

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

CHRISTOFF REEF MINES

Other Names Christopher Reef, Chyrstoff Reef, Christophe Reef

Location Parcel No. P127150, State Forest, west of Loeser Road, in Splitters Gully, Whipstick

Map Reference Epsom 1:25,000 - BV576.366

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description Extending in a north-north-westerly direction from a forest track towards Adelaide Hill, there is a line of small mullock heaps which have been partially bulldozed to fill shafts. Near the northern end of the line of workings is a larger mullock heap. No evidence of an associated machinery site was found with this heap, but near a dry dam south of the heap is a deposit of battery sand. West of the central group of mullock heaps are several large cacti, suggesting the former site of a garden and house.

History Period of activity: 1856-1866, 1879-1898
Line of reef: Elliott/Christoff, Bullock Gully
Maximum recorded annual production: 1111ozs obtained from 817 tons in 1887
Total production: 1557ozs obtained from 1505 tons between 1886 and 1889
Deepest working level: 118 feet
Deepest shaft: 218 feet (below water level)

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples The site is one of a number of representative shallow-level low-production mines in the study area, namely: Wallace (1856-1906), Black Rock (1857-1879), Sandfly (1857-1890), Barkly (1857-1951), Elliott (1858-1889), Unfortunate Bolle's (1862-1865), Shamrock (1862-1881), and Apollo Hill (1864-1887).

Statement of Significance The site is representative of some relatively undisturbed shallow-level low-production quartz workings chiefly from the period 1886-1889 (criterion D) and was one of a number of sites in the study area worked in the 1880s with money provided from the prospecting vote (criterion A).

Level of Significance Local

Recommendation The site should be protected by inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme, in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites and should be included as a significant sub-area within the proposed Splitters Gully Mining Heritage Area.

Heritage Boundaries The Splitters Gully Mining Heritage Area is bounded on the south by Simpsons Road, on the east by Loeser Road northwards as far as the first gully north-east of Apollo Hill, on the north by this gully as far as 100 metres east of the leftmost branch of Splitters Gully, on the east by a line 100 metres east of the leftmost branch of this gully to Splitters Gully Track, on the south by this track as far as

its intersection with Loeser Road, on the east by Loeser Road northwards as far as its intersection with a cross track, on the north east by a line from this intersection to the summit of Adelaide Hill, on the west by the line of the second gully west from Adelaide Hill extended across the right branch of Splitters Gully to Splitters Gully Track and thence along a line 100 metres west of the leftmost branch of Splitters Gully southwards to the head of the first gully west of Apollo Hill, and finally along a line 100 metres west of this gully to Simpsons Road.

- References**
1. "Bendigo mining intelligence." The Age, Friday, 25 April 1856, 2.
 2. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars.
 3. "Mining intelligence. Gold in the Whipstick scrub." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 29 September 1879, p3, col.4.
 4. "Elmore." From our own Reporter, The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 29 October 1879, p3, col.2.
 5. "Mining." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 24 December 1879, p3, col.4.
 6. "Elmore notes." From our own Reporter, Wednesday, 15 October; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 16 October 1879, p2, col.5.
 7. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Sandhurst division.
 8. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
 9. "Eaglehawk." From our own Correspondent, Thursday, 16 May; The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 21 May 1886, p3, col.1.
 10. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 9 April 1886, p3, col.3.
 11. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 9 July 1886, p4, col.1.
 12. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 6 August 1886, p4, col.1.
 13. "Mining intelligence. Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 3 September 1886, p3, col.3.
 14. "Eaglehawk Prospecting Vote." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 9 October 1886, p6, col.2.
 15. "The Sandhurst Prospecting Board. The Whipstick tour." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 January 1887, p3, cols.3/4.
 16. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 18 July 1887, p4, col.1.
 17. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 19 July 1887, p4, col.1.
 18. "Mining in the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 13 August 1887, p6, col.1/2.
 19. "Mining intelligence. Prospectus." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 19 September 1887, p4, col.5.
 20. Goldfields of Victoria. Reports of the Mining Registrars for the quarter.
 21. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 17 December 1887, p6, col.1.
 22. "Mining intelligence. Mining in the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 13 February 1895, p4, col.1.
 23. "Mining in the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 29 April 1895, p4, col.3.
 24. The Bendigo Advertiser, 1 August 1896.
 25. "Our mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 December 1896, p3, col.4.
 26. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 15 February 1897, p4, col.2.
 27. "Our mines." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 25 December 1897, p5, col.3.
 28. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.

