was that the routes of the leads themselves were very tortuous and therefore difficult to trace. The mining registrar described the Southern Cross lead as having a particularly 'crotchety character'.¹³

Handsome returns from sluicing and puddling

While the deep sinking miners struggled during 1861 and 1862, the less innovative shallow alluvial miners flourished. The mining registrar's reports for this time continually describe the results from this occupation as being 'most handsome'. No greater illustration of the success of sluicing and puddling was the fact that by 1861 European miners had re-occupied, and displaced Chinese miners from, the upper portions (northern part) of the Main Lead, and nearly all the available auriferous hills. This was against the usual trend for Victorian alluvial fields, which tended, by this time, to be monopolised by Chinese miners.¹⁴ Success rested on an ample supply of water to puddle or sluice the extensive shallow auriferous deposits. The necessary water came via two main water race systems. One of the race systems appears to have been constructed by the Wimmera Sluicing Company¹⁵ and brought water from Mount Cole area. The other major system appears to have been linked to Black Swamp, near Waterloo. In 1861, Bill's Hill Sluicing Company, Rankin's Sluicing party, and the Waterloo Company, were reported ground sluicing using water from a mile square dam which had been constructed at Black Swamp. The water was elevated, by a steam engine, from this dam, to fluming on a hill, and then conveyed by race to the workings. Together the two sluicing concerns were employing 25 Europeans for sluicing and 30 Chinese for puddling.¹⁶

Early 1860's: cont...

The mining registrar reported in October 1861 that the whole of the surface water rights in the division, that was available for mining purposes, was in the hands of

⁹ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1861
¹⁰ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1861
¹¹ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1861
¹² Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1861
¹³ Mining Surveyors' Reports, August 1861
¹⁴ Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1861
¹⁵ Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1861
¹⁶ Mining Surveyors' Reports, November 1861

European capitalists.¹⁷ The mining registrar listed several companies and locations in respect to sluicing during 1861 - the Dancing Feather and Phoenix sluicing company, near Golden Point, on the Main Lead; Red Hill Sluicing Company, Nuggetty Gully; Wimmera Sluicing Company, Jonathan's Gully; Fiery Creek Steam Sluicing Company, near Cemetery Hill; Watkins and Bill's Hill sluicing companies (Waterloo Hill and Bill's Hill); and the West of England Sluicing Company, Surface Point. Sluicing also was carried out at Yam Holes Hill. Puddling was also widely used when the washdirt proved unsuitable for sluicing. While many puddlers were able to construct their own dams, some paid a rent to the sluicing companies for the water they required to carry out their vocation.¹⁸ The mining registrar pinpointed Upper Golden Point (on the Main Lead) as a favoured puddling location - there were seven puddling parties (6 European and 1 Chinese) were working with great success in 1861. Six of the puddling parties were renting water from the Phoenix and Wimmera sluicing companies, and the other had its own dam.¹⁹ Although horse-power was the norm for puddling, at least one operation, by Messrs Allen and Company, involved the installation of steam-powered puddling machine.²⁰ Apart from sluicing and puddling the shallow alluvial miners also carried out a lot of tunnelling. The mining registrar recorded one Chinese party running tunnels and tramways into a hill and carrying on their work in a most extensive manner.²¹ There was also one small battery erected to crush cement obtained from the Main Lead.

New cycle of deep sinking

By the beginning of 1863 deep sinking was presenting a more favourable appearance with a steady increase in returns from the Southern Cross and Garibaldi leads. This renewed confidence led to several companies sinking prospecting shafts seeking deep leads supposed to exist under the old Main Lead, and along the Trawalla Creek Valley, at Charlton and Waterloo. The mining community's hopes were particularly pinned on the Main Lead, and the operations of the Beaufort Junction Company. The company worked for only 12 months, expended its capital of £4000, and only obtained 4 ounces of gold.²² Its engine, purchased for £1600 was sold to a Creswick mine for £600.²³ Eight other companies, mostly working on the Southern Cross Lead, also closed down at the same time.

