

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

MYER'S FLAT ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Other Names

Location Parcel No. P***, Peg Leg Gully, Myer's Flat

Map Reference Marong 1:25,000 - BV516.337

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description Marong 1:25,000 - BV516.337

History Period of activity: 1852-1953+
Deepest shafts: 10 to 60 feet

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples There are two other early shallow alluvial workings of similar extent within the study area: further downstream at Myer's Creek and at Neilborough. There are several smaller patches of extant shallow alluvial workings at Flagstaff Hill, Drunken Scotchman's Gully, Peter the Great Gully (right hand branch), One-Eye Gully, the Shallow Diggings (Elysian Flat) and Black Rock Flat. All of these areas were opened after Myer's Flat and were neither so extensive nor so important.

Statement of Significance Myer's Flat was one of the earliest shallow alluvial workings on Bendigo beyond Bendigo Creek itself and an early administrative centre (Criterion A). The site, just downstream from the junction of Peg Leg and Sailor's gullies, marks out the main line of alluvium derived from the reefs at the northern end of the New Chum and Garden Gully lines of reef (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.

Heritage Boundaries The site is a roughly triangular area of ground bounded on the north-east by the Bendigo railway, on the south-west by Peg Leg Creek and on the north-west by the Marong-Myer's Flat Road.

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Notes

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

Chronology □05.1852□The breaking of the drought early in May 1852 led to the abandonment of the Bullock Creek and Sheepwash stations. But the big influx of diggers and their wide dispersal throughout the valley necessitated the setting up of government outstations . From Golden Gully the diggers soon began gathering the spoils of nearby Spring Creek and the rich gullies about Diamond Hill. Cockburn established station there which, on his transfer to Forest Creek, was taken over by Captain John Urquhart. Assistant Commissioner Panton . . . was moved to Bendigo Creek in June to open a new camp at Kangaroo Gully. At Myers Creek Assistant Commissioner Read set up tents for nine troopers . . whilst at the White Hills another out-station opened under Commissioner J M Clow . . .The Junction Camp, well known station at the junction of Long Gully and the Bendigo Creek, would appear to have been opened at a later date. Removing from Bullock Creek in May 1852, Assistant Commissioner Gilbert had pitched his tents on the ridge overlooking the creek and the workings below, almost in the centre of the valley . . . Gilbert was not at this time in charge of the field, being senior to his fellow commissioners only in length of service. The field was still administratively part of Mount Alexander with its assistant commissioners directly responsible to Commissioner Wright. By the time Gilbert . . . [during first week of October 1852] . . . moved to Mount Alexander the camp he had established above Bendigo Flat was rapidly becoming the administrative centre of the field. Soon, it was almost a self-contained township spread over some seventy acres. Apart from the Commissioner's quarters, there were barracks for detachments of foot and mounted police, a licence tent, the gold receiver's office, extensive stables and the grim, log cabin type lock-up.[1.64-65]

□ 1852 □ 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. [20.8-9]

□ 30.04.1856 □ At Myers Flat a good deal of gold is being raised, and a large and increasing quantity of people seem prosperous and comfortable. [3]

17.04.1857 □ In one of last week's issues of the Melbourne Argus there appears a letter headed "The Truth about the Whipstick" coming from what your contemporary terms "a reliable correspondent", and the reliable correspondent is made to speak for himself, and certainly in no unsparing terms, either, not only despairingly of the Whipstick diggings, but of everything else in and about the Whipstick. ...

The population has fallen off a good deal, especially about the middle of Scotchman's Gully, and a very considerable space of tent ground, where tents formerly stood in this gully, is now deserted, presenting nothing but the remains of tent frames, cooking places etc. etc. Although the bulk of the population in the late rush was chiefly composed of miners from the neighbouring gullies - namely, Fiddler's Green, One-Eye, White Horse, Jack Ass, California, Eaglehawk, Myer's Flat, Sydney Flat and other places more immediately adjoining, who could pounce down on the Whipstick at any time in a few hours notice, yet a very large proportion of these have not finally quitted the Whipstick. ...

