

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

RAYWOOD CHANNEL WATER RACE

Other Names

Location Parcel No.P127176, State Park,

Map Reference Epsom 1:25,000 - BV550.414

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description A trench, generally and approximately trapezoidal in section, sometimes lined in concrete, approximately 1.5 metres in width, generally open and cut along the contour, with culverts at road/track crossings, connecting Blue Jacket Gully reservoir to Cockatoo Hill reservoir, and beyond to Neilborough and Raywood, or beyond by a branch channel to Sebastian. At a point approximately 200 metres north-east of the junction of Scotsmans Track and Old Tom Road, Scotchman's Gully, there is a water race tunnel. A 40 metre-long trench leads to the entrance of a tunnel passing through a low hill. In constructing the tunnel, a series of shafts was cut down to the tunnel depth along its entire length, and the tunnel was driven from the bottom of one shaft to the next. A total of twenty-two shafts were sunk, at 6 foot intervals, each having its own rectangular wooden collar. At the tunnel's east end is another long section of trench. The water race has now been diverted around the site by a concrete channel. The wooden collars of the shafts are decaying and some shafts are collapsing.

History Period of activity: 1886-1998+

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples There are few examples of water races within the study area. The only other ones are the Wilson's Hill Channel and the raceway on the ridge above the Lancashire reef workings. Raceways rarely have tunnels; the only other ones to be found in the neighbourhood are on the Coliban water race. These are much earlier and are lined.

Statement of Significance The lack of water and the flatness of much of the landscape (which made storage dams difficult to construct) were factors influential in determining the progress of mining in the Whipstick area throughout most of the nineteenth century. Before the construction of this raceway the supply of water to such settlements as Sebastian, Neilborough and Raywood was also precarious. After its construction it provided a stimulus to mining at those sites in its proximity (e.g. Old Tom and Flagstaff Hill)(criterion A) . The site also has potential to illustrate aspects of Victoria's cultural heritage due to the intactness of the raceway and linking together of sites representative of mining in the Whipstick (criterion C).

Level of Significance Regional

Recommendation The site should be protected under the heritage overlay of the Great Bendigo Planning Scheme, by registration with the Victorian Heritage Council, and in

accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites. In particular, a walking track should be progressively constructed to provide access to the water race and the significant mining sites in its vicinity.

Heritage Boundaries The site is defined for 5 metres either side of the raceway from Blue Jacket Gully Reservoir to Cockatoo Hill Reservoir and includes all conduits, culverts, tunnels and sluiceheads.

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Notes Two Italians drove the tunnel . . .(and) were paid £10 per week. Tunnel driven east-west, thought they would pick up a reef on the way. Water goes as far as Raywood. [122]

The Raywood Channel passes in close proximity to: Blue Jacket Reef (White Jacket Gully) mine and alluvial workings, Jib Horse Gully alluvial workings, Old Tom Reef mine and alluvial workings, Old Tom Reef

Assessed by David Bannear in February 1992 and reviewed by Peter Milner in June 1998

Chronology 1852□Three quarters of a mile north of the site of the Government Camp rose Lightning Hill . . . The pioneers knew it as White Horse Hill ...soon to be gouged and ever scarred. It too, contained golden treasure. By the close of 1852 most of the gullies around Bendigo and as far north as Sailors Gully had been worked, although some were still receiving attention. A few miles north, over the ridges from Sailors Gully, Sydney Flat let and neighbouring gullies were perhaps the northern limit of activity on the Bendigo goldfield at the time. W S Urquhart's map of Bendigo diggings, 1852, shows Wellington and Napoleon Gullies, Fiddler's Green (now Fiddler's Gully) and Sydney Flat as the northern limits of the Bendigo goldfield.

C. Rudston Read, a gold commissioner, established his camp at Myers Creek in 1852. Napoleon Gully was about a mile east of his camp ...The extension of mining was in 1852 temporarily halted along a curved line extending some ten miles from Sydney Flat, along the northern side of Lightning Hill to Epsom. The Whipstick had been reached. The scrub and dense forest, together with a shortage of water and a reduction of population were perhaps the main reasons for halting the advance. [1.8-9]

15.□01.1857□The Bendigo correspondent of the Argus has the following interesting account of a visit to the diggings in the Whipstick scrub:- Having heard of several nuggets, none of them of a considerable size, that have lately been found in the Whipstick, a distance of about 15 miles from here, I determined to ascertain from personal observation what was going on in this gold-bearing land of mystery, and so a few mornings since I tramped out to the Ironstone Hill, four miles from here, where I had engaged to meet a nautical blue shirt, who promised to act as a guide, a promise which he kept much better than another, that I should secure "lots of wild turkey and pigeons, as many as you can carry". The Ironstone Hill lies about half a mile to the westward of Epsom and had formerly only one lead, which runs about north-west. The sinking is very hard, through cement, which although pretty rich, takes so long to get through, that its value is much counter-balanced by this disadvantage. A few weeks previous to my visiting it, the place was almost deserted in consequence of the temptations held out by Epsom, but within the last few days another lead running in a north-easterly direction which has been opened after the other, and portions of which had yielded splendid returns, but had also been almost entirely deserted, was rushed in consequence of the holes most in advance having 'struck it heavy'. In a short time the news was passed to Epsom, and those who had been shepherding their holes at the Ironstone Hill whilst working at the former place came over, and in a very few hours the lead was extended half a mile and holes going down on all sides. It is supposed that

the lead will join the Epsom lead. The ground between them is in the form of a wedge, the thin end pointing northwards. The sinking is from 50 to 70 feet. My pioneer being ready we descended the hill and plunged into the bush; here onward we went over a flat and up a range, down into the gully below, and up the opposite range, and so on mile after mile. Everywhere was quartz. Quartz in the gullies broken into fragments, and unpleasantly introducing itself to your attention by the effects upon your feet. Quartz on the ranges, making them snowy white, and constantly cropping out in large masses. ...

When some distance on our road we overtook a miner washing a dish of stuff. According to his statement he had had a good prospect; but had sunk several holes and scarcely got "the color". ...

Still proceeding onward and passing through a country displaying the finest auriferous indications we reached a solitary log hut. Here a quantity of surfacing had been heaped up and a puddling machine and dam constructed, in readiness for the winter rains. The party, a small one, was composed of Germans, had been in this state of isolation for some time. At first starting they had neither horse or dray; now they possessed both; it would appear, therefore, that they, like others, have been successful in discovering nuggets, for during their stay they have had little if any water wherewith to wash their stuff. Onward still, till at length we reach the object of my journey, the scene of the late rush, which we approached through a lane cut through the Whipstick by some speculative storekeeper, who thought to find his profit in turning the tide of life past his store. From the lane we debouched on Drunken Scotchman's Gully, which is about a mile and a half in length, and from six to eight claims wide. Adjacent to it is Blacksmith, Sunfly and Brandy gullies. In the last named, during the past week, several very respectable nuggets have been found; one weighing 40 ounces and another 70 ounces. The gold is extremely patchy and a miner may work for a long time and obtain scarcely anything, and then suddenly come upon a rich deposit all nuggetty. Prior to the Dunolly rush (of July 1856), a large population was working in these gullies, but with it came their desertion, and few, if any, have returned. Water is very scarce, as is usual on all new ground, indeed, this is one of the principal reasons which have prevented the tract of country between Ironstone Hill and these gullies from being worked. [2]

03. 02. 1857 There has been a large influx of strangers and visitors in this locality in the neighbourhood of Drunken Scotchman's, Brandy and Sand Fly gullies, since I last addressed you from the Whipstick, many of whom have camped and settled down with the determination of giving these diggings a fair trial, and the majority of those who have made a flying visit have expressed their intention of returning again as soon as the rain sets in. ... The sinking is shallow - from five to nine feet - the gold patchy and nuggetty, the driving easy, the bottoms are composed of pipe clay, sandstone and slate. ...

The Bendigo correspondent to the Argus has given a very graphic and correct account, in a visit recently made to this district, of the auriferous appearance of the country, and this gentleman's description of the splendid prospect of bush scenery from Moorehead's Reef is faithful, and not overdrawn. ...

Several nuggets, varying from one to six ounces, have been to my personal knowledge taken up since my last communication, and there has been a report of some heavy nuggets having been found in some newly opened ground; but as I have not seen any of these nuggets or the parties who found them, I cannot authenticate the correctness of the report, but give it as I received it. ...

Mr. Panton, the Resident Warden, paid a visit to these diggings a few days ago, and from his enquiries from several of the diggers, it would seem that a more direct and main line of road, or approach to the Whipstick is in contemplation by "the powers that be". A greater boon than this could not be afforded the inhabitants of the Whipstick and the public at large. The present roads are indirect, circuitous, detached and disconnected, in fact, a regular bush chart, or topographical map, to enable strangers to reach the Whipstick, is almost indispensably necessary, the route usually traversed being through Eaglehawk and Sailor's Gully, on to Sydney Flat, from which place there is a road of about nine miles nearly unfit to travel in wet weather, and making a total distance of about 16 miles from Bendigo. A more distant route again than this is round by

Myer's Flat, past the Creek Hotel and Mann's Paddock, the shingle hut, on to the Four Mile Hut from whence a circuitous route of a few miles through the bush will enable the traveller to catch the Sydney Flat Road, which leads up into the Whipstick, a rather difficult and precarious road certainly to strangers and parties unacquainted with bush travelling. By far the shortest and most available road is to strike off the main road about half a mile on the Bendigo side of Eaglehawk township and between it and the Lord Nelson Hotel, and after pulling up White Horse Gully, which you cross over, and keeping Eaglehawk and White Horse at your back, and passing through the two adjoining gullies, diverging a little to the left, you come out on a track that will lead out at Fiddler's Green, then by following the main road, you pass through Black Horse, and by taking the turn off to the right when coming out at Black Horse Flat, this road followed for about five miles, will lead direct into the Whipstick diggings. From Bendigo this road is not computed at more than 10 or 11 miles.

About a mile from the Whipstick, as you approach the digging on the Black Horse Flat Road, a substantial new puddling machine, with comfortable bark hut and four-horse stable attached, and immediately adjoining the right hand side of the road, attracts the visitors attention. Three months ago a small white tent with a small hand (iron tub) puddling machine not larger apparently than a couple of good large sized puddling tubs, worked by two men, and supplied by surfacing of about three inches in deepness, in a wheel barrow, occupied the same spot. Since then the scene is changed for the better. The machine above alluded has replaced the sheet-iron hand tub, horses supply the stuff and work the machine, and a neat and comfortable bark hut has taken the place of the small hatter-like tent, with a substantial four-horse stable adjoining, while a huge pile of wash stuff awaits the winter rains, and a capacious and well-formed dam seems ready to receive a supply of water when it comes. ... [31]

03.03.1857 □ Since my last, things remain nearly in status quo, on these diggings with the difference that the timely supply of water afforded by the late rains is fast disappearing, while the population is evidently on the increase. ...

While I write a bush fire of rather formidable dimensions is raging in the vicinity of Brandy Gully, which it has actually cleaned and burnt out. [4]

15.03.1857 □ The great want of water, which is everywhere felt throughout the diggings, prevents the occurrence of any very particularly interesting event at the present moment. Go in what direction we will we find puddling machines at a standstill, and the diggers generally relaxing their usual energy, whether in new or old ground. Thus, in the Whipstick, we find that there are not more than 200 to 250 persons at present located, while we believe that the ground is capable of affording remunerative work to at least 2000, were the water convenient and tolerably abundant. The coming winter will unquestionably develop the resources of this valuable and somewhat extensive portion of the Bendigo goldfield, and we have no doubt that many a lucky miner will make a tolerable pile there within the ensuing six months. We were shown on Sunday several samples of gold from various gullies in the scrub. They were all of a heavy nuggetty description. One lot from some ground in the vicinity of Moorhead's reef weighing 2ozs 1dwt was obtained from a single tub full of stuff. Another lot, in the possession of the proprietor of the Sydney Store, head of Drunken Scotchman's Gully, was obtained in the latter locality, and was a splendid sample of shotty gold. Numerous parties are in the habit of visiting these diggings, but very few remain for any length of time. Some few put down holes, and if not at once successful leave immediately. [5]

19.03.1857 □ The rain which fell on Monday has in some measure replenished the tanks and holes throughout the diggings. ... There has been somewhat of a rush to the Whipstick since the rain, but I am mistaken if the population in that quarter had been increased thereby. Most if not all the adventurers will have no doubt returned to the quarters they had left. [6]

30.04.1857 □ A gentleman who arrived in town yesterday afternoon from the Whipstick speaks in very favourable terms of the diggings in the above-named locality, but complains of the hindrance to gold mining operations consequent upon the extreme scarcity of water. With the exception of a transient shower on Monday, the Whipstick has not shared in the rain with which Sandhurst has

recently been favoured. ... A report reached town last evening, which we believe to be authentic, that a nugget of 4 pounds weight has been found in the Whipstick diggings within the last day or two. On Tuesday evening Mr. George Dearey obtained a nugget weighing 19ozs 7dwt. Another was found yesterday morning weighing 23ozs. Several smaller ones have lately been found. ...

The cutting of the road through the scrub has begun. It commences at the Flagstaff; on the top of the hill on which Moorhead's Reef is situated. [7]

05.05.1857 □ On Wednesday last a nugget weighing 26ozs was taken up in Scotchman's Gully, a short distance from the claim where the 370ozs nugget was found; and on the day previous (Tuesday) another nugget was taken up out of a different claim in the same ground weighing 19ozs. This gully has proved itself truly prolific in nuggets, and if it only go on producing them at this rate, it will set Brandy Gully and all the other gullies in the shade, and would require to have its name changed from Drunken Scotchman's Gully to Nuggetty Gully - a name more in keeping perhaps with its auriferous properties. ... The recent showers here have been a perfect boon to the miners of this district. Water was beginning to be very scarce indeed, and rain most anxiously looked for. A considerable quantity of washdirt has been piled up for want of water, and will now undergo the final process. [8]

19.05.1857 □ A considerable number of miners have left within the last few days for the Sydney Flat rush, and numbers are again daily arriving, so that on the whole the population may be regarded as having neither diminished or increased during the past week. ... An immense quantity of ground has been opened up, it cannot be denied - in Scotchman's Gully especially - without any suitable remuneration or paying returns whatever having been obtained and a very large proportion of those who have left have gone away with feelings of dissatisfaction and disappointment, not so much at the Whipstick diggings as at their own ill luck and want of success, for in some instances, the men working in the next claims to these unlucky ones have hit upon it heavy. A curious instance of how Dame Fortune showers her favours on the persevering and the "die hards" and the capricious manner in which these favours are sometimes bestowed, occurred here on Monday last. Two mates had been working together for better than two weeks without any success whatever, and they were well nigh on their last legs for "tucker". One of them was desirous of trying a piece of ground farther up the gully (nearly as high up as Luxton's smithy, Scotchman's Gully) that he fancied when first arriving there. His mate would not hear of it, and in language not very polite, expressed his determination of leaving the Whipstick at once, which he eventually did. The other man remained, and set to work as a hatter in the ground he had fancied. The first day he sold a 3½ozs nugget, and exhibited two other smaller sized nuggets, got the same day, and the final result of little better than two days' work amounted to upwards of £57 sterling. The ground has, of course, been slightly rushed. ... Water is becoming somewhat scarce, and rain is anxiously looked for. ... [9]

22.05.1857 □ Scotchman's Gully still continues to yield small nuggets, from half ounces upwards. Fine gold in particles below specific gravity, and consequently light enough to float on water, is no uncommon thing here. On various parts of these diggings I have seen considerable quantities of it months ago very frequently. That a regular lead of fine gold exists I believe to be purely hypothetical. The surface soil in many places produces very fine gold, and if clear water could be had for the puddling of it, would unquestionably yielding in paying quantities very fine gold of this description is useless and absurd to attempt to extract with muck water or by that old experimental process - blanket lined sides. Nothing but clear water, and plenty of it too, and very cautious treatment in cradling off, will disintegrate the minute atoms of this sort of gold from the muck. The characteristic of the Whipstick diggings are, as is well known, its nuggetty and patchy peculiarities, notwithstanding a lead of fine gold may in all probability exist, for there is much to learn, and will be for years to come, of the auriferous capabilities of this wonderful country.