mid 1860's:

Prospecting along the Trawalla Creek Valley caused the most excitement in the mid 1860s. In September 1865, the mining registrar reported that one party of 12 men, known as the Defiance Company, had obtained upwards of 200 ounces in three weeks from a lead in Sailor's Gully. Their success, and a history of good yields from puddling and other shallow work, influenced the mining registrar to predict that the Sailor's Gully would eventually be the best diggings in the division.²⁴ Other parties worked successfully along side the Defiance including the Helmsdale and Royal Saxon companies. The Charlton, Crinoline and Prince of Wales also mined successfully at Charlton, at the other (north) end of the Trawalla Creek Valley. They picked up a rich lead in Sulky Gully and worked profitably until 1868. No joy was experienced by the Old King Charlie's Company who worked the northern (or Raglan) end of the Main Lead.

17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1861
18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1861
19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1861
20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1861
21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865
22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1864
23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1864
24 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865

Their lease had previously been tried by the Daughters Of Freedom Company.²⁵ The Phoenix Company, at Charlton (Seal's and party) was another notable failure. In 1869, this company's engine and plant were described by the mining registrar as the best in the division. Despite this, the company's shaft was swamped and the company was defunct within a year.²⁶

1870: Shallow alluvial mining from the 1870s

At the beginning of the 1870s the mining registrar reported that more than half of the total mining population (estimated at around 600) were Chinese. The Chinese were now monopolising the shallow ground, occupied mainly with puddling. As this branch of mining was seasonal, confined to the winter months, they were prepared to do other things during the summer: they were reported as being particularly sought after by farmers for harvest work, being prepared to work for wages well below that acceptable to a European miner.²⁷ The Chinese also took part in deep sinking, usually reported as taking over whim claims from disgruntled European owners. One party of Chinese were particularly noted by the mining registrar during the early 1870s - first mining on the Main Lead, then Southern Cross Lead, from which they moved to work a claim at Charlton.

Early 1870's: Another cycle of deep lead sinking

Deep sinking in the early 1870s was extremely dull with a number of companies prospecting (referred to as progressive companies); and only two of the established companies, the Young Duke and Band of Hope were mining profitably. The Young Duke (comprising 14 men) was particularly successful, eg. in one month they obtained £800 worth of gold²⁸; and when the company stopped work in June 1871, the mining registrar reported that for the whole of the three years the miners had averaged £5 per man weekly.²⁹ A third co-operative party, Toe and Company, also mined with handsome results from 1871; and in 1874 was reported as having three steam engines and two puddling machines. Both the Young Duke and Toe and Company were re-organised in 1874, and re-named Beaufort and Waterloo companies respectively. This move, to supply extra capital for more ambitious mining, proved fatal in both cases. The collapse of the Waterloo Company was reported by the mining registrar as throwing a 'great damp upon the immediate district.

mid 1870's: Successful deep sinking

The mid 1870s saw a repeat of the previous cycle of co-operative company mining. By 1875 three new companies were mining profitably: Tomen and party, on Waterloo Lead; and the Golden Fleece Company (also known as Cummings and Party) and Got-him-By-The-Wool Company (Manners and Party), at Beaufort. The Golden Fleece Company were mining on Garibaldi Lead, and the Got-Him-By-The Wool Company were working on the Red Streak Lead. A third company, the Market Reserve, also mined profitably within the township boundary. Two other new ventures, the New Charlton and Band of Hope companies, also mined with limited success at Charlton.

1875: In 1875, the mining registrar reported that a want of capital amongst the miners was impeding the development of the field. Future hopes of the division rested on the Got-Him-By-The Wool Company, and the New Victoria and the Golden Gate companies on the Waterloo Lead. In March 1876, the New Victoria Company picked up a 100-foot wide auriferous gutter, which averaged 2_ ounces of gold to a puddling machine³⁰; and by the following year it had produced enough to instigate a deep lead rush.