I can assert from the best authority that since the 370ozs nugget was found last week several smaller nuggets have been got, some in the same locality, and others from different parts of the scrub. ... There are one or two gullies not a hundred miles from Brandy Gully, said to be paying well, and it is supposed that there is a considerable quantity of gold in nuggets in the hands of miners and others on these diggings. [4]

□ 06.10.1857 □ Myer's Flat is every week receiving fresh accessions of population. An old resident on the flat says that for the last twelve months he has not seen so many on the ground as there are at the present time. ... The puddling machines which are at work are paying well. Several have been erected and leases applied for, but on various grounds refused. The number of tub and cradle men is greater than in most of the other old diggings and, as a large proportion of them have continued on the ground for a length of time, it is to be presumed that their earnings have been satisfactory. At the junction of Madman's Gully with the flat, in close proximity to the school house, an old man and his grandson are said to have made upwards of £400 during the last ten days, which sum is exclusive of a nugget worth more than £100. ... [5]

□ 28.11.1857 □ On Myer's Flat some of the puddlers are said to be doing exceedingly well by taking up the false bottom. About 10 feet of stuffing or mullock has to be removed. Within the last six months a puddler has increased his horse stock from one to five and has now also eight hired men. His weekly expenses are stated to be not less than £50. The tub and cradle men are said for the most part to be earning good wages. [6]

□ 18.05.1858 □ Nobody can doubt but there are heavy auriferous deposits in the various gullies and flats lying between Ironstone and Eaglehawk, White Hills, Adelaide Hill, One-Eye and White Horse gullies, and from thence on to Fiddler's Green, Red and Blue Jacket gullies, Sydney and Myer's Flats, Black Horse and the Whipstick - indeed this large extent of auriferous country has never received, and only awaits, a fair prospecting to develop it; but as the sinking is both deep and expensive at the new rush, there are many who would willingly try their luck at it under other circumstances who prefer holding on at Elysian Flat (and wisely too) to see what sort of a turn things may take in the virgin goldfield. ... [7]

□ 09.1859 □ Pegleg and Myer's Flat: 155 miners at work. [8.10-11]

29. □ 11.1859 □ Myers' Flat Freehold Mining Company. We are informed that this company have had a crushing at Bassett's mill of three tons of the cement

procured from their ground, the result of which was 4ozs 2½dwt; and one cubic yard of washdirt gave 16dwt of gold. ... [9]

□03.12.1859□The second general meeting of the Myers' Flat Freehold Mining Company was held yesterday afternoon. ...

Mr Robert Kerr having been called to the chair briefly stated the objects of the meeting, and called upon the secretary, Mr Walton, to read the directors' report. This stated that the value of the land purchased by the company had been fairly tested, before any large sums of money were expended. The results of the trials were very successful. After constructing a sludge channel, six shafts had been sunk at equal distances, all of which had struck the cement. This was found to average 3 feet in thickness. From 3 tons raised and crushed upwards of 4ozs of gold had been extracted. Below the cement was found washdirt, a cubic yard of which turned out nearly 16dwt. ... Two prospecting shafts had also been sunk, with a view to hitting the quartz reefs which were supposed to intersect the property, and several leaders had been struck in each, dipping westward. The mining manager entertained excellent hopes of shortly striking the main reef. Plans and specifications of the intended works were being prepared by Mr Stretton, the mining manager, and renders had been called for a 50 horsepower engine. ... [10]

□03.02.1860□Myers' Flat Freehold Mining Company. The general meeting of this company was held in Melbourne on Wednesday. ... The following is the report of the mining engineer:-

To the Directors of the Myers' Flat Freehold Mining Company, 31 January 1860: Gentlemen, I have the honour to submit to you the following report of the works completed, and now in progress from 1st. November to the present date. As in the 1st. instance it was necessary to prove the existence of payable gold in the paddock. I proceeded to sink prospecting shafts (6 in number) at right angles across the probable direction of the lead. Four of these being those in which prospects were obtained, were drifted through to each other, and the washdirt taken throughout the drifts washed, showing a yield of from 8dwt to 1ozs to the ton. I have also about 3 tons of cement above the washdirt broken down and crushed, with the result of 4ozs 2½dwt or 1ozs 7½dwts per ton. The lead is apparently about 100 yards wide, and the washdirt and cement average 6 feet in thickness.