Notes Splitters Gully Track is the title given to an unnamed track which connects Loeser Road to the Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road generally in a south-westerly direction along the main left branch of Splitters Gully.

The main period of activity was between 1879 and 1889. In 1887 on Christoff Reef there were at least these ten claims/leases (from north to south): Morning Light (100 yards), Rohan and Fitzpatrick, Davies, E. Siler and mate (100 yards), W. Siler and mate (100 yards), Bachyths, Hodge and Bogunda/Bachyths and Company (200 yards), Highmore and Johnson, Salvation Army (Miller, James and Company), Bogunda and Oppossum; a distance of at least 1100 yards. The main workings were those of W. Siler and mate and Bachyths and Company. On the Bullock Gully line further west, at the same time, there were at least four claims/leases (from north to south): Jubilee (Robbins)(400 yards), Little Nell, C. Robbins and Company and Dauntless.

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

Chronology

03.1856 □ That busy gentleman "rumour" has been circulating the report of a large amount of gold being found in the Whipstick, but is unfortunately smacked of the "German" too much to be accredited. I was however credibly informed that a number were working near Adelaide Hill, with what success is not known. [1]

□ 09.1864 □ Christophe Reef: 7 miners at work.
Dublin Reef: 10 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 3 miners at work. [2, 29.37-40]

□ 12.1864 □ Christophe Reef: 8 miners at work.
Dublin Reef: 14 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 4 miners at work. [2, 29.39-42]

□ 03.1865 □ Christophe Reef: 2 miners at work.
Dublin Reef: 14 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 4 miners at work. [2, 29.42-44]

□ 06.1865 □ Christophe Reef: 2 miners at work.
Dublin Reef: 6 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 4 miners at work. [2, 29.43-44]

□ 09.1865 □ Christophe Reef: 4 miners at work.
Dublin Reef: 4 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 4 miners at work. [2, 29.47-49]

□ 12.1865 □ Christophe Reef: 6 miners at work.
Adelaide reef: 2 miners at work. [2, 29.45-46]

□ 03.1866 □ Christophe Reef: 3 miners at work. [2, 29.44-45]

□ 29.09.1879 □ Within the past few days several parties from Eaglehawk and Sandhurst have visited the Whipstick with the object of pegging out ground in that locality, consequent upon a report that a good reef had been found by 2 men, who are reported to have obtained an excellent yield from a trial crushing. Some reticence is maintained as to the precise locality where the prospect was obtained, and it is said to be situated in the Whipstick scrub, about 2½ miles from Eaglehawk, and a mile to the east of the Red Jacket. The difficulty of finding the place may be guessed, when a party of gentlemen from Eaglehawk, who were proceeding to the place for the purpose of pegging out some ground, and who were pretty well acquainted with the locality, drove about for a couple of hours, and could not find the exact spot, although they were within half a mile of it nearly all the time. From the particulars that we could glean it appears that the party is composed of a man named "Black George" and another man, who have been prospecting in the locality for a number of years. The reef, which is from 12 to 15 inches thick, shows gold pretty freely, and same to be well-defined, and a trial crushing of 4 tons gave a yield of 2ozs 8dwt 6 grains of gold, and as the stone is easily obtained, having been struck in a drive of an old shaft 50 feet from the surface, this yield ought to prove remunerative. There are other old shafts on the ground, but at present beyond some claims pegged out, there are no other operations being carried on. It will be observed by the notes from Elmore forwarded by our reporter that some excitement has been created in that township by the discovery of another reef, which is said to show gold. [3]