Water is again scarce. ... The weather here still continues delightful with sharp and nipping morning frosts. The population is apparently stationary, and the new arrivals equal and fully exceed the exits. The new road progresses

satisfactorily, there being now between 8 and 10 miles of it opened. Itinerant hurdy-gurdy grinders have for the first time made their appearance on these diggings, and the hitherto silent Whipstick at this moment rebounds with the echoes of the tambourine and the viol. [10]

30.05.1857 The recent showers have once more supplied the necessary demand for water in this locality, at least for the time being, and limited as the supply is, it has come very apropos. ... Mining operations appear to have already received a fresh impetus from this timely supply of the all-important element, and the neighbouring gullies, namely Blackhorse Flat, Fiddler's Green, Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, One-Eye, White Horse and Sydney Flat etc. all exhibit symptoms of revival. ... In some of the above named gullies puddling machines have been to my knowledge standing idle for the last six months, these machines are now in full operation. A considerable number of miners have still continued to leave for the Sydney Flat Rush. ... When the new road is finished through the scrub, and if the highly laudable endeavours of the gentlemen forming the Whipstick Road Committee to cut another road from east to west. ... Mr. Panton visited these diggings today and briefly inspected the progress of the new road, which still continues to go ahead. There are no new finds of importance to report in mining matters from any of the established gullies; instead the miners, generally speaking, are somewhat chary about telling their luck, and no one can blame them. The miners working in Brandy Gully, are apparently doing well, and seem settled for the winter. [11]

30.05.1857 The recent showers have once more supplied the necessary demand for water in this locality, at least for the time being, and limited as the supply is, it has come very apropos. ... Mining operations appear to have already received a fresh impetus from this timely supply of the all-important element, and the neighbouring gullies, namely Blackhorse Flat, Fiddler's Green, Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, One-Eye, White Horse and Sydney Flat etc. all exhibit symptoms of revival. ... In some of the above named gullies puddling machines have been to my knowledge standing idle for the last six months, these machines are now in full operation. A considerable number of miners have still continued to leave for the Sydney Flat Rush. [11]

01.06.1857 A report having reached us on Thursday evening that new and payable ground had been opened in a distant portion of the Whipstick Scrub, a gentleman from this office visited the locality on the following day, who reports as follows:-

A miner of the name of Phillips, who, five years ago, was engaged in prospecting various portions of the Whipstick Scrub, lately returned to it, and pitched upon the gully, the opening of which has given grist to the rumours lately spread through Sandhurst. This is the same place where the dead body of a man (unknown) was found some time since by Whipstick Bob. It is situated about two miles and a half from the four mile post on the new road, its bearing being about 45 degrees east of that point. An inexperienced bushman might find considerable difficulty in discovering it, and unless very careful, would run a risk of getting entangled in the numerous belts of scrub with which it is almost entirely surrounded. From the four mile post, to the foot of the gully the country consists of tolerably open box forest, into which the gully runs through mallee or whipstick scrub. There are a few cart tracks leading to it, but having been made during the dry weather, they are very easily missed. If any person should be induced to visit they should take care to obtain very accurate directions before attempting it. I do not think, however, that there is much likelihood of there being any considerable rush thither for the present at all events. Gold, it is true, has been struck there, but as yet not in what is generally considered payable quantities. I saw several buckets of stuff washed out and the heaviest prospect amounted to about half a pennyweight to the bucket. The heaviest that has been obtained there was a pennyweight and a half to the bucket. Phillips sunk about 50 holes in the neighbourhood before striking gold. The country to the north is very unlikely looking, but to the southward, and especially to the southwest, at no very great distance, there are ranges which have a promising appearance. The locality of this little rush, which by-the-by bears the name of Phillip's Gully, is comparatively very flat, and bears no surface indications of

being rich. The sinking varies from 8 to 10 feet; the bottom is a soft white sandstone, and the washdirt, which is pretty tenacious, consists of gravel and variegated clay. There are about 60 men at present on the ground, who are prospecting in every direction about it. The water is very scarce, nor are there any holes of sufficient capacity to contain a large supply. On part of the gully is, however, admirably adapted for a dam, which it is the intention of those located there to combine for the purpose of forming.

There are said to be parties working in adjacent gullies, who have not yet been found out. Most of the diggers I met were of opinion that Phillips was playing a double game with them, and that he was nearly staying in the place, and applying for an extended claim in order to blind them, while his mates were working in a much richer gully. This I heard more than one of them say to his face. I do not pretend to express an opinion in the matter. I merely give the facts as I have seen and heard them. Several parties left while I was there, declaring that it was not worth their while to work in such ground.

In going out there I took the new road, which is now cut completely through the scrub into the box forest beyond. The road is straight enough, but the scrub has been very badly cut down - sharp-pointed stakes, about 6 inches long, being left standing above the surface - which render the travelling very difficult and dangerous, for horses and other cattle. The contract was taken for nine miles, but the cutting having been completed in seven, about two miles having been cut by the contractors, commencing somewhere between the second and third mile posts, and running easterly in the direction of the great quartz reef, commonly known as the Black Rock. This is an extensive outcrop of quartz, rising to about 20 feet from its base, the surfacing about which, I am told, has been found to pay very well. It does not seem, after all, that the north and south road will be of very much use; and people travelling along it, who are unacquainted with the country will do well to be very careful how they trust themselves beyond the last or seventh mile post. The east and west road, if continued to the Piccaninny, or rather the lower Bendigo Creek, would be of more service, as it would lead to water and a main road to Sandhurst, neither of which the other one does.

On leaving Phillip's Gully on Saturday morning I took a cattle track running south-easterly through the scrub, which, in about the distance of a mile brought me out into a fine, open and well-grassed box forest. Following this cattle track, in about a couple of miles, I came upon some tolerably good water-holes, which I ascertained to be the head of Reedy Creek. Passing there, I still followed the track which continued all the way to trend south east, until about four or five miles from Phillip's Gully it struck a road newly made by some splitters. Turning to the right along this in about two or three miles I made the Bendigo railway at a point about 13 miles from Sandhurst, and close to a farm belonging as I understand to a Mrs. Pritchard. At all event, the next farm above it belongs to a person of the name of Hand. Just above this place I crossed the creek and got on to the main road, which brought me up to Epsom.

By reversing the order of my homeward route the digger desirous of examining for himself the discoveries of Mr. Phillips will find by far the pleasantest and safest road. We blazed a couple of trees about two miles from the head of the gully in the box forest with a knife, and wrote pencilled directions to the diggings on the bark. [12]

02.06.1857 □ We have received the following from a correspondent:

I have just returned from the Whipstick, where I was shown some very fine specimens and nuggets - one of which was found last night and was purchased by Mr Woods of the Pick and Shovel Store, weighing one pound 4 ounces. The same party found several smaller ones near it. Considerable excitement prevails here in consequence of several rushes which have taken place during the week.

The following piece of information collected by one of our reporters may be taken for what it is worth. There is clearly some glaring mistake about the matter, as no scrub exists ten miles south of the old Whipstick diggings.

A young man arrived in town on Saturday with the intelligence that several fine and valuable nuggets of gold have been obtained at a new rush in the Whipstick

scrub. One nugget weighed upwards of five pounds and another weighs nearly two pounds. At the ground, about ten miles to the southward of the old diggings the diggers are getting as much as 3dwt to the bucket. Unfortunately, there is a great drawback to this pleasant state of affairs, in the lamentable deficiency of water. The transient supply of the late rain is fast disappearing, and many of the miners are obliged to carry their stuff a great distance before they can get water to wash it. The gold is very much scattered, so much so that our informant states an instance of a party having washed 96 buckets of stuff on Monday and Tuesday, and only getting three quarters of an ounce out of the whole. But the gold which is obtained is heavy and nuggetty. He also states that there is plenty of fine gold, but no means of obtaining it through the scarcity of water. [13]

□08.06.1857□The want of rain is everywhere bitterly complained of ... in Sailor's Gully, Eaglehawk, White Horse and the adjacent gullies, things look very flat indeed. A large number of puddling machines are at a standstill, and some of the crushing machines are unable to perform the work required of them for want of a sufficient supply of water. ... In the Whipstick scrub matters are still worse, and it is said that immense quantities of fine gold are being lost, in consequence of the miners having to use water almost as thick as pea-soup, for their washing purposes. Some good-sized nuggets, in addition to the large one purchased by Mr. Carpenter, have been found there recently. One of about 16ozs has been purchased by Mr Andrews, of Epsom; it was obtained in Scotchman's Gully, close to the place where the large one was found. In consequence of the great scarcity of water, the population of Scotchman's Gully has considerably dwindled away during the past week; ... [14]

11.06.1857□There is no news of importance to communicate in the mining intelligence of this district. Phillip's Gully is still the attraction, and numbers of diggers are daily leaving this and going there, while a few are returning back again to their old quarters. Yesterday and today the reports from this gully have been rather favorable, and of all that is stated to be true concerning it, certainly there is no reason to despond. Three small stores and a butcher's shop are this day on the ground. ... At the present time there cannot be less than from 150 to 200 men in and about the gully at work. Water is not to be had. A large number of diggers have conjointly united to construct a dam for general purposes, and they have availed themselves of certain natural features which the gully presents ...

In Scotchman's and adjoining gullies things look rather dull, chiefly owing to the want of water. ...

Small and detached parties of diggers are still to be met with for many miles in the scrub in a totally opposite direction from the new roads and Phillip's Gully, and some of these parties have been observed to remain at work in one spot for several weeks. In the vicinity of the German's reef and round by Black Horse Flat, various prospecting parties are at work with apparent success. In the ground where the 66oz nugget (purchased by Mr. Carpenter last week) was found, a good sprinkling of miners are at work, and it is supposed there are diggers in the Whipstick who could turn out nuggets (now snugly in bond) that would equal, if not exceed, the monster nugget itself. ... No tidings of the rich alluvial diggings, still supposed to be in incognito, have yet come to hand. The gold found at Phillip's Gully, though coarse and sound seems to be from a different matrix and of a different description to the general run of Whipstick gold. Considerable quantities of washdirt are stacked up, waiting the coming of the rain. [15]

15.06.1857□There is no news of importance to communicate in the mining intelligence of this district. Phillip's Gully is still the attraction, and numbers of diggers are daily leaving this and going there, while a few are returning back again to their old quarters. Yesterday and today the reports from this gully have been rather favorable, and of all that is stated to be true concerning it, certainly there is no reason to despond. Three small stores and a butcher's shop are this day on the ground. ... At the present time there cannot be less than from 150 to 200 men in and about the gully at work. Water is not to be had. A large number of diggers have conjointly united to construct a dam for general purposes, and they have availed themselves of certain natural features which the gully

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In Scotchman's and adjoining gullies things look rather dull, chiefly owing to the want of water. ... [15]

25.06.1857□The effects of the water dearth (for it now amounts to a dearth) is probably no where more tryingly felt than in the Whipstick ...

The rush to Phillip's Gully still continues, and threatens to end in a general exodus from this part of the Whipstick. The diggers are daily leaving, and the population here is fast being transferred to Phillip's, where things are beginning to look up although matters there, as far as regards water, are still worse. Nevertheless, gold seems to be more equally distributed, and washdirt is being piled up in all direction. ... [16]

□29.06.1857□A nugget weighing over 6ozs was picked up off the surface in Brandy Gully last week. ...

Several small nuggets, varying from 1½ to 5ozs have been taken up this week in Scotchman's Gully, and some of them in close proximity to the ground where the monster nugget came from ...

The fortunate individuals (whoever they may be) who will have the puddling of such gullies as Brandy and Scotchman's by horse machine or by steam, when the time comes for introducing such operations and their paraphernalia, into the Whipstick will be a lucky man and no mistake. ... The ground, in all the Whipstick gullies that has been worked, presents every ... facilities, independent of its auriferous capabilities, for puddling operations, the ground averaging about 6 feet in depth, and presenting every facility for filling and carting - the only drawback being water. ... [17]

09.07.1857□Puddling mills that have been a long time idle for want of water, are now observed to be at work in the neighbourhood of Fiddler's Green, Red Jacket, Blue Jacket, One-Eye, Mosquito, White Horse, bottom of Eaglehawk and California, Jackass and Long gullies. ... Another nugget, weighing 150ozs 3dwt, was taken up on Saturday morning last in Scotchman's Gully in the immediate vicinity of the ground of monster nugget notoriety. ...