1878: In March 1878, the mining registrar reported that work was progressing on some eight to ten new leases, and the division's major leads at Waterloo, Sailor's Gully, Beaufort and Charlton (also called Chute) were being investigated. The New Victoria Company leading a lively mining scene which included the Hobart Pasha, Perseverance, New Discovery and South Victoria companies, Waterloo Lead;

25 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1865
26 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1869
27 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1870
28 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1871
29 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1872
30 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1876

Telegraph Co-op, Homeward-bound and Beaufort companies, Beaufort; Royal Saxon and South Defiance, Sailor's Gully; and Waterloo Consols, Charlton.

late 1870's: The late 1870s deep lead mining boom had run its course by 1884. Some of the companies, such as the Telegraph Co-op, Homeward-bound and Beaufort, were early casualties; but all the others went on to mine with various degrees of profit. By 1884, the profitable mines were gradually being added to the list of defunct mining companies. When the New Victoria Company stopped work in 1885, it had gained the record of being the division's greatest deep lead mine - it had obtained 36,778 ounces of gold, valued at £153,488.³¹

late 1880's: **The decline of the field during the late 1880s**
The decline of the Beaufort field was rapid after the demise of the New Victoria. Within a year or so, most of the companies had closed down and their plant and machinery removed from the field. In March 1887 the mining registrar wrote that he could see little prospect for the immediate recovery of the field and concluded that the 'mining pulse beats very low indeed'.³² The late 1880s saw several ill-fated attempts to revive the field by the New Royal Saxon, Saxon Consols, and Waterloo companies. For a time after this, the field became the realm of a few small co-operative parties.

early 1900's: **Short-lived revival at the turn of the century**
Deep lead mining was revived in the Beaufort Division at the turn of the century when the Raglan Lead was profitably worked for about 2kms of its length by the Sons Of Freedom group of companies. The principal mines that operated on this lead between 1900-1904 were Sons of Freedom Central, Sons of Freedom, Sons of Freedom South, and Sons of Freedom Extended. The last mine in operation at Raglan was the Sons of Freedom Junction³³; in 1904 this company erected a winding and pumping plant and commenced sinking a shaft.³⁴ With the demise of the Sons of Freedom group of companies, deep lead mining entered a new prospecting phase. In 1907, a new company called The Carter's Deep Leads (an English one) commenced to cart machinery and plant to a site about the junction of the Waterloo and Beaufort's leads.³⁵ By the following year, the company had sunk a main shaft and risen to the wash from which payable dirt had been obtained. Unfortunately for the company, the ground proved expensive to work and they struggled to mine profitably. The company was re-organised at the end of 1911 and renamed the Beaufort Deep Leads. In 1912, two other companies - the Northern Hope (formerly Morris and party) and the Hope Company Northern Hope - were also engaged in extensive mining operations. The northern Hope proved to be the most successful of the three, it mined until 1916 and produced 553 kg of gold. The other two mines, produced about 250kg of gold each.³⁶ The Beaufort Deep Leads Company also suspended operations in 1916, which left the Northern Hope as the only operating deep lead mine in the district. The Northern Hope closed down shortly after, finding it impossible to trace any payable run of wash.³⁷

31 Mining Surveyors' Reports, July 1887

32 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1887

33 Canavan. F, Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, 1988, p.78

34 Annual Reports, 1904, p.68

35 Annual Reports, 1907, p.138

36 Canavan. F, Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, 1988, p.78

37 Annual Report, 1916, p.48

Twentieth century sluicing and dredging

The re-working of shallow alluvial ground through pump-sluicing and bucket dredges became an important factor in the gold production of the Beaufort district from about 1906. In this year two main operations commenced: the Yam Holes Sluicing Company and the Fiery Creek Dredging Company. The latter venture was the most successful and operated on the upper part of the Fiery Creek or Beaufort Lead to around 1918.³⁸ For a time, from 1909 to about 1914, the company operated two plants.