29.09.1879 □ The township of Elmore, or several of its leading residents, at least, have been touched by the gold fever. There has been quite a stir in the

neighbourhood during the past few days in consequence of a report that a gold-bearing reef has been found by a couple of the residents of the district in the Whipstick scrub, about 17 miles from the township, on the Whipstick side of the rail way line. The locality is about 4 miles from the residence of Mr Warren, ranger of the Kamarooka Forest. It appears that a man named Blanchin, has with his son been prospecting in the scrub during the past few weeks, and on Thursday or Friday last came across a surface reef, about 2½ feet thick, with the appearance of which he was much impressed. He communicated his discovery to a friend, named Sufferan, who has had some experience in quartz mining, and the latter put a shot into the stone about 2 feet from the surface, and found that it contained gold. Specimens were brought into the township and shown to various people, all of whom apparently were immensely pleased. ... [4]

02.10.1879□Our Huntly correspondent writes:- on Tuesday I paid a visit to the rush at the Whipstick, referred to in your Elmore notes on Monday. The reef is being opened up as reported in your paper of Monday last, and the ground has been marked off on each side of the prospectors for some considerable distance, but no work is being done of any consequence by any party except the original party. They are busily engaged in sinking in the reef, and feel sanguine that it will pay well. While I was on the ground the prospectors let off a blast, and in some of the stone that was taken up I found several fine specks of gold, in fact, there was gold, although very fine, in nearly all the stone taken out. The prospectors expect soon to have a trial crushing ready. [5]

16.10.1879□The rush at the Whipstick scrub still creates a deal of interest in the township. The prospect is stated to be about the same as previously, gold being frequently seen in the stone broken. The first crushing is expected to take place in about a fortnight's time. ... [6]

09.1880□In alluvial mining payable gold has been found in 50-foot sinking in private ground, near Adelaide Hill, about seven miles north of Sandhurst. A great rush took place, and an immense number of claims were marked out; many of them have been abandoned, but a good number are still being worked with profitable results. Several puddling machines have been erected in the vicinity. In connection with the washdirt, a quantity of cement carrying payable gold is found, which has to be carted a distance of about four miles to crush. It is thought that the lead will find its outlet in the Lower Huntly lead. [7.31-32]

□ 12.1880□The alluvial diggings at Adelaide Hill have been almost deserted, but there are three or four claims which will prove payable. [8.31]

□05.1885□This afternoon Mr W. Wood (town clerk) and Mr O'Dwyer (mining surveyor), representing the Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee, visited the Whipstick district for the purpose of inspecting the work done there by prospecting parties, and of reporting on the same. The Chrystoff Reef, worked by Bachyths and Company, was the first visited. It was ascertained that during the past 5 weeks the crosscut at 106 foot level at this mine had been driven 33 feet in an easterly direction, making a total of 38 feet, and 16 feet westerly. In the eastern drive at 28 feet, also at 34 feet, spurs about 6 inches wide, showing a little gold in them, had been cut. A spur 5 inches in thickness had also been penetrated at 5 feet in the westerly drive. [9]

□09.04.1886□Our Melbourne correspondent writes - The Mining Department has received from Mining Surveyor O'Dwyer a report for the month of the operations of the Eaglehawk Prospecting Association. ... Bachyths and Company, Christopher Reef, has passed through several spurs of gold. ... [10]

□07.1886□The Borough Prospecting Committee ... paid their usual monthly visit to the claims in the vicinity of the Whipstick today. The Christoff Reef was the first visited. At the 100 foot level that have extended the crosscut 20 feet, the ground is rather hard with ironstone veins and small spurs. They have passed through several spurs but have not seen any signs of gold. It is expected that the reef will be cut through in about 35 feet. [11]

□08.1886□... members of the prospecting Committee visited the various claims at the Whipstick today. The Christoff Reef Company have driven their east crosscut 25 feet during the past four weeks, total 102 feet. Several spurs have been driven through, but no gold has been seen. In about 20 feet more driving they will reach the reef, which is slate country. [12]