At Phillip's Gully, before the coming of the rain, the population had fallen off considerably, and although many were doing well, yet the bulk of the diggers were barely averaging current wages. Water is now plentiful and the ensuing week will enable parties to form a tolerably correct estimate of the capabilities of this district. Many are returning here again, and Scotchman's Gully is at present the theatre of somewhat extensive operations. [18]

28.07.1857□There is nothing of importance to report in the mining intelligence of this district. The population is very much thinned by the drain to Ararat, and mining operations go on uninterruptedly. At Phillip's Gully, matters remain in statu quo, but the population is very small. ... There has been a bit of a rush this week to some payable ground in the vicinity of the Dead Man's Hut, but no heavy finds have come to hand. Scotchman's Gully seems all but deserted. ... No heavy finds, however, have come to light this week, Brandy Creek still retains its population, and vigorous operations are going on in the adjoining gullies with apparently successful results. Surface tomming would appear to be a payable affair here, at least, so long as water is available. ... [19]

10.08.1857□The mining intelligence of this district presents no important phase since my last. A very considerable falling off of population is still perceptible, and the majority of those who are leaving and wending their way Ararat-wards, while others are heading to Dead Horse Flat. ... Mining operations in the Whipstick Scrub and neighbouring gullies still continue to go on with vigour. Some half dozen puddling machines, however, at the bottom of One-Eye, head of White Horse and Growler gullies are still observed to be idle for want of water. [20]

14.08.1857□Whilst diggers, butchers and storekeepers are daily leaving the Whipstick to try their fortunes at Ararat and elsewhere, it is no less gratifying and important to observe that quartz reefers, puddling machine proprietors, and

married miners with families, and other diggers of moderate pretensions, are now locating themselves permanently at the Whipstick. ... In the vicinity of Brandy Gully and in the direction of Black Horse Flat, considerable bustle and activity prevails; preparations for surface tomming and puddling mill operations, on an extensive scale, are the order of the day, while the construction of dams, conduits and surface tracks of endless dimensions to convey the water to the conserves are everywhere apparent in this locality; together with substantial puddling mills going down, and comfortable log huts going up, give promise of puddlers and puddling "coming it strong" at the Whipstick; and in the words of Old Tom (the unsophisticated Hibernian, from whom Old Tom Gully has derived its name) "may the world wonder at the luck they will have".

At present there is better than half a score of puddling machines in course of erection, and in actual operation in and about the Whipstick. [21]

19.08.1857□There is nothing additional to communicate in the mining intelligence of the Whipstick. Small nuggets are occasionally turning up, but no heavy finds have come to hand. Water is plentiful in some parts of the Whipstick, but in some places it is not to be had. Scotchman's Gully presents a forsaken and deserted appearance; the bulk of the population being in the scrub, and in the vicinity of the Old Whipstick and Brandy Gully. Most of all the old hands still "hold on". [22]

26.08.1857□Copious showers of rain have fallen here at intervals during the whole of Thursday and Friday nights, and water is now plentiful. [23]

09.09.1857□The reviving effects of the rain that has fallen during the last ten days is everywhere apparent all over this goldfield, and water is now plentiful enough for a short time, for all purposes. Puddling mill operations at the Whipstick and its immediate vicinity are going ahead in right earnest. The new rush still maintains its original population, and what was a dense walled scrub a few weeks ago is now a populous neighbourhood, with cart roads approach it in all directions, and the gully or ground opened has assumed the appearance of old diggings of considerable extent. Some of the claims are running from 2 to 3dwts to the tub, others are averaging a pennyweight, and it is said one or two lucky ones have taken it up even heavier than this, while on the other hand some of the claims will not go beyond a quarter and half a pennyweight to the tub. ... The population at present at the Whipstick may be said to be a fixed population, comparatively few are leaving, while occasionally newcomers are arriving. [24]

29.09.1857□There is nothing of importance to report in mining matters. A few parties have set into work in Scotchman's Gully and Old Tom Gully, and the mining population stick steadily to work, and although there are not many new arrivals, on the other hand there are little or no exits. Water still holds out to the demand, but this cannot long be the case, unless a supply should in the interim arrive. [25]

17.10.1857□The rain that fell here on Monday last, and at intervals through the week, has put a new face on the aspect of mining affairs, and indeed everything else connected with mining in this locality. [26]

23.10.1857□The late rains have given a fresh impetus to everything in the mining way in this district. Puddlers and tub and cradle men are alike busy, and enabled to work full time in consequence. [27]

09.11.1857□In Friday's issue notice was taken of the discovery of a new gold field the other side of the Whipstick. We are now in a position to give more positive information on the subject. To find the site of the present rush, the road to the Flagstaff Hill must be taken. On arriving there, you proceed along the new road for nearly two miles and a half to an open flat, where dray tracks turn off to the right. You follow these tracks for three miles along the Box Forest, and at last you come upon the tents and the diggings. The gold obtained is rough and free from iron, and evidently very pure. There is an extent of ground sufficient to employ thousands; in fact it is equal to Epsom in extent.

The prospecting party, likewise mentioned on Friday, washed out about half an ounce to a bag of stuff. One shaft has been sunk 30 feet and driven about 25 feet and the washdirt yields about 10dwts to the load. Another shaft is being sunk on a line with the dip, which they expect to bottom tomorrow. Sutton and

mate bottomed a shaft at the depth of 29 feet and came on the top of a reef with boulders of quartz weighing as much as a hundredweight, lying directly on the washdirt. They tested some of the dirt, and it yielded a pennyweight to the tub. There are about 10 or 12 holes going down; there is plenty of water. [28]

10.11.1857□Copious showers of rain fell here during the whole of last Thursday night, and, in consequence, instead of the previous supply of water diminishing, we have now full dams, and a supply throughout the holes that will meet the demand for a many a day to come. ...

There is no new phase in the mining intelligence of this district. Puddlers and puddling still continue to go on satisfactory and increasing in numbers, and results are apparently favorable. ... While the pick and shovel men continue their operations with unabated vigour, and apparently successful results. [29]

13.11.1857□Several parties who returned at a late hour last evening from a visit to the late rush report very favorably of the prospects of the diggers. The population at the lowest estimate is not less than 600 and hundreds are wending their way thitherward. The goldfield is described as being of immediate extent, a vast plain between Myers Flat, the Loddon River, and the lower end of Bendigo Creek. The site of present operations is on Mouat's run, outside of the scrub, and near the Dead Man's Hut, about four miles and a half below and to the right of Flagstaff Hill. Lovel and Morrison, who for upwards of two years have been prospecting about the Whipstick, are said to have first struck gold in this locality and the name which has been conferred upon the flat, "Elysian", is significant of its returns. In such an immense extent of ground, it is not surprising that many holes have proved differs; but our information is that where gold has been struck, the amount was considerable. The depth of the holes which have been bottomed varies from 30 to 38 feet; the sinking is similar to that at Epsom and the White Hills. There is no scarcity of water at present, and at a distance of three and a half miles, abundance may be had at Myer's Creek throughout the summer.

With one exception, all the stores in Scotchman's Gully, have been removed or are in course of removal to the new diggings, and the Camp Hotel is left alone in its glory. ... [30]

14.□11.1857□Mining operations, generally speaking, at the Whipstick have assumed a somewhat healthier aspect, during the past week than for many months previous, and it would appear as if things were beginning to look up amongst the tub and cradle men. Whether this is to be attributed to the recent supply of water (which, by the bye, is fast disappearing) or to the unusual good luck in nugget finding, it is hard to say; but one thing is certain, gold has been more plentiful, and money consequently more profuse, this week than for some time hitherto.

Several parties within the last ten days have moved out to some new ground in the vicinity of the Dead Man's Hut, and in close proximity to Mr. Mount's property, where prospecting operations on a limited scale have for some time past been practically carried on, and it would appear with partial success, for it is said on reliable authority that more than one hole is paying and paying well. [31]

17.11.1857□What with the encouraging accounts from Epsom ... and the encouraging prospects and wide field for mining enterprise presented in the Whipstick district, not only in alluvial but in quartz mining - the contemplated survey of the Whipstick reefs and their defined boundaries - the facilities offered to puddlers and the puddling interest in this locality ... and last, not least, the anticipated permanent water supply, to which the Chamber of Commerce have now let their shoulders to the wheel in earnest. [32]

20.11.1857□Rush Oh! The Whipstick is once more the cry and scores of swagged diggers and stores, and storekeepers ad infinitum may be seen at this moment thronging the road to Elysian Flat, the new Whipstick diggings. When I wrote my despatch of last week there were not more than a score of diggers on the ground, including the prospectors, and on visiting the ground yesterday (Thursday) I find a population of not less than 500 men, exclusive of women and children, tents and stores going up, claims marking off, newcomers arriving in quick succession, and all the usual bustle and confusion of a new rush. The information contained in one or two recent issues of the Advertiser is

substantially correct, with one exception, namely, in describing the route to the new diggings, instead of turning off the main road (from Moorehead's Reef) to the right, as stated in one of the paragraphs alluded to, the turn off should be to the left. By turning off to the right you would go in the direction of Phillip's Gully, whereas Elysian Flat lies precisely the opposite direction. There is no difficulty, however, in finding the ground, a well beaten dray track runs close to the digger's tents. ...

The country (after taking the turn off to the left) is a flat open country, thinly timbered with box and gum saplings, scarcely any heavy timber is to be seen for miles around. The country in many respects resembles Epsom, only the timber is of larger growth at Epsom. Before approaching the diggings, you come on a chain of water holes, some dry, and some full of excellent water. The chain of water holes runs right into the diggings, or rather they run themselves out into a sort of blind gully lying in a south-westerly direction and of a semi-circular form. It is in this blind gully, or land scarp, the diggings are situated, and where the miners are now at work. The tents on the ground extend over a space of half a mile, and 3 or 4 stores are already on the ground. ...

The Elysian Flat gold is water-worn, which may be accounted for from the fact of there being no quartz reefs, or even detached quartz surface debris, in its immediate neighbourhood, although some beautiful igneous specimens have been got intermixed with a small percentage of ironstone and quartz. The gold is coarse and shotty, and in thick, heavy button-like and triangular pieces of quartz, and whole pennyweights and upwards.

I had intended my visit to the new rush for Friday or Saturday, in order that as many holes as possible in the interim might have been bottomed; but hearing that there were upwards of a thousand men on the ground, I deemed it advisable to have a look in the meantime.

The sinking runs from 30 to 42 feet. 42 feet is the deepest hole yet sunk, and the washdirt is a sort of white quartz debris, cement and gravel, not unlike many parts of Epsom, only that the quartz is more angular, not round or pebbly, and the washdirt is on a beautiful soft greasy pipeclay, and comparatively level bottom. The driving is all done in the bottom; and as much as 4 feet deep of washdirt has been knocked down in the prospecting claims, which averages 1dwt to ever four buckets of stuff. ...

Smyth and Company had just bottomed a 42 "footer" a short time previous to my arrival, but not with the same successful results as in the prospecting and adjoining claims. They merely got the color; but no way daunted at this, they are determined on driving the hole and seeing what it is made of. ...

If one or two sets of the Epsom Long Toms could be conveniently spared from that locality they would not only be a great convenience to the miners of Elysian Flat but, at the same time, remunerate the proprietors as well for the cost of drainage and hire. [33]

14.12.1857 □ We hear from several reliable sources, that gold in remunerative quantities is being procured at these diggings. ... one storekeeper in this township has informed us that for the last three weeks his average receipts of gold from Elysian Flat have been upwards of 100ozs per week. A party of Maoris, it is well known, got from 17 to 20ozs from three loads of washdirt. Water is acknowledged to be scarce on the ground. Numbers are piling their stuff, which is indicative of some belief on their part of its being remunerative. [34]

15.12.1857 □ A correspondent who returned from Elysian Flat last evening states that more persons are leaving that locality than are arriving, a state of things owing solely, in his opinion, to the scarcity of water. ... Our correspondent expresses himself as entirely concurring with the substance of the intelligence from Elysian Flat which appeared in our columns yesterday, and states that the successful parties are not confined to Maoris, but that Cornishmen, Epsomites and others have been equally lucky. ... Last week some rich looking cement, equal to the best samples from Epsom, was discovered, and there can be but little doubt that the more extensively this large field is worked, the better satisfied will the diggers be with their returns. ... Yesterday afternoon we inspected a large parcel of gold brought in for sale from Elysian Flat. [35]

09.02.1858 □ The population is receiving daily and nightly additions (many persons preferring to travel at night during the prevalence of this hot weather) both of diggers and stores, as well as restaurants. ... Piling up is still the order of the day, while of sinking and driving there is no lack. Seeing the "tack" in the washdirt, and occasional pennyweight, half and quarter ounce specks being picked out is no infrequent occurrence. ...

Drinking water is selling at Elysian Flat at 8 shillings a cask. ... [36]

24.02.1858 □ The copious showers of rain which fell during the whole of last night have infused new life and vigour into everything in the mining way in this district. Full dams for the puddlers, and a plentiful supply of water (for the time being) for the tub-and-cradle men is the result of this timely visitation. Carting and washing has already commenced, and as long as the water holds out, will be continued with a will. ...

The news of the week at the Whipstick is otherwise barren of interest. ...

The Chinese, it would appear, purpose mustering strong at Elysian Flat during the ensuing winter. [37]

08.03.1858 □ Water is again the cry here - everything as dry as possible. ...

Elysian Flat is now an established goldfield of almost boundless dimensions. [38]

16.03.1858 □ The continued absence of rain, now so long and anxiously looked for, still necessarily retards the satisfactory progress of mining operations on this goldfield.

Another nugget from the Whipstick. Mr. Bannerman purchased yesterday a nugget of the weight of 24ozs 17dwt. This was found somewhere in the Whipstick; the fortunate holder declining to state the precise locale of his good luck for the present. [39]

26.03.1858 □ Slowly, but steadily the population of this new and promising goldfield is being augmented. ... The new rush there is every reason to believe is progressing most favourably. ... This rush, which is situated on the left hand side of the road, about half a mile before entering the old diggings, is rapidly increasing in point of number etc, and although not more than two days had elapsed from the period of my former visit to my last (yesterday) a marked change had taken place in its appearance, so much so as to be scarcely recognizable. New stores, refreshment, as well as a large additional number of diggers' tents, in the short interim sprung up. ... I was informed by a person yesterday that a 3ozs nugget was taken out of a hole in the shallow sinking, and I was also informed by a Bendigonian acquaintance who had been sinking a shaft on the original rush (deep sinking about 30 feet) for some time past, that in order to test his wash-stuff he had the load carted to some water near the Camp Hotel, and the satisfactory result turned out to be 33ozs. I learnt from another party that a digger with whom he was acquainted informed him that out of a hole he had sunk on the Flat, old sinking nearly opposite the Advertiser office, in the main street, he had expected to realise £1000 a man.