Having this far proved the existence of payable gold, I proceeded to commence the works required for the permanent working of the ground, and for this purpose I have had one large shaft sunk in the centre of the lead, 12 feet by 6 feet, divided into compartments, and securely timbered and lined. The stuff will be raised by trucks running from the face of the work to the mouth of the shaft, with horse whim fitted with double action pulleys and gear, capable of raising half a cubic yard at a lift. With these appliances I can raise 100 tons per day, or more, if necessary. When raised, the stuff will be delivered directly into waggons, and run on a tramroad to the site of the engine. All these works in connection with the shaft are now in course of erection. It is my intention to raise about 1000 tons of cement directly these works are completed, that I may obtain a good face on the drifts and prevent any stoppages when the engine starts to work. The constant supply of a large body of water being absolutely necessary for the success of the works, I have formed a large reservoir at the head of the paddock, by throwing a strong embankment across the creek and excavating the low ground adjoining. I calculate this will contain about two and a half million gallons of water when full. I have also formed a temporary dam at the site of the engine, fed by drains cut directly across the flat into the ranges, thus securing a water table of some thousands of acres.

The shaft sunk on the quartz is now down 150 feet. Several large spurs have been struck at that depth, and the workmen are now engaged breaking out the stone for the purpose of a trial crushing. There is every indication of gold, though none has yet been seen in the stone.

I have workmen also engaged providing an adequate supply of firewood in the paddock.

The whole of the works I hope to have finished in about six weeks' time from this date.

The engine and stamps are now in course of erection, and I am assured by Messrs Fulton will be fully completed in that time. ... I shall then be enabled to commence crushing, when I anticipate a brilliant result, as I consider 500 tons can be crushed weekly, and that at the lowest estimate of the yield of gold will show a large return, as the stuff can be raised and crushed for about 11 or 12 shillings per ton. [11]

05.1860 Myers' Flat Freehold Mining Company, Campbell's Paddock, Myers' Flat: 24 head battery and a 30 horsepower steam engine for crushing and pumping. [12.116-118]

05.1860 Myers' Flat: Campbell's Paddock contains 240 acres, purchased by the company, and is a continuation of the leads of auriferous drift in Myers' Flat. The washing stuff is raised from a shaft, about one-third of a mile from the engine, by horse whim and skips, with a tramway to the engine, and delivering into bins for feeding the stamps. A plentiful supply of water is contained in two large reservoirs in the bed of the creek. This company commenced to work about a month since, but is not yet known with what success. [12.116-118]

12.12.1861 This once thickly populated ground is now apparently worked out, and deserted, less some few puddling mills at the lower end, next to the company's ground, and some few scattered up and down the extensive flat.

Some few solitaires of tub and cradle men are also to be seen, but generally the locality appears to be pretty much exhausted. [15]

06.1864 Myers' Flat: 510 alluvial miners at work. [13.40-41]

09.1864 Myers' Flat: 400 alluvial miners at work. [13.37-40]

12.1864 Myers' Flat: 400 alluvial miners at work. [13.39-42]

03.1865 Myers' Flat: 400 alluvial miners at work. [13.42-44]

06.1865 Myers' Flat: 420 alluvial miners at work. [13.43-44]

09.1865 Myers' Flat: 400 alluvial miners at work. [13.47-49]

12.1865 Myers' Flat: 400 alluvial miners at work. [13.45-46]

03.1866 Myers' Flat: 340 alluvial miners at work. [13.44-45]

06.1866 Myers' Flat: 350 alluvial miners at work. [13.41-43]

09.1866 Myers' Flat: 350 alluvial miners at work. [13.43-45]

12.1866 Myers' Flat: 350 alluvial miners at work. [14.38-40]

03.1867 Myers' Flat: 250 alluvial miners at work. [14.32-34]

06.1867 I have registered a prospecting claim at Myer's Flat. The applicants stated that they had obtained 7dwts of gold from about one and a half loads of stuff; and that the sinking was about 36 feet. A small rush has set in there, and great hopes are entertained respecting it. [14.20-21]

02.09.1867 The Myer's Flat Company's paddock is a favourite spot for Chinese miners, and alongside the proprietary claim they appear to be getting excellent prospects. At this point there is a great deal of cement, in which the gold can readily be seen. One party of Chinese have about 10 tons of this cement on the surface, from which they anticipate a good yield when it is crushed. Some difficulty has been experienced in tracing the run through the paddock, and where the deep ground was expected to be, has proved shallow and of no account. [16]