□09.1886□The Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee ... paid their usual monthly visit of inspection to the Whipstick yesterday. The Christof Reef, which was the first inspected, has been driven 26 feet west. The claim north of them have cut the reef and crushed 17 tons for a yield of 7½dwt to the ton. The company referred to above are now driving north to get into the lava in the same reef, which is distant about 20 feet. They have also sunk the shaft 5 feet, making a total depth of 140 feet from the surface. [13]

□10.1886□Christopher Reef, Bachyths and Company. This party commenced to receive subsidy in January 1886. They have sunk shaft 101 feet. At 52 feet drove east 14 feet, at 106 feet drove crosscut to west 30 feet, and east 134 feet; at 120 feet in east drive, passed through a flucan reef with small reef at back of it. About 4 chains north of these workings on line of reef, Siler and Company went into an old shaft to prospect for this reef and found it 25 feet east of the shaft, it is there 3 feet wide. They took out 18 loads of quartz, which yielded 6ozs 16dwt of gold; they are now taking out another crushing, which looks better than the last. Bachyths and Company have been subsidized to the amount of £101 3 shillings. [14]

□01.1887□Winding through the scrub the claim of G. Bachyths and Company, on Elliott's Reef, for which £50 was asked, was next visited. Locally the line is known as the Chrystof Reef, and is two miles south of the Elliott's Reef claim. The shaft is down 124 feet, and at 106 feet, they crosscutted 134 feet east and 36 feet west. Here they cut three spurs showing gold, but not payable. They wish to put in a crosscut at the water line 124 feet for the reef. Siler, in the next claim, had half an ounce per ton from a reef 3 feet thick. [15]

□07.1887□A very pleasing item comes from the Christoff Reef in the Whipstick - Bachyths and Company, one of the parties subsidized by the Old Eaglehawk Prospecting Board have crushed 30 tons for 46ozs 13dwt of gold. The reef is from 2 to 2½ feet thick. [16]

□07.1887□The good returns being obtained at the Whipstick mentioned yesterday, have attracted considerable attention and a large number of claims have been taken up. Our Eaglehawk correspondent writes as follows regarding the same locality. Messrs Bemuda and Company, on the Christoff Reef, Whipstick, have just cleaned up a crushing of 29 loads of stone for a yield of 47ozs of gold. This they obtained at a depth of 60 to 70 feet from the surface. This yield has caused a good deal of excitement in Eaglehawk, and numbers of parties have pegged out claims at the Whipstick and several private companies have been formed. Good returns have been obtained by Siler and Company, north of Bermuda's. Downie and party on the same line of reef have struck water in their shaft at a depth of 100 feet, and are now crosscutting for the reef on which Bemuda and party are engaged. They are awaiting the result with interest. [17]

□07.1887□A good deal of attention has recently been directed to the Whipstick by the excellent yields obtained by Siler and party and Bachyths (better known as "Black George") and party on the Chyrstof Reef. This reef is situated about 4 or 5 miles beyond Eaglehawk, between Big Hill and Adelaide Hill. A gully runs down from the line of reef, and the extensive character of the old alluvial workings bears ample evidence as to the accuracy of the record of its former richness. It is said that the gold here was exceedingly coarse, and that nuggets, 5, 7 and 9 pounds were amongst the treasures which it yielded. There was every indication that the gold could not have travelled far, and it probably had its source in one of the adjacent reefs. In the locality there are two parallel lines of reef, probably about 100 yards or so apart. They are named the Christoff Reef and the Bullock Gully Reef, the former being the leading one at present. Owing to the recent discoveries it may be interesting to give a few particulars as to the various claims.

A large number of leases have been taken up recently and in most of them work has been commenced. Though Siler's and Bachyth's claims are the leading ones, it may be as well to mention the claims as they were visited. Starting at the north end the most extreme claim on the Christof Reef belongs to Mr Jabez Robbins of Eaglehawk. This claim also embraces the Bullock Gully Reef, and, as they are working on the latter line it will be noticed in connection with the

other claims on the same line.