The long looked-for rain has at length descended. ... [40]

□ 27.03.1858 □ The rain of Wednesday last is the first of the Autumnal rains of the season. ... Hundreds of diggers and scores of drays laden with swags and all the paraphernalia of pick-and-shovel men have, since Thursday, been wending their way Elysian-wards. ... [41]

01.04.1858 □ I started yesterday morning in light marching order on a pedestrian excursion to our new El Dorado in the Whipstick. I took the old fashioned, and, in my opinion, all things considered, the best road - through ironbark, Long Gully, Eaglehawk and by the head of Sailor's Gully. ... by the time I had picked my way across the Long Gully gridiron, I was, despite the beauty of the morning, in a state of such feverish indignation (over the state of the Marong road) that it was not until I had found Beelzebub that I had begun to recover my equanimity. Further on in one of those patches of digging unnamed (like the county) which lie perdu in all directions in the country between Sailor's Gully and the Whipstick, I was agreeably surprised by the vision of a fair saint of a female hatter, armed with pick and shovel, and digging, as Sam Weller would say, like "winking". ... From the Sandhurst post office through the now all but deserted Scotchman's Gully, to dear Mrs. Deening's Camp Hotel, in three hours, is no bad walking on a tolerably warm day, and on arriving at that excellent house, a man may be fairly

considered to have earned his beer. I thought so, at all events, and I took mine ease at mine inn for a quarter of an hour, not unprofitably spent in that cool, spacious, comfortable English looking parlor, decorated with many a quaint engraving of the time of George the Fourth, with short-waisted beauties and gentlemen with high coat collars, and much neckcloth, and great specimens of pastorals in worsted work, perplexing the mind with woolly doubts as to which is the sheep and which the shepherdess. This pleasant parlour has books also, a history of Derbyshire, in quarto, and a dignified folio in the window, which should be a baker's chronicle, but isn't. One cannot help admiring the enterprise, the prescience, and the faith of the good lady (generally known as the Queen of the Whipstick); who so long ago as 12 months ago, brought her household gods into this new country. ...

From the Flagstaff Hill the smoke of the fires at Elysian Flat is distinctly visible, at a distance, as the crow flies, of about four miles. The present track is, however, considerably longer. It follows the road cut last year for about a mile, and then turns sharp off to the left. There are no features of interest about the intervening space, except that it may be noted that the country falls gradually but regularly towards the north and west. ... The track does not, however, in any part approach the once-dreaded, impervious, matted Whipstick thickets. About four miles from the Flagstaff Hill a track again strikes off to the left of the main road, and leads to the shallow diggings lately opened. Here is a busy and a thriving population of at least 500 souls. At first I thought that I had arrived at the deep sinkings, for almost every shaft has a windlass, and around the mouths of many of the shafts are mounds of headings in height and size almost worthy of Epsom. The sinking, however, is only about 5 feet deep, and the driving is under the wash stuff, briefly through a stratum of reddish sandy pipeclay. It may be reasonably doubted whether the true bottom has been reached in these workings; be that as it may, these shallow diggings are on the average paying well. The gold is very bright and clear, even and shotty, and the dirt washes high up, yielding from a pennyweight and a half to 2 pennyweights per tub; indeed if water were abundant, the ground would pay handsomely to wash from top to bottom. I saw many "old familiar faces" at these shallow diggings, and found all in good spirits and satisfied with the ground, but all more or less anxious about water; but about this more by and by. These diggings at present follow the course of what may be called a scarcely discernible gully, but really on this side of the Whipstick the surface characteristics are so indistinct and undefined that one is at a loss to conceive what kind of instinct it was which had led to the opening up of these shallow workings. ... Grog is plentiful, of course, though water is not. [42]

02.04.1858 □ From the shallow diggings to the Elysian Flat is about a mile - the ground still gradually descending; and here is a self-formed township, which is fast assuming a substantial and permanent appearance. Here blacksmiths abound, and the pleasant music of the anvil rings out incessantly, and tells of busy times. Here are no end of butchers - a bakery, a chemist, and a "legally-authorized", under the well-known firm of Drs Boyd and Dow, who have erected a spacious and well-built dispensary. Here are long lines of excellent stores, with many of the good old Bendigo names over the doors; and here are two hotels - the inevitable Shamrock, and the new sign, a la mode, the Sir Henry Barkly. Behind, and beside the main street, ... here and there rise the shafts of the deep sinkings, like Epsom of old. From this point the diggings extend for two miles at the least. At that distance heavy gold was found on Monday, and some hundreds of claims were consequently marked out further ahead on Tuesday. Although where a hole strikes, marking is certain to go on ahead, it does not appear that anything like a lead exists here, or has been traced at present. The gold seems to be generally distributed right and left, and in all directions for miles, and although every claim cannot, in the nature of things, be equally rich there can be no doubt that the great majority will pay handsomely. But little progress has yet been made in the washing of the large accumulations of washing-stuff; indeed the owners of some of the best claims have not at present commenced washing at all. A good many towns are, however, at work, and the first installment of the Elysian deep sinkings may be looked for in the

gold offices in the course of another week. I was shown some capital samples in the hands of miners, from 6 to 12 ounces; but I did not learn that any more large nuggets had come to light. The general expectation seemed to be, that the washing up would average at least 2 ounces to the load; and that the aggregate quantity would be very large, indeed. I was told by parties resident on the spot, that after the last rain many of the heaps of wash dirt were literally blazing with gold in the regular "jeweller's shop" style.

As to the extent of the new field it is almost illimitable. ... I was informed by our well-known townsman, Mr James Iron, who has a party working on the shallow diggings, and who is ever in the van of mining enterprise, that he had ridden out the day of my visit 15 miles north of the present workings, and found the same surface characteristics, and the same auriferous indications everywhere existing. It would thus appear that the Whipstick Ranges are but the edge of a great basin lying to the north and west, and that as the diggings approach the Plains deeper sinkings and richer deposits will be discovered, with every reasonable prospect of a succession of shallow diggings being struck along the edge of the scrub all trending to a deep basin beyond. A new city, and a new and vast population will soon take the place of what has been so long the wilderness of the district. The present population at the deep sinking is about 3000 and large arrivals are daily pouring in. That there is gold, and abundance of gold, sufficient to support twice the present population of the Bendigo, is no longer a matter of doubt, the one great want is water. [43]

19.04.1858 □ Already the miners in this locality are beginning to feel the want of water. ...

There have been some very good finds in the shallow sinking this week, one party having nuggetted out as much as 4ozs; while another lucky individual fell across a piece weighing 2½ozs. The storekeepers of the district tell me that they buy a great quantity of gold, so that there can be no doubt but that some are doing a rare good stroke. Meanwhile, refreshment tents, bakeries, butcheries and casinos are springing up on every hand. ... [44]

26.04.1858 □ A very important meeting, as will be seen by a report in another column, was held on Thursday last at Elysian Flat, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means for supplying the gold field with water. Two schemes were laid before the meeting, both of which it was considered advisable to entertain; and committees were appointed to inquire into their practicability. The first proposed by Mr Benson ... to raise £4000 in 80 shares of £5 each, which amount he considers sufficient for the excavation of two reservoirs, and the sinking of two shafts for wells, on various parts of the field. ... The second plan, which it appears has been suggested by Mr Duncan, was laid before the meeting by Dr Wall. It proposes to conduct a continuous supply from the Loddon River to the Elysian, by means of a race. [45]

□ 26.04.1858 □ Supply of water for the Whipstick. A meeting on the above subject was held at the Shamrock on Saturday evening. The attendance was large. ... Mr Benson addressed the meeting on the subject, pointing out the urgent necessity of some measures being carried out at once, and offering some suggestions as to doing so by means of deep shafts and reservoirs. The suggestion was well received. [46]

□ 27.04.1858 □ ... so far as the incoming population to Elysian Flat is concerned this week, a decided increase over that of last week is perceptible, ...

The worst that can be said of Elysian Flat at the present time is, that water is scarce, for every prospect of a speedy supply.

On Thursday afternoon a heavy plump of (a shower of) rain fell at the Old Whipstick, which lasted nearly two hours, and filled up many of the holes and dams. ... Some parties have arrived at the Old Whipstick, who purpose putting down a puddling machine or two at the head of Scotchman's Gully. It will be remembered last year a heavy lead, or rather patch, of gold was lost here nearly opposite where the main road debouches out into the gully. Some parties who cleared a pile by having dropped heavy on this lead steered for Old England whilst others equally fortunate commenced the work of speculation, and took on to the rushing game, and having visited all the goldfields in the colony, and some out of the colony, have returned again almost penniless to Old

Scotchman's and Elysian Flat to recruit up. ... Nugget from Elysian.

A nugget was found yesterday near Taylor's Store, Elysian Flat. Its weight was 32ozs 15dwt. We have not been able to obtain any further particulars. [47]

□30.04.1858□A deputation from Elysian Flat, Bendigo, were on Tuesday honoured with an interview with Captain Pasley, in the absence of the President of the Board of Land and Works. ... The Age. [48]

01.05.1858□Notwithstanding the late heavy fall of rain, the miners at Elysian Flat are, as we understand, very little better off, as regards a supply of water. ... [49]

□14.05.1858□Elysian Flat seems to be a sort of 'plutonic region' as it were, at least so far as retaining water is concerned. [50]

□18.05.1858□At the Old Whipstick and its various gullies, many are camping down to try their luck, and the Chinese will hold on here. ... Puddling is everywhere going ahead, and the lords of the tub have no right to grumble, so far as water is concerned, for there is abundance for all. ... Many of the back gullies, wholly deserted during the summer, are now getting back their population, and judging from present appearances, this winter promises to see puddling carried out in all its pristine vigour, and on an extended scale. [51]

31.05.1858□We hear that several parties are doing pretty well at the shallow sinking, about a mile and a half this side of the Whipstick, and near the deep sinking. One party of three took out an 8ozs nugget, and it was rumoured that another party had got a nugget weighing 40ozs. Great complaints have been made for the want of water; but some very heavy showers of rain which fell there on Saturday last - much heavier than we had it here - will give them a supply for some little time. [52]

01.06.1858□Notwithstanding the counter attraction of new rushes elsewhere the influx of population to these diggings still continues steady and unabated, with few or none leaving; and some who left with in the last few weeks for the Ironstone Hill Flat rush have returned here again and settled down for the winter. ... Abundance of water is available all over the district, but it is not so plentiful at Elysian Flat, as could be wished.

There is little or nothing of importance to communicate in the mining intelligence of this district this week. At Elysian Flat all goes "merry as a marriage bell" with the single exception of water, which is again getting scarce; while at the Old Whipstick and surrounding gullies a considerable number of newcomers have set in during the week, and all the old hands and Chinese still hold on here. At the water supply meeting at Elysian Flat, on Thursday last, a considerable difference of opinion existed with regard to the respective merits of Mr Benson's proposal of sinking deep shafts for water supply, and the "reservoir" plan ... although Mr Benson proposes a very likely locality to sink in for underwater, viz The "Dead Man's Gully", yet it is doubtful whether he would succeed in striking water in sufficient volume to supply the district; besides there is the expense of raising the water and conveying it to the diggings. ... [53]

01.06.1858□Meeting of the Whipstick and Elysian Flat Water Company to consider implementing Mr Benson's proposals. [54]

14.06.1858□The great scarcity of water, which for a considerable time past has existed, is being more severely felt every day, so much so, indeed, as to cause a very considerable number of diggers to leave here for Bendigo and elsewhere, it may be to return again under other and more favourable circumstances.

Notwithstanding, however, this very serious drawback to the satisfactory working of this goldfield, a large population numbering at a rough computation, perhaps, from 1500 to 2000, still remains, determined, it would seem, to give it a fair trial which it has certainly not received as yet. ...

The large rush which took place a few weeks ago, alluded to in a former report, situated at the extreme end of the original shallow sinking, or Veteran Rush, as it is sometimes called, taking a south westerly direction through dense scrub, is still being worked with great vigor and apparent success. Several very handsome nuggets have been found in this place, in shallow ground, in depth about 2 feet. A five ounce, a short time since, was taken up on the point of a pick, about 18 inches below the surface, which was sold at Messrs Beeby and Telford's store, and one weighing about 40ozs was reported to have been found

in the claim next to it. I conceive no other conclusion can be fairly arrived at than that the ground, throughout the length and breadth of this rush has been found payable, from the length of time it has been working, and with little or no diminution in the number of miners engaged in it. Water - water - is now the reiterated cry on every site. Immense piles of washing stuff may be seen almost every place the eye rests, where an expectant payable shaft has been sunk - waiting to pass through the final ordeal. Many of the claims in this rush have doubtless been found to be sufficiently payable to afford the cost of carting to the creek, but on the other hand there are numbers who, being doubtful as to the satisfactory result of the washing process, prefer to wait until bounteous nature deigns to send the necessary supply.

Within the last few days another very considerable rush has taken place upon ground on either side of the creek, which lies to the left of the road as the old deep sinking is entered, and distant from the Shamrock Hotel about half a mile. The sinking is about 40 feet and report speaks particularly favourably of the finds there; and I have been credibly informed that some first rate holes have been bottomed.

I was favoured yesterday, by Mr Dingwall, an extensive storekeeper on the shallow rush, with the sight and handling of a singularly beautiful nugget, solid and massive, and possessing that peculiar bright colour which is a distinguishing feature in the gold found on this field. Its weight is about 6ozs, and was found in a claim on the new rush above referred to. A rather singular incident in connection with the discovery of this nugget, may not be altogether uninteresting or unworthy of a passing notice. The owners of the hole which contained this nugget had carted their last load of washdirt to the side of the creek; intending to wash up on the following morning; it appears, however, that a digger, who had happened to pass along the creek before the owners arrived, saw something shining on the heap of washdirt in question, his curiosity having become excited he approached, and picked up what proved to be a 6ozs nugget, which to the man's credit be it noted, he had the honesty to enquire to whom the washdirt belonged, for the purpose of delivering it up to the rightful owner. I was informed by the man himself that he was presented with £2 as a reward. Both parties were, no doubt, satisfied with each others conduct in the affair.

Another rush has taken place in the shallow sinking, on ground directly opposite Mr. Matthew's Shamrock Store, it is called "Gorman's Rush", from the fact that a digger of that name having "dropped" on a goodly sized nugget in a claim there. Several respectable sized nuggets, I am informed, have been seen the light there, and payable holes bottomed, and there can be little doubt if the ground was well rushed, and properly tested it would turn out well.

... Messrs M'Nair and Company, acting upon Mr Benson's suggestions, having selected ground for that purpose situated about a quarter of a mile from, and opposite to, the shallow rush, have, upon their own responsibility already sunk a shaft above 90 feet in depth, and are constructing a large reservoir in close proximity, thereto, the dimensions of which are to be 200 feet long, 18 feet wide and 6 feet in depth, and it is hoped that their example will encourage others to a like course of action, so that Elysian Flat may go ahead.

Several large dams, well timbered and otherwise secure, are now being constructed for the reception of the next rain that falls. They are situated in close proximity to the centre of the rush between the deep and shallow sinking, near Mr Kelly's store, and appear to be a decided improvement on those dams - if dams they could be called - which, because of the frail materials of which they were formed, were carried away by the last flood. [55]

□22.06.1858□ Since my last report the number of miners who have struck into ground here forming part of the shallow sinkings, known by the name of Gorman's Rush, lying to the left of, and distant about a stone's throw from the road nearest to the creek, that leads into the deep sinkings, have considerably increased, and now that the rain has fallen in sufficient abundance for washing, as well as for other purposes for some time to come mining operations will doubtless be prosecuted with proper vigour. ...