Owing to the failure of the efforts of the diggers employed below the cultivation paddock to recover the lost lead, a great exodus has taken place this week, and shepherding is fast dying out in this locality. A party of miners are engaged putting down a shaft near where the Chinamen bottomed on Wednesday and have now sunk to a depth of 57 feet. A party in a claim directly opposite Watson's store, about halfway between the cultivation paddock and Trounce's dam, obtained 4dwt per load, from their last washing off. Young, Lewis and party, working near the corner of Bolger's property, from a washing off of 6 loads obtained an average of one ounce per load. Nothing payable has been struck inside the cultivation paddock, although it has hardly yet received a fair trial. ...' Trounce and Company's dam is completed, and they have at least a 6 weeks' supply of water conserved in it. Two large puddling machines are erected at the head of the dam, and I have no doubt they will be extensively patronized during the coming week, as puddling machines are better adapted for the washing of the washdirt than the long toms. ...[17]

06.09.1867 In consequence of the heavy rain which fell on Wednesday night,

operations are suspended on the works of Messrs Overend and Robb. The cuttings are full of water and it is likely to be a day or two before work is resumed. [18]

09.09.1867 □ A good number of miners washed off on Friday and Saturday, the majority with satisfactory returns. Hollick, Patterson and Company, whose claim is situated near the General Jackson Store, obtained the good return of 34ozs 3 grains from 12 loads of stuff. The gold was purchased by Mr A. Wallworth, chemist, of Myer's Creek, who stated that it was of a coarse nuggetty character, and the finest sample he had seen on the rush. Mr Wallworth informed me that his purchases for the week amounted to 120ozs. About 700ozs were sold during the week on the rush. A party of Chinamen, adjoining Weller's butcher's shop, washed 20ozs from 10 loads. A party of Italians working between Gromann and Purves's Hotel and the Bank of Victoria, obtained from their washing-off an average of 19dwt to the load. Davis and party, next to the Gloucester Store, obtained the poor return of 3dwt per load. Sutcliff and party, whose claim is situated near Mason's Happy Valley Store, also obtained a like return. ...A number of diggers have again cleared out this morning, but the state of affairs at present wears a very healthy appearance. [19]

1867 □ The Myers Creek Rush. Among the first gullies worked on Bendigo were Peg Leg and Sailors Gullies, early in 1852. Peg Leg commenced near Eaglehawk, continuing in a north-westerly direction towards Myers Flat. A mile-and-a-half from Eaglehawk, Peg Leg was joined by Sailors Gully. Close to Eaglehawk the sinking in Peg Leg Gully was only six feet and less, but near Myers Flat it deepened to 16 feet and over. A short distance below the junction of these gullies, Gold Commissioner C. Rudston Read, in 1852, set up a Government Camp ... After rain, the water drains from Myers Flat into Myers Creek, and alluvial mining along this creek was carried on spasmodically for some years, culminating in a short-lived but extensive rush in 1867. As mining extended northwards for several miles, sinking became much deeper, in places up to a hundred feet. This rush became known as the Myers Creek Diggings. Although this locality produced no nuggets, and was by no means the richest in or near the Whipstick, it supported perhaps the greatest number of hard-drinking miners of any diggings around Bendigo. In a short duration of less than 6 months, at least 28 hotels and 65 beer shanties catered for its thirsty diggers. In September 1866, a rush took place on the lower end of Myers Flat in the vicinity of the Myers Flat Company's paddock. This paddock was ground originally taken up under Pre-emptive Right and previously known as Campbell's. By mid-September some 300 miners were on the ground, but only half of this number were sinking shafts. As the digging was fairly deep, to 25 feet, there was much shepherding. This rush was short-lived and the area was soon deserted. Among those who persevered hopefully with their prospecting were Densely and Party. It was almost a year later, in June 1867, that this party [was successful]. By June 24, 140 men were on the spot. The first shafts bottomed at between 30 and 40 feet, but not all were payable. In spite of the uncertainty, July brought many miners, some from Ballarat. Many Chinamen arrived. In the first week of July, Hants and Company struck wash dirt at a depth of 40 feet. Although a narrow shaft, 3½ feet by 2 feet, they fossicked an ounce of gold from the bottom. The news spread like wildfire, and by 9 July it was estimated that 1000 miners were on the field. Difficulty was experienced in finding the lead. Another problem was that the hard layers of cement encountered in many of the shafts. As the rush progressed it was discovered that in some claims the cement contained payable gold.... On 16 July, over 2,000 people were present, and the lead having been traced for some 300 yards below the prospectors' claim, "an immense making of claims" resulted. ..At the beginning of August, a large number of miners from the Alexandra Diggings arrived at Myers Creek . . . By mid August the population had reached its highest, estimated at 4,000, of whom 2,500 were miners, including between 500 and 600 Chinese. It was not until the end of August that the richest claim came into production . . . Towards the close of August claims were spreading northwards for over 1½ miles, the sinking between 70 feet and over... For treating the washdirt, some 20 toms were set up in Myers Creek .. In mid