SOURCES:

³⁸ Canavan. F, Deep Lead Gold Deposits of Victoria, 1988, p.78

STEIGLITZ MINING DIVISION

DATE

HISTORY:

1851:

Early gold discoveries

The division's first gold discoveries were along the Moorabool River, near Morrison's Station; at Dolly's Creek; and in the vicinity of Steiglitz. Made as early 1851, these discoveries, and others, did not lead to anything as the gold was not recovered in payable quantities.

1855:

Gold rushes to the area did not take place until late 1855 after Hooley and Davis discovered a rich reef at Steiglitz ¹Gold from this reef, when assayed at Geelong, went 72 ounces to the ton.² The assay results saw Steiglitz rushed and there were soon 200 miners on the field.³ During the next four years, the bulk of Steiglitz's reefs (over forty) were discovered: the more important being the New Chum, Boxing, Portuguese, Yankee Smith, Sailors, Ironbark, Hanover, Victoria, Gibraltar, Tam-O-Shanter and New Years. The working of the reefs at Steiglitz turned the place into the division's most important, though relatively small in comparison to other Victorian fields, quartz mining centre. Alluvial mining at Steiglitz, on the other hand, did not develop into anything of note, though there was some sluicing, puddling and paddocking carried out at places like Sutherlands Creek and Yankee Gully.

late 1850's:

Development of alluvial field

The discovery of the Steiglitz's reefs led to the successful working of the shallow alluvial deposits on the Moorabool River (Morrison's Diggings) and Dolly's Creek. ⁴ It was not, however, until gold was extracted from much older geological deposits (known as cemented leads) that mining flourished on the two fields. By 1858, miners at Morrison's were tunnelling under the basalt along western bank of the Moorabool and by the following year had also discovered a cemented lead at Dolly's Creek, that run from Campbell's to Brown's Hill. The auriferous gravels extracted by the miners were treated by sluice boxes and puddling machines.

Expansion of alluvial mining

Towards the end of the 1850s other alluvial goldfields were opened in the northern portion of the division. The first of the new fields were the Mt Doran or Tea-Tree diggings: by 1859, shallow alluvial and cemented gravel deposits were being worked at the head of Tea-Tree Creek.⁵

early 1860's:

The Stony Rises Diggings were opened in 1862 with a small rush, which later saw the whole of a flat next to the Geelong-Ballarat road being occupied and worked. As the sinkings were through basalt, it was anticipated, but never proven, that a deep lead existed in the area.⁶ After a brief period of alluvial mining at Stony Rises, the discovery of two auriferous reefs in 1863 ⁷ saw the focus of mining switch to quartz. Several companies - including the Royal George, Royal Charlie, Prince of Wales, Australasian Gold Mining, Stony Rises, Yorkey's Reef and Rose & Thistle - were formed.

¹ Steiglitz: a history of a mining town, undated, p.5

² Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, p.385

³ Steiglitz: a history of a mining town, undated, p.5

⁴ Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, p.372

⁵ Flett, The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria, 1979, p.374

⁶ Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1863

⁷ Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1863

The Prince of Wales and Australasian Gold Mining companies took out large leases, which covered the whole of the old diggings and intended to operate on the old workings with both crushing and puddling machinery⁸. Both worked with little success, and the latter company went onto to search, unsuccessfully, for a deep lead. After this, quartz mining became the business conducted on the field: both the Royal George and Royal Charlie had erected crushing batteries by 1865.⁹

In 1864, the Woodbourne Creek field was opened, gold being discovered in Munroe's Gully (tributary of Reeds or Woodbourne Creek, south-west of Meredith). In the following year, gold was obtained from along Woodbourne Creek itself, and also Cargarie Creek.¹⁰