The great change which has taken place in this portion of these goldfields

(shallow rush) since Saturday last, consequent upon the fall of rain which came down at intervals in considerable quantities during part of that day and Sunday, is strikingly observable in the manifestations of life and activity which now prevail among the diggers, and which greet the eye in almost every place where mining operations are being carried on; ...

I was this morning informed, on reliable authority, that two large nuggets, one weighing about 33ozs, and the other about 75ozs were found in the shallow sinkings; the former in a claim situated nearly opposite the Miner's Store, and the other about 50 yards higher up the rush in the direction of the scrub. On visiting Messrs Clarke and Benson's store in the main street, a few evenings since, I was favoured with the sight of a very fine sample of gold, which I was informed was obtained out of a claim in the deep sinkings, about a quarter of a mile from an at the rear of the Main Street, it possessed the same character of the gold generally found in this field, coarse and heavy, it amounted in quantity to about 15ozs, and if it was only a week's work, which, however, I am not prepared to say, the owners I think could have no possible reason to be dissatisfied with their work during that time.

The new rush referred to in my last, in which a good many claims were sunk on both sides of the creek (about 40 feet in depth) as the deep sinkings is approached, has not, I regret to say, turned out as well as was anticipated, or could be desired. Great expectations were entertained of the auriferous quality of this ground from the reported payable nature of several of the claims sunk, but I have been informed that the finds here which the more sanguine-minded of the diggers hoped would ultimately have led to the discovery of a lead, proved to be nothing more or less than a few very payable patches, which soon ran out, and the consequence has been that many who sunk "shicers" have left, to try their fortune in other parts of the field, there still remains, however, a considerable number of diggers at work here, who, there can be no doubt, have obtained payable claims.

The large rush in the scrub at the end of the shallow sinkings, is still going ahead, and the rain which fell lately will enable the diggers here to wash a considerable portion, if not all, of the many and large piles of wash-stuff. ... I paid a visit on Saturday last to the ground upon which those enterprising gentlemen Messrs M'Nair and Company have been carrying on extensive operations for some time past. The shaft which is going down has already reached to a depth of 120 feet, but no water has yet been struck, and the large reservoir which is in course of construction within a short distance from it is progressing favourably, and, it is expected, will be completed and ready for the reception of water in a fortnight or three weeks time. ... [56]

□28.06.1858□We learn that M'Nair and Company have sunk their shaft to a depth of 135 feet. The shaft has now reached a body of slate, having passed through mudstone and there is already a small supply of water, which, it is expected, will rapidly increase for the next 20 feet. [57]

02.07.1858□The original shallow sinkings, alias the 'Veteran Rush' has, without doubt, proved to be the most auriferous portion of these goldfields which has as yet been discovered since the rush to Elysian Flat first took place, now many months since, and notwithstanding the opinion expressed by many persons here that it has seen its palmiest days, and is well nigh worked out, it still continues to preserve that distinguished position above every other part of this flat. ...

Two respectable sized nuggets, one weighing 10 and the other about 13ozs, were lately taken out of one of the claims next to that now being worked by Mr Humphries, in the shallow rush, who, it will be remembered, was fortunate enough a short time since to drop on a handsome nugget weighing 13ozs 14dwt in an old hole about 6 feet deep which had been abandoned as worthless.

There was a rumour afloat here last Saturday that a monster nugget, weighing somewhere about 8 pounds weight of solid gold, was taken out of a hole a few days since, in the new rush in the scrub at the upper end of the shallow sinkings, the truth of which statement however I am not in a position to corroborate, not having been able to discover the fortunate finder (if any such there be) of the glittering monster. Another party with whom I conversed informed me that since they commenced working their claim on Gorman's Rush

(shallow sinking), up to the present time, which has extended over a period of more than three months, they had obtained no less a quantity than 6 pounds weight of the precious metal. I was informed by one of the partners belonging to the firm of Messrs Beeby and Telford, storekeepers, that during the past week they had purchased as much as 200ozs of gold. Not so bad, either, taking into consideration the reputed poverty of this goldfield.

The shaft belonging to Messrs M'Nair and Company, now going down, had on Saturday last reached a depth of 140 feet; but no water, I was informed, had made its appearance, although the particular strata or bed of slate through which they were passing was becoming daily more moist.

Mr James Iron, that well known practical and enterprising gentleman, has, I understand, completed the erection of a second puddling machine, on ground selected by him for that purpose, at a convenient distance from the shallow sinkings, and is now in a position to puddle at the moderate rate of 2dwt per load, any washing stuff that may be entrusted to him by the diggers for that purpose. [58]

□09.07.1858□Mining operations are again beginning to flag and look dull, owing to the growing scarcity of water, which at the present time, in some parts of the flat, perhaps, more than others, is becoming very sensibly felt; the last fall of rain which took place having proved sufficient only to enable the diggers to clean off a portion of their washdirt which for a considerable time past has been lying in accumulated heaps, piled up alongside the creek, as well as in near proximity to their shafts, and now another fall of the essential element is anxiously looked for to provide for all necessary purposes.

Messrs Beeby and Telford, it appears, during the past week, purchased about 255ozs of gold, which is somewhat less quantity than that bought by them in the preceding week.

Another nugget, weighing nearly 6ozs was picked up off the surface by a digger, forming one of the prospecting party at no great distance from the ground on which the last rush took place, in the scrub at the end of the original shallow sinkings, which caused some little excitement and a considerable rush to the spot. ...

The contract entered into with Messrs M'Nair and Company is now completed, the shaft having been sunk to the stipulated distance of 150 feet. I was informed that the water, which has proved extremely brackish, did not make its appearance until the shaft had been sunk about 145 feet, although for some time previously, the increasing dampness of the slate and sandstone thorough which they were passing, gave evident tokens of a near approach to water. It is probable that the sinking will be continued, under a new contract, by the same parties, who, I think, there is every reason to believe, from the workmanlike manner in which it has been sunk, and slabbed, have given entire satisfaction to their employers. [59]

17.07.1858□The luring and unsettled aspect of the weather, accompanied with light and intermittent showers, with which this neighbourhood has been visited since Saturday last, and which still continue has doubtless had the effect of buoying up the hopes of many with the belief that a fall of rain, now long and anxiously waited for, which would be sufficient to secure an ample supply of water for the necessary requirements of this goldfield for some time to come, was about at length to descend, but these hopeful anticipations, it is to be regretted, yet remain unfulfilled. ...

On Monday morning last, at an early hour, from 150 to 200 diggers marked out claims, and struck ground extending over an area of about half a mile in length, and five or six claims in width, being a continuation of that part of the middle rush, which after having commenced its course from the original shallow sinkings, and extending in a circuitous route for about three quarters of a mile across the flat in an easterly direction, and leaving the creek considerably to the left, and only branches off to the right, heading towards and forming the junction of that rush with the original deep sinkings. The sinking here is tolerably hard, with sandstone and slate bottoms, and varies in depth from 16 to 30 feet. The diggers appear to be pitching into the work as if they meant it, and I imagine from the character of the prospects revealed (in one instance, it is reported, as

much as one pennyweight to the bucket) they are tolerably sanguine that payable patches will eventually be dropped upon, and it may be piles realized. ... It is not more than a few weeks ago that a nugget weighing nearly 4 pounds was taken out of a hole not much more than a stone's throw from the present rush, and another, it may be remembered, weighing 72ozs, was found in a hole at no great distance from it, by a party of Cornishmen from the White Hills. Another beautiful and massive nugget, which I saw and handled, weighing a little over 7ozs, was, on Thursday last, taken from under a pillar in an old hole on the shallow rush, nearly opposite the Miner's Store, which was offered for sale and purchased at the store of Messrs Beeby and Telford. I learned from a digger in the same rush, upon whose statement I can rely, who is working a claim higher up the flat, in the direction of the scrub, and who at various times has showed me several beautiful nuggets of various sizes, which he extracted therefrom, that he and his mate obtained gold out of their present claim chiefly composed of nuggets, amounting in value to between £300 and £400.

The rush in the scrub at the end of the shallow sinkings does not look so lively as it did a few days ago, a good many of the diggers, I believe, after having worked out their claims, and piled up and enclosed their washdirt, in the absence of water, left this locality, for the present, for other ground, many of them, in all probability, forming part of the last new rush at the junction of the middle rush and the deep sinkings above referred to.

Within the last few days another rush has taken place, on ground situate to the left of and just outside the original shallow sinkings, a short distance from the store of Messrs Beeby and Telford. About 30 claims have been marked off, and some of them have been bottomed; but I have been unable to ascertain any cheerful intelligence in the way of payable finds up to the present time.

On my visit, yesterday morning, to the ground occupied by Messrs M'Nair and Company, I ascertained, upon inquiries, that a fresh contract had been entered into with the same parties by that firm for the sinking of their shaft to a further depth of 35 feet; 8 feet of which had up to that time, been sunk under the new contract. The work is progressing but tardily, and it would appear is likely to prove tedious, owing to the hard nature of the strata (slate and mudstone) through which they have to pass, and which has compelled them to have recourse to blasting operations, in order to facilitate the work. Water still continues to come in but slowly, not a large quantity perhaps than a quarter of a pint per minute. The large dam close by is still unfinished, but in all probability it will be ready for water by the time the new contract is completed, when it is expected a constant supply will be obtained. [60]

□22.07.1858□At Elysian Flat matters are decidedly in the ascendant. "Deaf Harry" (of Whipstick notoriety) and party, in all three persons, succeeded in bottoming right on a patch some time ago, that washed up to the tune of £200 sterling, and as that has been all nearly knocked down, by dint of John Barleycorn, the alluvial bank is now being literally drawn upon, and promises to stand a run, if not a rush. The claim wherein this jolly fine bank is situated is in the deep sinking, not a hundred miles off the original prospector's claims. Without taking baker and butchers, bread and beef statistics as a standard, the total population of the Elysian Flat district alone cannot be estimated under 2000 souls. ...

The rains of Wednesday and Thursday last still keep up the supply of water at the Old Whipstick, but at Elysian Flat it is scarce enough. ... [61]

□29.07.1858□By favour of Mr Iron, who returned from these diggings at a late hour last night, we understand that things are going favourably in this locality. A good supply of water has been secured in the different dams. One of the dams broke away above Mr Irons dam, and occasioned some inconvenience, but was eventually secured. [62]

□04.08.1858□... Since the rain the diggers at Elysian Flat have been giving their attention chiefly to conserving water and "washing up", and some of the piles, especially from the new rush, have far exceeded the expectations of their fortunate owners. I have seen from 5dwt to as many ounces washed to the load from various parts of the shallow sinking. And although I have not had ocular demonstration of the fact, yet I have been informed from various reliable

sources that some of the richest patches yet discovered on this goldfield have been dropped on in this rush. One claim is said to have produced over 200ozs of gold from less than six loads of wash dirt. While some of the adjoining claims have averaged an ounce to the tub or 8ozs to the load, throughout all the washdirt that has yet been knocked down, and singular to relate the adjoining claims in a different direction show scarcely a colour. At different places in this rush more towards the shallow ground, the bottom taken off a hole here last week washed a single 3ozs nugget, and not a speck besides. The theory of leads does not seem to apply to this goldfield, even in the deep sinkings. ...[63]

11.08.1858 The partial rains of the past week still keep up an ample supply of water for the time being in this district, and everything in the mining way moves apace proportionately. The impetus given to washing operations at Elysian Flat is very great indeed, and mostly everybody here may be seen at the tom and the tub, and piled-up washdirt is disappearing rapidly. The late rush still holds good and continues to attract considerable numbers, both of new arrivals and Elysian diggers, and a marked improvement is observable this week in the increase of the former. No finds of special interest have come to hand since my last report, though the ceaseless din of toms and cradles makes such an event not at all improbable, and promises to increase the weekly yield of the field beyond its usual average. ...

It is not at all unlikely at no very distant day this goldfield will be united with the Huntly and Epsom diggings, which it is evidently part and parcel of. ... [64]

11.08.1858 Elysian Flat. We have received a report of a rush at the Whipstick. Our accounts are of a very favourable character, it being stated that gold is procurable by trying a dishful of dirt at any part of a locality which has hitherto been terra incognita to any but the fortunate few who had been "doing it on the quiet". These new diggings are about six miles to the north-north-east of Flagstaff Hill, a large population has already gathered about the locale of the rush. Water is plentiful about the old workings, and all the dams are well filled. Our Whipstick correspondent appears to refer to the locality in his remarks about the prospectors. [64]

16.08.1858 We are informed that Messrs M'Nair's shaft sunk to obtain a supply of water is now down to a depth of 186 feet and since the late rain a depth of 30 feet of water has been procured. In order to test whether this water has come up from the bottom, or from the surface, the proprietors have determined to bore another 50 feet. The water is of a brackish nature. [65]

The rush, to which we referred last week, to the shallow sinkings, Elysian Flat, is still progressing favourably. There are at present some three or four hundred diggers engaged, most of whom are getting gold in payable quantities. One ounce of coarse rough gold was taken off the bottom of the prospecting hole, but we have not heard of others getting anything more than a pennyweight or so to the tub. The sinking is hard, and ranges from 8 to 12 feet. If we may judge from present appearances, we should imagine that, ere long, there will be a rush to this ground as there was to the old Scotchman's Gully in the days of yore. [66]

18.08.1858 There is nothing of importance to communicate from the Old Whipstick this week. Puddlers and tub-and-cradle men have abundance of water, and things go on much as usual. Independent of the new rush in question various other localities between the Old Whipstick and Elysian Flat, where prospecting miners are now at work, and successfully too, could be pointed out, and which will, doubtless, in their turn, come to be rushed in like manner. [67]

26.08.1858 The new rush between this and Elysian Flat still continues to go ahead, and diggers from far and near may be seen running to and fro ready for a "go in" at this newly discovered locality, where there cannot be fewer than 400 men now at work, and all apparently getting gold more or less remuneratively; one or two branch stores from Elysian Flat have been observed in transit and course of erection with the last few days, and merry ring of the blacksmith's anvil floats on the ambient air, and the rush, although of only a few days growth, is rapidly advancing in development (so far as the opening of the ground is concerned), and assuming an old established appearance. It is said that gold is

being got in remunerative proportions, and "rare strokes" are said to be doing in more than one or two golden holes in this rush, yet as no ocular proof has been obtained in confirmation of these current rumours, it would, of course, be imprudent to quote them as bona fide results. I can state, however, from eye-witness and reliable information that 12, 15 and in one instance 24dwt to the tub, have been washed out of several claims here, and some of the piled up washdirt is at present running from one to 3 or 4ozs to the load; while, on the other hand, there is the usual quota of duffers and shicers, and some of them vexaciously hard ones too ! The want of water is a sad drawback here, none being available nearer than Elysian Flat and its suburbs. The ground here offers natural facilities for conserving water on a large scale that will, no doubt, be embraced and made available in course of some time. ... [68]

10.09.1858 □ Puddling mills, both here and at the Old Whipstick, still continue busy while the water lasts. ...