August, an enterprising party from Dunolly, Trounce Bros. and Attrell Bros. obtained a mining grant from Mr. Warden Mollison to construct a dam at Myers Creek. This was made on one side of the bed of the creek, covering an area of 316 yards, capable of holding 4,000,000 gallons of water. This party also constructed 2 puddling machines, which together with pumps and cradles were estimated to cost £600. During the busiest period on Myers Creek, the two puddling machines treated up to 500 loads of washdirt per week. In August . . . a reservoir site was chosen . . . By October, it was completed, but complaint was made of a serious leak in the dam-bank... Maybe it did not matter so much now, for the rush was declining... Following the failure to find payable ground in the deeper ground, diggers began leaving in September ... Towards the close of November it was reported, "The diggers are leaving in mobs daily..." [20.149-163]

10.02.1868 □ Favorable reports reach us from this district about 80ozs of gold having been obtained during the past week, one buyer in the adjacent township having alone purchased upwards of 40ozs from different parties. ... [21]

06.1869 □ Myers' Flat: 129 alluvial miners at work. [22]

11.09.1869 □ Myer's Flat. One day this week a man while sinking a hole close to the Allies Hotel came on a "pillar" which had not been taken out when the ground was first worked, and from it washed 2 or 3dwt of gold. The veins of this "great" find soon spread, and on Thursday the neighbourhood of the Allies Hotel presented quite a lively appearance, some 40 or 50 diggers having assembled and commenced to peg out the ground to the front and rear of the hotel, threatening even to enter the fenced yard of the landlord. Yesterday there were some two dozen men in active work sinking, while, we were informed there were some who had been shepherding during the prescribed time in the morning. One party bottomed, and took some 3dwt off the bottom, but found nothing more, though he has driven north, south, east and west. We believe the whole of the ground in the neighbourhood has been worked long ago, and scarcely justifies men throwing away their time, as there is but little probability of anything worth whole being got. [23]

09.1869 □ Myers' Flat: 90 alluvial miners at work. [22]

21.04.1870 □ Myer's Flat. A pretty nugget weighing 2ozs 5dwt was found yesterday by a digger, in the old ground at Myer's Flat, in 6 feet sinking. [24]

09.09.1872 □ Myer's Creek. The alluvial gold digging on Bendigo is not quite finished yet. ... The latest illustration in point is the opening of new ground at Myer's Creek, near the police camp. For years this ground has lain unworked, and by the mere chance of a reefer, who had been out of work for a day or two, taking it into his head to try the new ground, rich alluvial gold deposits have been discovered. The ground is outside that portion of the flat already worked, and the sinking from 10 to 12 feet. Several hundred claims have been marked out. ... [25]

24.12.1897 □ Yesterday, at a meeting of the Eaglehawk Council, a letter was received from the Secretary of Mines, forwarding a copy of a report prepared by Mr R. A. F. Murray, geological surveyor, as to the best mode of prospecting at Myer's Flat. The report, which is of considerable interest, is as follows:- With reference to your communication conveying to me the desire of the Eaglehawk Borough Council that I should report as to the best means for testing the extension of Myer's Flat lead, I have the honour to inform you that when at Eaglehawk I examined the locality. The Myer's Flat gold workings appear to run out near the junction of Sydney Flat, the alluvial deposits increase in width northward, and it is probable that the gold in them becomes more scattered. At the same time it is likely that the line or lines of quartz reef whence the alluvial gold of Sydney Flat and its western tributaries was derived may extend beneath the alluvial, which may be auriferous in their vicinity. The only way to prospect would be to sink a series of holes across the flat a short distance ahead of the workings, where the flat narrows slightly, immediately below the junction of Sydney and Myer's flats. Another line of holes could be sunk a mile further north, between the Barkly Reef and the opposite side of the flat. As the flat is fully a mile wide, a number of holes would be required, but as far as I can learn, the sinking is neither deep, difficult, nor much impeded by water as far as

workings have extended. Most of the land appears to be private property, so that in the event of prospecting operations being carried out, special arrangements would have to be made with the proprietors. [26]