Proceeding south upon the Christof Reef we enter upon the Morning Light claim, 100 yards long by 150 wide, held by a private party under miner's rights. They have been working 3 weeks, only one shift of course - and have sunk a shaft, 7 feet by 3 feet 3 inches, a depth of 30 feet. They are doing all their work permanently, and intent to sink to water level, about 130 feet, but will probably crosscut before that for the reef.

Adjoining them is the claim of Rohan and Fitzpatrick, who are at present cutting down their shaft to make room for ladders. In sinking they have cut 5 or 6 spurs, in which a color of gold was seen. They will sink a little further and then cut for the reef.

In the case of "Davies" lease the only representative of the claimholders to be seen was in a most bewildering state of "know-nothingness", evidently thinking he was being interviewed by a "jumper" or some other horrible personage, disguised as a reporter. Eventually it pleased him "to think" that the shaft was down 50 or 60 feet and some spurs passed showed a little gold, that they would open out about 80 feet and that the lease was about 125 yards long. The reporter was consoled with the thought that the next time he called "Ike" might be on the surface.

The claim of E. Siler and mate is 100 yards long, and held under miner's right. The shaft is 120 feet deep, and they are crosscutting west at 70 feet for the reef, which they will shortly reach.

The next claim is one of the leading ones on the line, is 100 yards in length and held under lease by W. Siler and mate. This claim has been paying for 8 or 10 months, and they still have a lot of payable stone to work. The reef is from 2 to 3 feet thick, but at times makes in bulges to 5 or 6 feet; it dips south and underlays west, and there is a well-defined foot wall; a lava runs along the footwall. The bulk of the gold is found not in the reef itself but in the soft casing on the footwall. The returns average from half an ounce up to nearly 2ozs. The last return was 60ozs gold from 50 tons, and the previous crushing gave an average of 1ozs 14dwt gold. They will start another crushing today. They have, going south, worked the reef up to within 4 feet of Bachyths' boundary. The shaft is down 203 feet, but the levels are at 118 feet. There are only three partners in this claim, consequently they are going very well. The stone is very easily got, and the greatest expense is carting.

Adjoining Siler's on the south is the claim of Bachyths, Hodge and Bogunda. The claim has been extensively worked in the past and has paid pretty well. They hold a lease of 200 yards. Recently they opened up on a body of stone in one of the south shafts at a depth of 73 feet. The stone is sometimes 3 feet thick, but averages 18 inches to 2 feet. The only crushing they have had was a week or two ago, when 30 tons yielded 45ozs of gold. They have some dead work to do, but will take out another crushing in 2 or 3 weeks. This is a different stone to that worked by Siler, as it lies about 10 feet away from the lava. There is a great difference in the reef also. Siler's stone is of a whitish character, whereas that in Bachyths' claim is very black and much mixed with ironstone. Bachyths' party have enough work on hand at present, but by-and-by they will tackle Siler's reef, where the latter squared up to the boundary. Siler's reef will, however, probably dip under the water level before it gets far into Bachyths' claim, and as this will necessitate machinery, a public company will probably be floated to provide the capital.

South of this a large number of leases have been taken up, but most of them are only in a prospecting stage at present. Highmore and Johnson have sunk to 112 feet, and are crosscutting for the reef. Miller, James and Company (known as the Salvation Army claim) are sinking, and the same remark applies to Bogunda's claim, the Oppossum, and others south.

Coming back to the original starting point at the north, for the purpose of having a look at the Bullock Gully line, we find Robbin's Jubilee claim, which, as before stated, takes in both lines. They have 300 yards on the Chrystof line and 400 or 500 yards on the Bullock Gully line. They are at present repairing the workings of an old shaft, which is down 218 feet. They are opening out at 110 feet and expect shortly to be in full swing. They have some nice spurs running into the

main reef. This claim is said to have been rich when worked 28 years ago, but the water proved too strong for the horses then employed.