"The light of other days" hath truly fled from Scotchman's Gully at the Old Whipstick, and with the exception of the puddlers and reefers, Elysian Flat and neighbouring rushes seem to have absorbed all the pick-and-shovel element from this once famous gully, which is now fairly gutted out, and only fit for the spoilation process of the horse and steam puddler. [69]

16.09.1858 □ The puddlers and reefers at the Old Whipstick are still busy, and likely to be so as long as the water holds out. "German Harry's" machine in the vicinity of where the Pahlow nuggets of last year came from, is said to be still doing the trick, although the fortunate proprietor has long since cleaned as handsome a pile as Dame Fortune, perhaps, has awarded any single party since the first opening of the Whipstick. Other machines in this locality are working away with satisfactory results. 4 feet ground which produces such charming bits as 75ozs is very suggestive of puddling or sluicing on a large scale. [70]

□ 09.10.1858 □ Large numbers of diggers and drays loaded with digging and tent paraphernalia have been leaving Elysian Flat during the whole of the past week for Epsom, and a bit of a new rush has been going on for the last ten days at Fiddler's Green and Red Jacket, and in consequence things are looking unusually flat here, especially in the shallow sinking, which is all but depopulated. ... A goodly number of diggers, chiefly old Whipstickians, who know the ground, are settling down at Fiddler's Green, and adjoining gullies, Red and Blue Jacket, and Beelzebub, where "tucker" can at all times be procured, and water is available nearly all the season round. Further particulars in my next of what is doing here. [71]

09.10.1858 □ At Adelaide Hill there is little or nothing doing beyond "tucker", and water scarcely to be had.

The same may be said of Ironstone Hill, where probably not more than a score of holes are payable, and the great majority, doing very well indeed. A great many are leaving here, and preparing to leave, for the new rush, Lower Huntly, and other places. [71]

09.10.1858 □ At the Old Whipstick matters are dreary enough. Scotchman's Gully is in the sole possession of a few Chinamen and horse puddlers, and water is becoming very scarce, both here and at Elysian Flat. ... [71]

13.10.1858 □ At One-Eye and White Horse gullies a tolerable sprinkling of tub and cradle men are to be found, and the puddlers here are still active, and for the time being a sufficiency of water. Some new ground in continuation of White Horse towards Eaglehawk Flat presents a fair field for pick-and-shovel enterprise, and the lower end of One-Eye, where it debouches into White Horse, is primitive and untried ground. Prospecting holes all over this ground to Eaglehawk Flat have found the ground at least payable. Some diggers in White Horse are averaging a pennyweight to the tub. [72]

13.10.1858 □ On visiting Fiddler's Green, and the Red and Blue Jacket districts, Beelzebub etc, I find a scattered population, and many new arrivals within the last two weeks, and among others a party of Maoris, who have been working here for a considerable time. Indeed the New Zealanders were among the very first to open up these gullies, and some of them will always be found both in Red and Blue Jacket, especially the latter, where more than one Maori has raised a

pile. The ground here partakes very much of the Whipstick character, the gold being found patchy, and coarse and nuggetty, while the sinking is shallow and soft, with pipeclay and sandstone bottoms. Most of those at work here, however hard things may go, can manage to knock out tucker. ...

The puddlers in this district, many of them of several years' standing, do not complain, except on the score of water, which at present is hardly equal to the demand. ... [72]

xxx29.10.1858□ Everything is as dry as possible at the Old Whipstick, and the temperature is increased by the close proximity of bush fires, which literally surround us. ... [73]

□23.12.1858□ These diggings at present offer a very encouraging spectacle, in consequence of the very opportune supply of by the late rains. The population is about 1500, according to the veteran "Benson" who is an authority in all matters Elysian, and appears to be on the increase. ... A number of Chinese, apparently about 200, located themselves on the field yesterday at the lower end of the deep sinking. ... [74]

28.03.1859□ At Elysian Flat and the Whipstick the population has for a long time been decreasing, and is at present very small. This is chiefly owing to the general want of water, and the difficulty of tracing the leads. At the former place the quartz workings are being carried on with very tolerable success. [75]

30.05.1859□ This place (Barkly Reef), once the scene of general activity, and residence of many thousands, through the want of water during the summer, and the alluring attraction of Daisy Hill, is now reduced to a few hundreds. ... The two leads of quartz reefs are taken up for a great distance; many claims are registered, and others rapidly going down. The prospecting shaft is producing some splendid stone, in fact after a shower of rain the gold sparkles therein as numerous as the stars in the firmament. 21 buckets of stuff upon being crushed produced 17ozs of gold, thus proving that quartz reefs are to be found on flats as well as on ranges. The stone from this shaft is very peculiar, and more resembles solid blocks of beautiful marble than quartz. A machine and engine of 12 horsepower, are being erected here. ... [76]

□02.07.1859□ The late rains on these diggings have flooded some few of the old claims situated on the best ground, as well as some of the quartz reef shafts which registers are just expired, which are now entirely useless, being filled with water. A new shaft belonging to Attwood and Company is completely filled with water. The prospectors on the same reef - the Sir Henry Barkly - are still drawing good stone to the tune of 5 or 6 ounces per ton. Moore's party, the prospectors on the Masonic Reef, have just seen gold this week, and already Mr M'Phail, proprietor of the crushing machine, has a shaft going down. The crushing machine will be in working order at the end of the week. It is rumoured that the crushing price is to be £1 one shilling. [77]

19.12.1859□ With reference to the case of Liddell v Motherstone, in which Mr Warden Alley ordered the latter to pay the sum of £57 for having used the water belonging to the former, we have received a communication from Mr Liddell, giving the opposite side of the case. [78]

□03.1860□ I regret much to have to state that the alluvial workings at the Elysian Flat hold out very poor prospects at present. Most of the inhabitants have left the place, and it is almost deserted. Perhaps now that the autumnal rains have commenced, better success may attend those still working there. Water has been very scarce in that district, as the country is flat. The great part of the quartz claims are also left unworked. [79.66-67]

31.05.1860□ The vast goldfield known under the above name in this district has, since the early part of last summer, when it was nearly totally deserted, in consequence of the almost, indeed it may be said total want of water, and the lead having been lost at the deep sinking, been prospected more or less by isolated parties within a compass of 10 or 12 miles square, with more than the usual success attendant upon the labour of a few hands; for, with the exception of those 8 or 10 parties working at the Sir Henry Barkly Reef on Elysian Flat, the prospecting parties, for either quartz or alluvial, have numbered generally but one or two pairs of hands. ... [80]

□08.1860□ In consequence of the greater portion of the alluvial ground now

being rendered free, many tub and cradle miners have returned to their former pursuit, and I have observed several places now occupied that had been for a long time deserted; this may, however, be attributed to the abundance of water. The puddling is also rather on the increase than otherwise, especially in some of the small gullies opened within the last year in the vicinity of the Whipstick Road, where several small nuggets and payable ground have been found. [79.215-216]

12.12.1860 □ The party of men who went out to this gully from Epsom a few days ago have returned. They state that they found Mr Morrice and a number of Germans at work. About 100 holes have been sunk, in many of which payable gold has been obtained, but it is very patchy, and there was a scarcity of water for washing dirt. Every member of the party is satisfied that "if men were residing on the ground, and a few dams were made to retain water, a very good living could be made by the use of the tub and cradle alone". [81]

□ 12.1860 □ I have the honour to submit to the Board of Science the foregoing statement as required by the circular of the 1st December. As I am not certain whether it is the area of the ground that is being worked at the present time, or the area of all the ground that has been worked (together with the former) that is required by the circular above mentioned, I have, as far as practicable, forwarded the superficial contents of the whole worked part of the division. It will be observed that I have added to the ascertained number of square miles of surveyed land an approximate estimate of the area of unsurveyed land, which I should say amount to about one mile more. This unsurveyed ground comprises mostly the ground now in possession of the miner, all the gullies lying between Eaglehawk Gully and Sydney Flat, the extensive workings about the township of Neilborough of the Elysian Flat, and the various gullies of the Whipstick Scrub; some of the latter are becoming very important and ought to be laid down on the district map. ... The workings in and about the Whipstick Scrub are extending rapidly, and I am told would be remunerative if water could be retained near them: but owing to the density of the scrub, and the want of means for collecting, the miner may be said to have no water at all. However, as lately many small nuggets have been found, these gullies may be said to be progressing favourably, notwithstanding the difficulties under which the miners labour. The augmentation of the number of puddling mills during the month of November, is due to the good opinion entertained of this locality by the miners. [82.362]

□ 07.1861 □ The new rush beyond the township of Neilborough has not yet been extended, but a prospecting claim has been taken up, but nothing worth reporting has been the result. The prospectors, however, are still working it, and have still great hopes of success. A small rush also has taken place in the Old Whipstick Scrub, about ten miles from Sandhurst, it is however, merely surfacing and is not of any importance; two puddling mills are put up in the vicinity. ... Two other reefs have lately been opened in the Whipstick Scrub, but they are scarcely payable. It is unfortunate for the Whipstick portion of the division that water is so very scarce, and from what I know of the locality I am apprehensive that little can be done to improve it; the nature of the ground is undulating so that no extent of ground that I have seen has a decided watershed in the area of which much water might be collected; nevertheless as the Whipstick is very extensive, such a place may as yet have escaped my notice, though I have visited a large portion of it. [79.268-269]

16.11.1861 □ There is scarcely a gully from Eaglehawk to the Elysian Flat, where there is water, but has its puddling mills at work, all of them paying well. [83]

12.1861 □ The surfacing system of mining, so universal in the Whipstick, has now entirely stopped, as no water is to be had. [82.547-548]

05.1862 □ The late rains have already done much good, and set all the idle puddling mills to work again. It is probable, too, that the surfacing at the Whipstick will be resumed, several embankments having been constructed across the shallow gullies. Several prospecting claims have been lately taken up in the same locality, but no payable gold has been struck. [79.4]

19.01.1863 □ The late timorous rain has had the effect of cheering the drooping spirits of the miners of this locality who have for some time been suffering severely from want of water, and gradually affairs have a livelier look. [84]

□05.1863□The new rush at Myers' Flat bids fair to revive in some measure the prospects of Sandhurst. The nature of the gold bearing stratum is very like that of the Epsom and Huntly lead, and like it full of water-worn quartz boulders, showing a certain indication of gold. The washing stuff, or drift, varies in thickness from 2 to 3 feet, the bottom usually fine slaty pipe-clay, or sandstone; in some of the claims two or three feet of hard cement have been found above the drift, also containing gold, thus making the washing stuff upwards of five feet in thickness. Depth of sinking from 30 to 40 feet. It is impossible yet to determine the direction of the lead, or its probable breadth, as sufficient work has not yet been done. At present there is plenty of water in the adjoining creek. The yield from the washing stuff out of the best claims is reported as about one ounce to the load. [79.5-6]

□ 05.1863□In the vicinity of the Whipstick, and the scrub itself, very good surfacing is found on the sides of the ranges, but the supply of water is insufficient for working it properly. In close proximity to the alluvial portion, a very fine reef has been discovered, which, from the specimens produced, will probably yield about 5 ounces to the ton. [85.5-6]

01.06.1863□.. Although but a few days since the discovery was made public, there is a tented population on the ground amount to about 500. This is supplemented by an equal number the most of whom may be termed loafers, and are engaged in the lounging occupation of shepherding claims. ... Down the flat from the prospectors' claim, the ground is marked off a few hundred yards in width, straight across the creek and along its right bank for the distance of a mile, and above the prospectors' claim the ground is pegged for a quarter of a mile. A large number of holes are going down, but the number actually bottomed on Saturday night was not above 30. The richness of the lead may be guessed from that fact that ten of these have struck gold in really paying quantity. So far as the prospects from bucketfuls and tindishfuls show, for as yet, that is all that has been tried, the yield from them is one and two pennyweights each. The depth of washdirt ranges from 3 to 7 feet, and is similar in appearance to the washdirt at Epsom, full of small and large quartz boulders. The bottom generally is a fine soft slaty pipeclay, or soft sandstone. The last claim in which gold has been struck gives about 2dwt to the dish; the washdirt 7 feet thick, and rough pieces of gold all through it. The bottom is not reached, but it will probably be in another foot or two, as the sinking around is only about 40 feet. One claim, about 250 yards below the prospectors, got a fair prospect at 40 feet. In some of the claims there are 2 or 3 feet of cement just above the washdirt. Gold has been got on the top of the cement, and also in it; in the first case as much as 2dwt to the bucket was obtained. There is abundance of water for washing in the creek close to the diggings, and already one party have put up a long tom to wash surfacing. They have not washed much, but what they have done is most encouraging, the yield being 1½ozs to the load. The earth was taken from the hill on which the rich reef has been discovered, but for miles around to the north and east there are hills - so far as outward indications go - as likely to furnish surfacing. Indeed, this is a peculiarity of the Whipstick ranges, and is a strong reason why something should be done to construct water reservoirs for the use of the diggers. Wherever surfacing has been found in the Whipstick; it has led to the finding of extremely rich reefs. ... An opinion has been expressed that the lead will trend towards the private property of Mr. Donald Campbell, but we have been informed by some persons to whom he spoke on the subject that he will offer no objection to the diggers following the lead into his ground, should it go there. ... Some incidents of a special character serve as a guide to estimate the value of the new diggings. Among a few at this rush, the fact of the owners of a rich claim carting their washdirt to their tent, lying down and keeping guard all night, with their treasure on one side, and a rousing fire on the other that would make New Zealand miners dance for joy to feel, is pretty good evidence of the value of the stuff. Any one taking a handful of dirt from the wash heap and giving it a blow, would not fail to see specks of gold. One smiling individual, who evidently was in luck, cried over to a friend "Look here, mate" at the same time emptying into his hand a matchbox of rough gold. "Look here, mate" said he, "that's the

way to do it". This was the result of a day's labour. Within the next week or fortnight there will be thousands on the ground. ... About 600 persons are at present on the ground. ... [86]

□10.1863□What is said to be a very decidedly auriferous tract of country has been discovered lying to the north of Sandhurst, at about 18 or 19 miles distant, or about two miles beyond the township of Neilborough, or Elysian Flat. The original discoverer reports it to be the most promising rush that has taken place for some time. The Sebastian Flat, which created such excitement about three months since, is now almost deserted, if not so entirely, in consequence of its vicinity to this new discovery, known as the Raywood Gully rush. Many of the miners have gone from our gullies, their usual places of labour, to try their fortune at this newly-found goldfield, should it be found as good as it is said to be, as soon as the dry season sets in, the want of water will be the greatest obstacle which the miners will have to contend with. [87.8]

□03.1864□In consequence of the almost total absence of water for washing, the auriferous wash dirt has been for some time past, and is still largely stacked awaiting the coming of rain. The expense of carting the wash dirt to the only water now to be obtained, the Yarraberb Station, precludes any but the holders of rich claims from doing so, and therefore prospecting in the absence of water contiguous to the large extent of auriferous country here is almost fruitless. I, however, have no doubt that when the winter rains set in, many leads of gold will be found in this very auriferous portion of the division. Indeed, the continuation of the Raywood Lead, hitherto by some considered run out, is now found at a considerable distance (over a mile from the beginning of the lead) at 72 feet sinking, very rich. The prospectors of a new find on this lead have, this morning announced to me the fact of nearly two ounces to the load. While Elysian Flat is again receiving population, caused by new finds to the east of Raywood, Sebastian opening again for gold to the south, Comoroka, about ten miles to the north-east, and the Raywood lead rich to the west towards the plains, I cannot refrain from submitting to you my opinion, which is borne out by many intelligent miners, that this portion of the division will, this winter, support a large population.