Dominance of sluicing and Chinese miners

The richness of cemented leads at Morrison's and Dolly's Creek, and the topography of the northern part of the division, determined that sluicing would be the most prevalent and important branch of alluvial mining. By the mid 1860s, this industry was monopolised by Chinese miners, which was probably a reflection of how difficult and unrewarding the mining was. In May 1860, the Dolly's Creek Diggings were described by the mining registrar as a 'poor man's field'¹¹, that is, only suited to being worked by individual, or small parties of, miners and only capable of rewarding efforts with good wages. By the early 1860s the Chinese miners on Dolly's creek, who were still mainly working the auriferous deposits that covered the hills, such as Hooleys, Browns and Campbell's, to a depth of four feet.¹² The majority of the auriferous material was being treated in sluice boxes, though there were five puddlings on the field. Being a very dry area, the miners at Dolly's Creek were reliant on water supplied by a twelve-mile water race, which came from a source above the Lal Lal Falls.¹³ This race had been constructed by the Moorabool Waterworks Company (also referred to as Lal Lal Waterworks Company) and was later extended south to the Morrison's and Tea-Tree Diggings. According to the registrar the water from the Lal Lal race enabled the Chinese to 'turn over with profit every portion of the ground about Dolly's Creek containing the most minute particles of gold'.¹⁴ Morrison's and Tea-Tree diggings also had a very intensive sluicing industry, involving shaft sinking, tunnelling and the treatment of material in sluice boxes and puddlers. Initially only rich deposits on the west side of Moorabool River, and up Tea-Tree Creek, were worked, but in 1864, two rushes - Evan's and Wallace's - opened up extensive deposits along the east bank of the Moorabool. By 1863, the Lal Lal water race had been extended to Morrisons and the mining registrar felt that it enabled miners to wash with profit about 50% more material than previously treated.¹⁵

8 Mining Surveyors' Reports, March 1864
9 Mining Surveyors' Reports, September 1865
10 Flett, *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*, 1979, p.373
11 Mining Surveyors' Reports, May 1860
12 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1860
13 Mining Surveyors' Reports, December 1860
14 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1863
15 Mining Surveyors' Reports, October 1863

mid 1860's:

By 1866, alluvial mining on both the Dolly's Creek and Morrison's fields, was declining. The miners had by this time treated most of the easily won auriferous material. Attempting to arrest the decline on the latter field, two companies - Golden Rivers and Borhonerghurk - embarked on ambitious new mining ventures. The former sunk a shaft (beyond 400 feet) and extended numerous drives in order to discover the continuation of the rich Ballarat deep leads; and the latter, installed the division's largest crushing plant, a 70hp steam engine and 28-head of stamps to crush cement deposits.¹⁶ In June 1866, the registrar reported that the failure of the crushing works had caused a severe mining depression in the area, eg. Dolly's Creek was virtually deserted with the exception of one small party of Chinese miners.¹⁷

mid 1870's:

Alluvial mining revival

With a general decline in quartz mining in the mid 1870s, alluvial mining revived.¹⁸ The focus of the work was Dolly's Creek and Morrisons¹⁹ where miners again relied on the water from the Lal Lal race. By this time the race appears to have been taken over by the government.²⁰ In June 1879, the registrar was of the view that Dolly's Creek was on the verge of another golden era because a cement-lie deposit, overlooked in the past, had been proven to be gold bearing, going as much as 2_ ounces to the ton.²¹ Sluicing and pumping ventures were formed to work the deposit, eg. David Morrisons Water Scheme in 1879²² and the Happy Dinah Company erected a 5-head battery in 1883.²³

SOURCES:

Flett, J. *The History of Gold Discovery in Victoria*, Poppet Head Press, Melbourne, 1976.
Mining Surveyors' Reports.

16 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1865
17 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1866
18 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1874
19 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1876
20 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1881
21 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1879
22 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1881
23 Mining Surveyors' Reports, June 1883