16.08.1881 □ For many years past (says our Myer's Flat correspondent) an impression has prevailed that good and payable gold existed on the allotment of land at Myer's Flat upon which is erected Cotton's Sallies Hotel. Mr Francis Cotton, junior, one day last week decided upon putting down a hole, as a test, and bottomed at about 14 feet from the surface, obtaining a very encouraging prospect. The result, however, exceeded his most sanguine expectations, as up to Saturday evening he had extracted from a very small quantity of washdirt close upon £50 worth of gold. When this became known a small rush was made, and a number of claims pegged out, residents from other portions of the district having been successful in getting claims within a few yards of the allotment. However, as the ground has been worked on either side of Mr Cotton's property, it is not advisable at present for persons at a distance to look upon the find as anything more than a patch in a block of ground which has hitherto been unworked through being purchased in the early days. [27]

15.04.1882 □ Writing yesterday our Myer's Flat correspondent says - It was currently rumoured throughout Myer's Flat last evening that payable alluvial gold had been struck in close proximity to the once famous Myer's town diggings. From what I have been able to learn it appears that for the past few weeks a party of prospectors have been busily engaged prospecting in a paddock (private property) adjacent to the above diggings, but until this week with indifferent success. It is stated they have washed a prospect off as high as a pennyweight to the dish. I, of course, cannot vouch for the accuracy of those statements, but have been informed on reliable authority, that the prospectors have asked the sum of £200 for a third share in their claim. Several other claims are already pegged out, and I learn that the charge made by the proprietor of the farm, will be similar to the arrangement with Mr Matchett on the Adelaide Hill rush. ...

In a postscript our correspondent adds:- since writing the above I have ascertained that the paddock in which the small rush has taken place is the well-known Company's paddock. The depth of sinking is about 20 feet, and the prospectors are Messrs O'Shannessy and O'Neill. [28]

19.04.1882 □ Our local correspondent writes: This morning (Tuesday) I had an opportunity of visiting the scene of action at the rush at the Company's paddock, Myer's Flat, which, as I reported in your issue of Saturday last, has been caused through a report that payable gold had been found on the above property. One of the prospectors, Mr Edward O'Neill, courteously permitted me to inspect the underground workings of their claim, and from the information received from him, it appears that the shaft from which they obtained the favourable prospect of 1dwt to the dish was sunk some 20 years ago since, and abandoned until the present party determined to give the claim another trial. Two drives were put in to the east and west, neither of which gave any favourable indications. They then decided to drive in a north-westerly direction, and did so for a distance of 60 feet, several trials resulting from one to 6 grains per dish, and eventually improved to a pennyweight as before mentioned. It certainly seems strange that after receiving such a magnificent return as the above, that the prospectors should continue driving without giving the washdirt (which consists of large rubbly stones intermingled with reddish grit, about 6 inches in thickness, and dipping in a northerly direction) another trial. There are about 40 persons on the ground (including a number of Chinese) several of whom appeared anxious to procure claims, and were perfectly willing to submit to the same terms and conditions as introduced by Mr Matchett on the Adelaide Hill rush, but Mr Buzza, the owner of the property, seemed to insist on a different and more unfavourable scale of remuneration much to the disapproval of the miners. Consequently little will be known as to the character of the rush for several days to come, as it is not certain whether satisfactory arrangements will be completed between the owner of the land and the miners, the majority of the latter however apparently prefer to wait until another trial is taken from the prospectors' claim. And which I am informed, will take place tomorrow (Wednesday), they

consenting to take out a load for the satisfaction of the public. The result will, no doubt be eagerly watched by the miners, and if favourable will cause a great reaction in alluvial mining in this locality.