In remarking upon the coarse character of the gold from this field, which varies considerably in appearance, the auriferous strata being of a most diversified nature, I may state, that the leading feature of the gold here is nuggetty, and found in shallow sinking. Nuggets have been constantly found varying from 2ozs to 110ozs, and although the deep leads promise favorably, I am of opinion that a plentiful supply of water will open up a large amount of surface diggings, in fact, nuggets have been found in Sailors' Gully 45ozs in weight, only six inches from the surface, over sinking of eight feet.

On the Inglewood Hill and lead the gold is found in a hard cemented white sand, requiring blasting to remove, the gold being very bright and pure without alloy or admixture of earth or clays. The wash is of heavy white quartz, in most instances embedded in cement.

Sailor's Gully comprises a run of auriferous alluvium in a westerly course, apparently originated in the same source which supplied the Raywood leads. The Inglewood Lead trends nearly east, and the source of the supply alluded to is supposed to be an auriferous lode in the low dividing range, running nearly north and south from the upper point of Raywood Gully, about the Christmas Reef. The characteristics of this lead are very similar to Inglewood Hill lead, the wash however is not so heavy and defined, and many of the nuggets found in its course, including some of the largest obtained on Raywood have been found embedded four and five feet deep in cement.

The Raywood Gully or lead presents entirely different characteristics to the foregoing, although separated at the source by some few hundred yards. Its direction is nearly west, and almost parallel to Sailors' Gully. The gold during the whole course of this lead is found in intimate connexion with ironstone, and is of a very dark color. The original prospecting claim is situate in this gully, in six feet sinking.

In the lower part of the lead, strata of cement with ironstone embedded prevail on and near the bottom, some portions of which have proved very rich. [88.42-

43]

□06.1864□In submitting my report of the Raywood Division of the Sandhurst Gold Field, I have the honor to state that until within the last few days, when rain came, there was no water for washing the auriferous earth, and the miners had to stack their washdirt; now however the dams erected by the miners are nearly full, and the puddling mills constantly employed washing up.

Various rushes are taking place, now that water is to be had, for surface prospecting, and in all probability many alluvial leads will be found.

A quartz crushing engine of 12 horsepower with 12 stampers, commenced operations, on Thursday last, to the west of Raywood Township, and from the great impetus to quartz mining the Elysian Flat and Raywood Steam Quartz Crushing Mills will be constantly employed. More quartz crushing mills are required. The quartz reefs at Raywood are proving to be auriferous. [89.48-49]

□20.07.1864□The alluvial workings at Elysian Flat are rapidly extending, and are likely to prove of considerable magnitude. The sinking being quite shallow, and water tolerably plentiful, numerous miners are on the ground, and their number is daily increasing. [90]

□12.1864□The continued scarcity of water in this locality has tended materially to retard the progress of the district, the annual rainfall this year being considerably below the average. Puddling machines from this cause have been almost idle during the past two months, and comparatively there exist no means of testing the surface alluvium of the district at present, which alluvium I believe largely exists. A water supply would tend to the opening of new leads, the want of which may be considered a great drawback to this gold field. [89.48-49]

□03.1865□A large portion of the Whipstick Scrub has been burnt, and quartz reefs may be seen cropping out all over, but no prospecting or work can be done for the want of water; none for domestic purposes even. [89.46-47]

□06.1865□A 31ozs nugget of gold was obtained the other day, as also 39ozs of alluvial gold, the produce of one mill, from the original Raywood prospecting claim. ... Auriferous discoveries on the site of the present township of Raywood in November 1863 caused a considerable rush, eventuating in the establishment of a borough including the township of Neilborough (Elysian Flat). The continuous drought of the year 1864, and up to June, the date of this report of 1865, paralysed alike the exertions of the puddlers, quartz and alluvial miners, and doubtlessly retarded new discoveries. Assistance in the matter of water supply has been solicited from the Government and responded to, a preliminary engineering reconnaissance made, and a sum of £10,000 placed upon the estimates for the purpose. This prompt action by the Government has given general satisfaction.

The severe ordeal through which Raywood has passed from the want of water has not destroyed the general confidence entertained in its auriferous resources, and a large company is being formed in the division to take up quartz and alluvial claims, which will tend, I have no doubt, to the opening up of valuable claims. [89.50-52]

02.10.1865□Sebastian - The alluvial workings at this place appear to be wholly deserted. Quartz reefing, however is still going on. The Frederick the Great Company are working in their open cutting, and trying stone from the east side, about thirty feet from the surface. In this gold has been seen; it is expected to pay. It is very profitable that the spurs further east will be prospected, and should they yield sufficient gold for working, there will be an immense quantity of stone to take out. The spurs in other portions of the cutting have not been yielding so well of late, and in consequence they have been left alone. At the south end of the excavation underfoot several spurs show payable gold from the cutting since the company commenced, about 5000 tons of quartz have been crushed, yielding 2100ozs of gold and on the whole the enterprising shareholders have received satisfactory return from their expenditure, capital and labour. Now, however their operations are in a measure of a prospecting character, and the gold obtained is less than hitherto. The company's dam is full and contains 5 month's water. It is very unlikely now that even in the driest summer the company will be without water to crush as they can draw water by means of pipes from the creek. [91]

□12.1865□The Barkly Reef, also at Elysian Flat, is turning out very well, four claims on which are obtaining gold. Three of them are paying very well indeed. The owners of these claims sent their stone to the Eureka engine, Sebastian, but the water suddenly failed, leaving a great portion of it uncrushed. What was crushed yielded 11dwt to the ton - very good returns when 3 men can get up 30 tons per week. Another claim on this reef struck the stone last week, but the owners must wait for the great desideratum - water - before they can prove it. 28.05.1866□After a stoppage of nearly five months, in consequence of the want of water, this company commenced operations on Wednesday last. From the supply given by the creek adjoining the ground they will be enabled to continue crushing for the next two or three months. [92]

07.□06.1866□Two of the claims on this line (Barkly Reef) have been crushing their stone since the rain came, and the returns have been between 7 and 8dwts to the ton. A great deal of dissatisfaction prevails amongst the shareholders at the returns. This locality is greatly in want of another engine, and could keep two constantly employed, for, in addition to three claims on the Barkly Reef, there are the Austrian, the Hope and Manly's reefs all raising great quantities of stone. Amongst them they could keep two engines constantly employed, but at present they may as well be without an engine, as the one there has only about 3 days' water at a time, and at present is standing still, and hundreds of tons of stuff lying about waiting to be crushed. There are several other reefs close by that would be worked if there were easy facilities for crushing - such are the Masonic and Stringons reefs - and almost all the alluvial dirt from the deep lead is crushed, as it contains a great deal of auriferous cement. [93]

12.□06.1866□Our Raywood correspondent writes that amongst a very good display of gold in the window of the Bank of Victoria on Saturday last, was a fine cake of 35ozs 8dwt, the produce of 11 tons of stone from Messrs Harding and Brown's claim on the Barkly Reef, Elysian Flat. This quartz was raised from an 80 foot level, and on an entirely new lode, being about 40 feet to the east of the old workings. The stone was crushed at the Shamrock engine, in the Whipstick, as, I am sorry to say, the engine on the flat is still idle, waiting for water. [94]

19.□06.1866□Harding and Brown had another crushing last week from their claim on the Barkly Reef, which averaged 2ozs 8dwt per ton. The other claims on this reef are busy crushing, as I am happy to say this last rain has given the engine on the flat abundance of water. [95]

□06.1866□Frederick the Great, Sebastian: 202ozs 3dwts 8 grains obtained from 335 tons of stone at 50 and 90 feet in a reef between 2 and 20 feet thick. Upon visiting the quartz crushing engines and many of the various quartz reefs upon which claims have been taken up, the first visited was the Frederick the Great, Sebastian; I found that the company had just finished crushing for the month. I wished for some specimens for the Intercolonial Exhibition in Melbourne, but the terms upon which this company have the lease from Mr. Hugh Glass precluded any specimens being parted with without his authority. They did not crush during the months of April and May, solely on account of the prolonged drought, and only commenced during the middle of June; they however crushed 335 tons of stone, which yielded 202ozs of gold raised from two levels, 50 and 90 feet; the reef is from two to 20 feet thick. There are many more claims upon Crown lands in the vicinity of Sebastian, but unworked from the want of capital and water. [89.48-50]

16.□10.1867□I am happy to say that the Elysian Flat Quartz Mining Company obtained some promising prospects last week from their ground on the Barkly Reef. Besides washing out some fine gold in the pass they have got some very nice specimens, and the shareholders are very sanguine that the mine they are working now will pay very well. It appears that Foley and Company, of No.1 claim north on this reef, are about taking legal proceedings against the owner of the crushing machine at the flat for stopping the natural watercourse, in order to secure a plentiful supply for his dam, in doing which he caused the water to overflow the flat and do considerable damage to their claim. [96]

02.12.1867□In the vicinity of the lower rush there is a decided change in the state of things this week for the better, and it is the opinion of many of the miners that the lost lead will shortly be found in the neighbourhood. Hunter and

party, whose claim is contiguous to Shadbolt's paddock, from a washing off this week obtained a yield of half an ounce per load. I am also informed that other claims have given a yield as high as 8dwts per load. The deserted claims between Weightman Brothers shaft and Shadbolt's paddock fence have been taken possession of. ...

Trounce and Company's mills have been actively employed during the week. Two of our puddling machines have been at a standstill for the want of water, in consequence of the owners not having made proper provisions for the preservation of the precious element when it was to be had in abundance. ... The greater portion of the claims below Price's store are now worked out, and the locality presents a most deserted appearance. ... [97]

12.1867□At Myerstown some of the machines are at a standstill for want of water, but Trounce and Company have a good supply, and are kept busy puddling for the public. The population has decreased very much. [98.17-18]

11.□05.1868□Foley and Company crushed 64 tons of stone from their claim on this reef, during the week, and obtained 60ozs 7dwt of gold. Elysian Flat Quartz Mining Company had a crushing of 14 tons of quartz from the same reef which yielded 11ozs 6dwt. The want of water is beginning to be severely felt on the flat. Mr Roberts machine has been idle a considerable time, waiting for the rain to come. ... [99]

□11.05.1868□... Mr Stephens has not yet been able to commence crushing for the same reason (lack of water). There are large quantities of quartz on Raywood, waiting to be crushed; and the parties that had the above stone crushed this week, had to cart it to the Shamrock engine, on the Whipstick, at a much greater expense than it would have cost had there been water nearer the reef. ... [99]

28.06.1868□The rainy season is the only time that the Whipstick can be prospected, and at the present moment there are parties out in that direction trying their luck. ...In old diggings there are still a number of diggers fossicking about, and every now and then they come upon a bit of gold that satisfies them. Last week a nice little piece of 10ozs, besides several smaller specks were washed out. At the bottom of Snowball Gully, a number of miners are getting gold in the false bottom, which previous diggers had left.[100]

□06.1868□The following companies' crushing machines stopped work six weeks ago, and are still idle from the above cause (want of water):- New Era, Elysian Flat, Stephens' and Nichols' and Nil Desperandum. A party of miners are now engaged in erecting an 8-horsepower crushing plant in Raywood Gully for public purposes. [89.23]

31.08.1868□We learn that on Saturday Mr Robert Burrowes was informed by the Government Surveyor (Mr Moline) who was sent to the rush to ascertain the best means of obtaining water in quantities to supply the wants of the digging population there, that a sufficient supply could be had from the old Myer's Flat Government dam, by making an open cutting to an eligible spot, within half a mile of the present diggings. There is but one obstruction, the Myer's Creek Paddock, to a direct course for the aqueduct, and this it is supposed will be easily got over. A dam to conserve the water at the new diggings will be required, but this want is likely to be overcome by means suggested by Mr Burrowes. Some private parties suggest that the diggers should be asked to cut the open drain, as it is for their use and benefit, in place of waiting the usual routine of letting etc etc of Government contracts for the work. We are informed that 100 men would make the required cutting in one day. [101]

08.1868□By the end of August 1868, there was "a little township of slab, corrugated iron and calico buildings". with a "main street" [containing] a number of stores and several hotels . . .Although payable gold had been proved on this rush there was once again that ever re-occurring problem of Whipstick mining, a lack of water. At first, wash-dirt had to be carted 1½ miles at 4 shillings a load to the nearest dam where the owner charged for the use of a tom for washing dirt. A few of the more enterprising diggers constructed their own dam and puddling machine. Many could not afford this. Most miners supported a move to cut a race from the reservoir which was constructed at Myers Creek during the rush to that area the previous year. This reservoir was some three quarters of a mile

south-west of the present rush. [Not constructed] By the close of 1868 most miners had left the district - the rush had faded out. Earlier, the diggings had spread westwards from Whipstick gully where, in Snowball Gully the sinking became deeper, and the lead was traced to the edge of fenced land. [1.15-16]

08.1868 The new gully opened within the last few weeks is on the boundary of the Whipstick, and is a tributary of Sydney Flat. The gold is found on the surface, and to a depth of 4 feet. So far as it has been traced it is mere surfacing, and the proper way to work the ground would be by washing the dirt in a puddling machine, seeing that most of the precious metal is got in nuggets; but as there is a scarcity of water, the stuff has to be carted to the nearest dam, and as it costs 4 shillings a load for carting and the use of the tom, a great quantity of washdirt that would be washed if water were handy is thrown aside. Some of the claims are very rich, and most of the diggers who are working steadily are getting more or less gold. The Bendigo Advertiser of 1st instant says:- The Bank of Victoria yesterday purchased a parcel of nuggets found at the Whipstick rush, the smallest of which weighed about an ounce, and the largest over 28ozs. The whole were the proceeds of 12 loads of stuff. [102]