Next south is the "Little Nell". They recently cut some spurs showing gold near the surface. They dipped north and west and consequently they started to sink another shaft to catch them deeper, and see what they make into. They are now meeting with promising looking spurs. The claim is held under miner's right. The next claim is held under miner's right by C. Robbins and Company and a new shaft is being sunk.

There is then a blank on this line for some distance, until the Dauntless claim almost abreast of the Salvation Army. They are sinking a shaft, and meeting with a few spurs.

All the quartz crushed in this locality is taken to the Virginia crushing machine at Eaglehawk. However, there is to be erected shortly a crushing machine a mile and a half or two miles north, which will be much nearer. This Elliott's Reef, by the way, is supposed to be a continuation of the Chrystoff Reef. There are several claim at work on the Elliott's Reef.

Mr W. H. Grainger, inspector of mines, recently inspected the mines about Chrystof Reef, and ordered all the claimholders to place ladders in their shafts. This caused some commotion among the mine owners, who consider it a restriction upon prospecting, as the ladders, they say, cost as much as sinking almost. However, the inspector is only carrying out the law. [18]

□09.1887□Prospectus of the Nil Desperandum Company, Christoph Reef, Whipstick.

This claim is situated on the Christoph Reef, Whipstick, about 3 miles north east of the Borough of Eaglehawk, and in the early days of the diggings was celebrated for its rich alluvial deposits, and latterly has every appearance of opening out a rich field of quartz reefs.

The proprietors of the above claim have held it for many years. About 2 years ago, they applied for some assistance from the Eaglehawk Prospecting Committee, which was granted long enough to enable them to complete the sinking of their shaft - then down a considerable depth. After the shaft was finished to the required depth, they drove an eastern crosscut, where they passed through a small reef showing gold.

While this work was being done, Siler and Company (to the north) struck the reef shallower which induced Bachyths and Company to also go to a higher level and try for the reef, where at 70 feet they were successful in getting it. The first crushing from this stone of 30 small loads yielded 46ozs 13dwt of gold. They have since broken about 20 tons more, which looks better than the first lot, and are now raising stone for a much larger crushing. Prior to this reef being found, the present proprietors had crushed from other surface runs a large quantity of stone, some of which was very rich.

Siler and Company, on their north boundary, put through a crushing lately of 70 tons for a yield of 235ozs 16dwts of gold; thus in all, since they cut the reef, have crushed 412 tons for a yield of 511ozs of gold.

It will therefore be seen that as Bachyths and Company are working at least 160 feet from their north boundary, in addition to the full length of the lease south, which is 200 yards along the line of reef, there is a large quantity of good ground to work, and taking what has been crushed from the two mines up to the present as a test of the quality of the stone, it is fair to suppose that very good yields may be expected from their mine.

The proprietors therefore (some of whom intend to visit the old country), have, with a view of working the mine to better advantage, determined to put it into a Registered Company. ... [19]

□09.1887□Lease No.5656 for 3 acres 0 roods and 17 perches and 2 men granted on 19 September to William F. Siler and Company in the Whipstick. [2]

□09.1887□Siler and Company, Christoph Reef: 295ozs 19dwt obtained from 120 tons of stone at between the surface and 120 feet. [20]

□09.1887□One of the most important events of the quarter has been the opening up of a lot of payable stone on the Chrystof Reef, from which Siler and Company and Bachyths and Company have obtained excellent yields. This reef lies in the Whipstick Scrub, three or four miles from Eaglehawk. A lot of leases

have been taken up, and should the yields continue the result will be the opening up of a large tract of hitherto undeveloped country. [8.22-23]

17.12.1887 □ A report reached town last evening that E. Siler and Company (whose claim lies north of Siler and Crameri, and also of Bachyths and Company - both of which latter have been getting fair yields lately) have cut stone showing fair gold. This makes four claims at the Christoph Reef, Whipstick, getting gold. [21]

□ 12.1887 □ Lease No.5687 for 7 acres 0 roods and 32 perches and 4 men granted on 12 December to George Bachyths and others on Christoph Reef. [2]