05.09.1868 A nugget 27ozs in weight is reported to have been found a couple of days ago at the Whipstick rush, in the upper end of Snowball Gully; and the day before yesterday one was picked up lower down the lead, weighing 2ozs 12dwt 19 grains. Just outside Shoemith's Paddock, a claim recently driven has yielded 2ozs of gold to the load. In the paddock there has been some difficulty in tracing the run, on account of a strip of false bottom which has disturbed the usual trace of gold; a few claims, however have yielded a payable prospect. In Whipstick Gully mining operations have pretty nearly been brought to a standstill; for want of water. ... If energetic steps are taken a supply can be brought from the Myer's Flat Reservoir to Trounce's Dam, Sydney Flat, which will probably last until rain comes, as there is 15 feet of water in the reservoir. ... [103]

10.09.1868 The objects contemplated by the meeting of miners at the new Whipstick rush on Tuesday will be, if attained, of far greater importance to this district than they appeared at first sight. The meeting had been originally convened for the purpose of taking steps to get a temporary supply of water conveyed from an adjacent dam at Myer's Flat to the new rush, but eventually another object was proposed, that of obtaining the assistance of the Government in the formation of dams throughout the Whipstick scrub, so as to facilitate prospecting. ... [104]

24.09.1868 The following correspondence has been handed to us for publication:
Department of Victorian Water Supply, Melbourne, ... Monday, 22 September 1868.
Sir, I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16th. instant, respecting a dam to receive the water from Myer's Creek reservoir at the Whipstick, and in reply I have to inform you that the district engineer, Mr Moline, has reported upon a site for a reservoir. A copy of his report is furnished herewith for your information. ...
Department of Victorian Water Supply, Sandhurst, 18 September 1868.
Sir, In reply to your memo, of 16th. September 1868, I have the honour to inform you that the only site for the reception of the water from the Myer's Creek dam, near the Whipstick rush, is at a small gully at the end of the race as laid out by me. Some cross sections were taken over this site and are in the book containing the section. There is a small dam just made by one of the puddlers in the same gully, a few chains above the line of the proposed race, and a similar one could be constructed to receive the water from the Myer's Creek dam. I may add the country is very flat in the neighbourhood referred to, so that it will be necessary to depend upon excavation to obtain a reservoir large enough for the purpose. [105]

25.09.1868 A meeting of miners at the Whipstick was held yesterday afternoon to consider the steps necessary to be taken to secure a water supply for that district. ... In consequence of the refusal of the Government to supply any funds for the purpose, it is the opinion of this meeting ... to accept the proposal made

by the party who is willing to cut a race from the dam at Myer's Creek. ... [106, 107, 108]

09.1868 □ The principal item of interest is the new alluvial diggings at Bolle's Flat, Whipstick, near Sydney Flat, which has attracted a great number of diggers from all parts of the division. So far as I can judge by results the diggings in this locality are as patchy as those worked in the neighbourhood some ten or twelve years since. While nuggets of all sizes, varying from ½oz to 30ozs are being every day purchased at the various banks, a considerable quantity of coarse shotty gold has also been unearthed, and some excellent samples of fine gold; and I feel warranted in stating that the rush will prove fairly remunerative. These diggings have always been looked at with favor by many experienced miners, but almost insuperable difficulties were presented by the absence of water, while the want of roads was also most seriously felt. [98.19-20]

07.10.1868 □ The Whipstick Water Supply Committee proposed to cut a channel from Myer's Creek to the Whipstick rush. [109]

10.10.1868 □ Whipstick Gully: Rush progressing. Many nuggets have been found, one weighing 27ozs (No.1129). A claim recently driven yielded 2ozs to the load. In Whipstick Gully the want of water has nearly brought operations to a standstill, if there were water enough, the gold yield would be doubled. [110]

10.1868 □ Whipstick, Bendigo - rush progressing. Many nuggets have been found, one weighing 27ozs. A claim recently driven yielded 2ozs to the load. In Whipstick Gully the want of water has nearly brought operations to a standstill; if there were water enough, gold yields would be doubled. [111.93]

12.1868 □ At the Whipstick nuggets of considerable size are continually turning up, and it is expected that many will return to the diggings there, as well as at Sydney Flat and Marong, as soon as the rainy season sets in. [98.18-19]

28.06.1869 □ The rainy season is the only time that the Whipstick can be prospected, and at the present moment, there are parties out in that direction trying their luck. One of these parties sank a shaft in a fine flat about a quarter of a mile north of the flat gully opened at the last Whipstick rush, and at a depth of 18 feet struck the washdirt. In every dishful of stuff washed they found gold to the extent, in some instances, of 3 grains. The prospect was considered promising, and as it got wind as these discoveries will, there was quite a small rush on Saturday, and about 60 claims were pegged off. In most cases, however, instead of setting vigorously to work to test the gully, the miners lounged about, waiting for the other to find the run for him. ...

In old diggings there are still a number of diggers fossicking about, and every now and then they come upon a bit of gold that satisfies them. Last week a nice little piece of 10ozs, besides several smaller specks were washed out. At the bottom of Snowball Gully, a number of miners are getting gold in the false bottom, which previous diggers had left. At the new rush there is about 6 feet of false bottom. [112]

08.09.1877 □ The township of Elysian Flat, or Neilborough - by which name it is also known - is situated about 17 miles from Sandhurst on the road to Raywood. A good deal of excitement was created by the new discovery noticed in our last issue, which may lead to many persons going out there, in hopes of getting on the gold. We would warn the public against it, as the facts have been mis-stated by the prospectors. From a personal inspection of the ground yesterday, the following facts have been gleaned. The flat itself is about 3 miles long and half a mile wide, and has been worked out many years ago; having yielded large quantities of gold. The prospectors' shaft is in the south-west corner of the flat, a little on the Sandhurst side of the township, which is about half a mile off, and within 200 yards of private property on the north. There is about half a square mile of comparatively untouched ground to the south of the prospectors' claim, but even this has several old holes on it. At the head of the flat is the old Barkly Reef Company's ground, and the prospectors' shaft is about half a mile to the north. The prospectors (Guy and Duncan) have registered their claim. The sinking is 21 feet, through easy ground, and the wash occurs in shoots between walls of quartz of different character to most alluvial leads. They drove their shaft north under private property, and also east a good distance, finally putting in a drive south-west as a forlorn hope, when, after passing through about 3 feet

of solid quartz they came on the wash which is about 10 feet wide and 6 inches thick. As long this they drove 16 feet, the washdirt taken out going about 10dwt to the load. The washdirt is more like a jumble of quartz veins than anything else, very little of it being waterworn, and the same may be said of the gold got, which is very scraggy but coarse, and having the appearance of being broken out from a quartz reef. Some of the gold shown was mixed with quartz, in little specimens like those got from quartz reefs. The bottom on which the washdirt lies varies very much, sometimes being sandstone, at others slate and occasionally pipeclay, through all of which masses of quartz spurs make up to the washdirt. In the reef passed through in driving several colours were seen, and it is just possible that payable stone may be found. There are two other parties at work sinking shafts north of the prospectors, although the run of gold trends south, so far. These parties think that they will be able to pick up the run without having to pass through the quartz reef, as the prospectors had to do. To show that people should be cautious before going in to it, it may be mentioned that there are about 20 men fossicking along the flat, who think so little of it that they don't think it worth while to peg out a claim. Water is plentiful in all the holes and small dams, but the smallness of the lead and the distance should deter those who intend going from doing so. ... [113]

31.03.1879 □ A correspondent, writing from Sebastian, says: The want of a copious fall of rain is being severely felt throughout the whole of this district. ... There is a large number of men scattered through the Whipstick, gaining a subsistence from working the shallow gullies which abound in that district. Gold is procurable in small quantities in most of them, but although the shining metal can be seen, nothing can be done, as no water can be found to wash it, and in many parts, not even for household purposes. ... [114]

17.05.1880 □ ... There was no water for prospecting at Whipstick, where he believed there was a large amount of gold; and a considerable area of ground there remained to be prospected, which could be done if a race was constructed to that place ... [115]

24.06.1880 □ A large and influential deputation waited on the Minister of Mines in the Sandhurst Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, in reference to (water for the Whipstick). ... [116]

□ 03.1881 □ On the Old Tom Reef, Whipstick, several parties are doing well, and Mr Bolle has come on an exceedingly rich patch in his claim, but all the reef is good. Unfortunately he is obliged to cease working his engine on account of want of water, which will seriously interfere with mining in that district until a supply can be obtained from some source. [98.30]

07.06.1881 □ A considerable amount of prospecting, we hear, is being carried out in the neighbourhood of the Old Tom Reef on the Whipstick. A large quantity of stone has lately been crushed at Mr Bolle's battery, and a number of miners have yet at grass sufficient quartz to keep the battery going for some time, and now that water is becoming abundant we may expect to hear of some fair returns. The stone crushed was payable, and that at grass looks well. [117]

13.11.1885 □ So far back as June 1883, an agitation was on foot to secure a permanent water supply for the country lying between Eaglehawk, including Myer's Flat, Whipstick, Sebastian and Raywood. After unsuccessfully trying to impress on the Government the importance and necessity of the undertaking the matter was allowed to remain in abeyance, until about the same month in the following years, when Mr Hay Kirkwood, the present mayor of Eaglehawk, who throughout the whole affair has been the leading spirit in the movement, again raised the agitation and public meetings were held at the Eaglehawk Town Hall, Whipstick and Sebastian, during the month of July. Two schemes were proposed - one that pipe should be laid along the railway line, and the other that a race should be constructed, starting from Lightning Hill, near Eaglehawk, trending through the Whipstick, and contouring the hills in the direction of Sebastian and Raywood. The first proposal did not find favour on account of the enormous expense which would have to be incurred; while the second, which would provide an adequate supply was favoured as it would not cost nearly so much. ...

In July last tenders for the work were invited, and about a fortnight afterwards

the work was actually commenced. It was let to different contractors in sections, but some of the contractors have thrown up or finished their contracts and most of the works are now being carried out by day labour. Over 70 men are at present engaged on day work on the section from Eaglehawk to Whipstick, and Mr Snow, of the Water Works Department, was busily engaged yesterday in paying the men. In addition to these, a number of the men are engaged by the contractors. The water will be conveyed from the Sparrowhawk race near Albert's crushing machine, to Lightning Hill, by means of a syphon, the pipes 12 inches in thickness, for which are now lying ready in Victoria Street, Eaglehawk. From Lightning Hill a race has been cut for some distance, where it falls into the No. 1, or Blue Jacket, reservoir, which is now in course of construction. About 50 men are engaged here, and the locality presents a very lively appearance just now. From this reservoir the water will be conveyed by means of the race north to Sebastian, where another reservoir will be constructed, and thence on to Raywood, where there will be another reservoir. The distance from Eaglehawk to Raywood is about 16 miles, but owing to the circuitous course which has had to be taken the water race will be considerably longer. There will be several flumes required, but none of them of very great length, the longest being across a valley 2 or 3 miles from Eaglehawk. It is anticipated that the water will be running as far as the Whipstick at any rate by the end of February. The utility of this work is beyond question, as already a number of claims are taken up and a party have taken up a lease at the Whipstick, on which they intend to erect a large crushing machine as soon as the water is laid on. The work is being carried on under the supervision of Mr Gale, on behalf of the Water Supply Department. [118]

08.10.1897 □ Mr R. O'Neill has received the following letter from the Secretary of Mines and Water Supply:- With reference to previous correspondence in regard to the battery for the Whipstick district, I have the honour, by direction, to inform you that the money for the battery is now available, and the machine will be sent up as soon as it can be got ready. [119]

□ 1899 □ Austrian Reef. A considerable amount of work has been done on this reef both by open cutting and shaft sinking, the main shaft being about 60 feet deep and in a good condition for working. Very little information can be gained respecting this reef, but it is stated to have been very rich in the surface cutting. An underlay shaft was sunk on what appears to be a branch of the reef, and averaged $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs to 3dwt per load to a depth of 40 feet. This reef is now abandoned, though it is said that a large reef is to be seen at the bottom of the main shaft, which would average 3dwt per ton. Dark-blue slate and yellowish sandstone is seen on the mullock heaps. Graptolites are to be found in the slates, also what appear to be other fossil remains.

Black Rock Reef. This reef is situated in Black Rock Flat, and has had considerable work done upon it by the sinking of shafts and cuttings. I could not gain any information respecting it, but no doubt gold was found in payable quantities, seeing that so much work has been done. There is also the remains of a small crushing battery to be seen. ... A small area of alluvial workings is seen in the gully to the west of the Black Rock Reef. Graptolites in dark blue slate are to be seen here.

Italian Reef. This reef is situated higher on the same slope as the Tasman Reef, and several shafts have been sunk on it, also an extensive open cutting. No reliable information can be obtained respecting it, only that the original holders got very payable returns from the reef near the surface.

Tasman Reef. This reef was originally worked by open cutting, and taken out for a width of about 3 feet. The surface stone was very rich in places, and averaged as much as 12ozs per load. An underlay shaft was sunk to a depth of 108 feet on the west side of the reef mentioned, in cutting, the reef continuing down to this depth, and at times averaged 2ozs to the load. At 108 feet, what appears to have like a fault came in from the west and formed a junction with the reef, but the stone getting poor at this point no further work was done. The fault itself carried some stone, and this was profitably worked. Another shaft was sunk to a depth of 1200 feet, and a cross cut east intersected the reef previously worked in the cutting, and though the reef is from one foot 6 inches to

2 feet wide, it is not payable under present conditions. There seem to be an excellent prospect in this mine, and it appears strange that the work was not continued to ascertain what remained below the junction of the reef and fault mentioned above.

Stephen's claim. Some 200 yards north east of the Tasman Reef and still further down the slope of the hill, Stephen and party have been working on a very strong body of stone. Two shafts about 30 feet deep each and an open cut were put down on the reef, from which a crushing was taken, and averaged over 3dwt, but a subsequent crushing only averaged 1½dwt. This reef, I think, is the continuation north of the Trevillick Reef.

Trevillick Reef. This reef is situated about 25 chains south east of Tasman Reef, and was opened about 1876 by a Mr Nancarrow. It was worked along its course by open cutting for a distance of 260 feet, and averaged about 8dwt per load. A shaft was sunk slightly to the east of the reef, which was cut at 50 feet, but averaging only 3dwts, it could not be profitably worked. A shaft is being at present sunk on the southern continuation of the reef, and a crushing is being taken out, the stone showing a fair prospect. The Tasman, Trevillick, Austrian and Italian reefs are within a radius of 20 chains, and the crowns and slopes of the hills on which they are situated are intersected by many reef outcrops which invariably carry gold. The surface soil also carries gold, and with water convenient the whole of the surface in this locality might be sluiced with profit. [120]

17.02.1900□The continued dry season is seriously affecting the numerous small prospecting parties operating on the surface formations at the Whipstick, as for the past few weeks they have been unable to obtain sufficient water to crush their dirt, and the battery in the locality is consequently idle. [121]