□ 12.1887 □ Siler and Company, Christoph Reef: 84ozs 2dwt obtained from 84 tons of stone at 118 feet. [20]

□ 12.1887 □ At the Christoph Reef good payable yields have been obtained by Siler and Company, and Bachyths and Company, and several other claims are on gold. [8.21-22]

□ 12.1887 □ Bachyths and Company, Whipstick: 176ozs obtained from 171 tons of stone at 66 feet. [20]

□ 06.1888 □ Bachyths and Company, Whipstick: 64ozs 15dwt obtained from 101 tons of stone at 70 feet. [20]

□ 06.1888 □ At Whipstick, payable yields are still being obtained in one or two claims, notably that of Bachyths and Company. [8.19]

□ 09.1888 □ Bachyths and Company, Christoph Reef: 148ozs 19dwt obtained from 165 tons of stone at 70 feet. [20]

□ 12.1888 □ Bachyths and Company, Christoph Reef: 156ozs 14dwt obtained from 295 tons of stone at 70 feet. [20]

□ 12.1888 □ At the Whipsticks, Bachyths and Company are still working on payable stone. [8.21]

□ 02.1889 □ Lease No.5877 for 3 acres 1 rood and 13 perches and 2 men granted on 11 February to Edward Siler on Christoph Reef. [2]

□ 03.1889 □ Bachyths and Company, Christoph Reef: 72ozs 16dwt obtained from 109 tons of stone at 70 feet. [20]

□ 13.02.1895 □ At the present time Messrs A. Harkness and Company of the Victoria Foundry, are engaged in constructing a small 5 head battery plant (which, if occasion requires, could be easily enlarged) to the order of Messrs Lowe and Company, who for some time past have been working the Christopher Reef in the Whipstick with payable results; the returns averaging 3 and 4dwts to the load, while it is believed that the stone below the water level will go considerably higher. Messrs Lowe and Company have a winding engine on the ground with which they will also drive their battery. At present all the stone has to be carted a distance of several miles to the nearest crushing machine at Eaglehawk. From present prospects, the party is confident that the venture will prove a success. [22]

□ 29.04.1895 □ At the Christoff Reef, Whipstick, Mr A. Harkness has just erected a crushing battery of 5 heads of stamps for Messrs Backhaus and Bermuda, who are now awaiting rain to fill the dam, when crushing operations will be commenced. There is a large quantity of quartz in readiness for the mill. The adjacent claim, formerly owned by Mr Siler and party, is at present being worked by Mr. Lewis and party, who have raised a quantity of stone, in which gold is visible, for crushing in a few days. This claim turned out a good deal of gold when held by Mr Siler and party. Several claims in the locality have been taken up by Eaglehawk people, namely Mr R. Marshall and party, and Mr R. White and party, and others. [23]

□ 08.1896 □ Christoph Reef - The Half-yearly Meeting was held . . .there were 10 shareholders present, representing 27,000 shares . . . Mining manager's report - I took charge on the 23rd day of April 1896, and since then the 160 foot level has been driven north 16 feet; total 24 feet. I believe it would not be long before we pick up the reef worked on your northern boundary by the tribute company, which averaged 2½ozs to the ton your directors instructed me to arrange for an engine as I found that the water and the hauling were quite as much as your engine could do in the eight hours. We now have the engine in position, and I am quite satisfied that it will be a great saving to the company, as the boiler is a great deal larger than the company's, and it is no trouble to steam for the winder

and the battery at the same time, and by having this engine the battery can be kept going by one driver. [24]

□28.12.1896□... among those whose returns are notable is the Chrystoph Reef. [25]

□15.02.1897□Christoph Reef see fair gold in a stone cut above the slide at 124 feet. [26]

□25.12.1897□The Christoph Reef Company, though they averaged over an ounce to the ton in the first half, did not go to anything payable. [27]

□02.01.1898□Mr. W. E. Brown, Eaglehawk, ... bought the Christoph Reef property has ... stone, but, at present, its value is not ... [28]