In a later communication our correspondent adds: It is now stated that the following arrangement has been made with Mr Buzza as regards purchase of claims etc. £1 on application, 8 days being allowed to commence work, at which time another £1 has to be deposited, and £3 additional if claim proves to be payable, making a total of £5 per claim 50 feet square. [29]

28.04.1882 □ Payable gold having been recently discovered in the "Company's paddock" at Myer's Flat, a number of miners immediately applied for and obtained claims in the vicinity. The claims (50 feet square) were let by Mr Buzza, who resides in the paddock. Altogether about 60 claims have been let, including several Chinese. For the first few days prospecting was vigorously carried on, but during the recent rains operations had to be stopped. This week, however, work has been renewed, and in the case of the prospectors with some success. The prospectors, O'Neill and Shannassy, bottomed their first shaft at 23 feet. They then drove westward, and got out about 20 buckets of washdirt Yesterday they washed off with a small cradle and obtained about 6dwt of gold, including a pennyweight piece. They have also started a second hole, and expect to bottom at a depth of 24 feet. The prospectors hold eight claims. Another party, Lynch and Wilson, sunk a hole further north and bottomed at 14 feet without finding anything payable; but another hole sunk by Lynch to a depth of 14 feet gave from one dish a quarter of a pennyweight of gold. Next to the prospectors and further west, two claims are held by Chinamen. One party, Ah Hong and mate, have sunk a hole 16 feet 3 inches without bottoming, and Ah Poy and mate have sunk 11 feet and no bottom. It is, however, considered that the Chinamen's chances of success are good, as they are on the proper line. Another party, Keating and Devereaux, sunk a hole 12 feet 6 inches without yet touching bottom. They expect to bottom in another 8 feet. Several other parties have just commenced sinking. Lynch and Wilson who were unsuccessful in the paddock have started a hole outside the paddock and on the crown of the hill, to the west of the prospectors' claim. They have already sunk 8 feet without bottoming. It is expected that by the next week that several holes will be bottomed, and then it will be known whether or not the payable gold is only a patch. [30]

13.06.1882 □ Work is progressing with tolerably good results in the alluvial ground at Myer's Flat. The prospecting party, O'Neill and Company, have now finished washing, and the result will be about 6dwt per load. The next claim is that of Tack Ling and Company, who are obtaining 4dwt per load. Poy Not, the occupier of the next declines to give his results, but he is believed to be getting payable results. Wilson and Sheahy, in the adjoining ground, obtained from their last washing, the excellent return of 2ozs 19dwt of gold from 4 loads. Ah Hong, next north, is getting about 7dwt. Ying Tue, 5dwt, and Devereaux and Company, 4dwt. The next claim, the furthest north, bottomed at 19 feet, but have lost the lead. The sinking is generally through hard cement, about 20 or 30 feet in depth, with about 2 feet of wash. The claimholders pay one shilling per load (of about 30 buckets) for cartage to the creek, a few hundred yards away. There are 20 Europeans and 30 Chinese on the ground. One Chinese party is known to have obtained 8ozs gold for a week's work. [31]

24.08.1882 □ For many years past it has been conjectured that the continuation of the lead of the old Myer's Flat diggings had extended in a northerly direction, and through the paddocks of Mr James Shadbolt, Myer's Flat, but, as very little prospecting had been carried on, there was no certainty as to whether such was the case or otherwise, and the ground until lately, remained untested. However, Mr R. H. Mitchell, the present lessee of the property, organized a prospecting party, who, for some months past, have been vigorously engaged sinking in different portions of the paddock, but, until now, met with indifferent success. At last I am pleased to state that they have succeeded in tracing a portion of the lost lead, and yesterday bottomed a shaft at the depth of 70 feet from the surface, and from the bottom obtained a very satisfactory prospect. Very little will be known of the new discovery for a few days to come, but should anything

of importance turn up, I will immediately convey you the intelligence. [32]
25.08.1882□It was reported yesterday that an alluvial rush had taken place in Stewart's paddock, Myer's Flat. The run of wash has been traced into that paddock from the Company's ground, and already a number of claims have been purchased, and the locality presents an unusually busy appearance. It is stated that some of the shareholders have met with payable results, the sinking being easy and water plentiful. As, however, the ground is private property, and the proprietor requires payment for permission to mine, the rush is only open to those who are prepared to accept the terms. [33]

28.08.1882□The newly opened ground at Myer's Flat is becoming richer the further it extends southerly from the Company's paddock. Some few months ago claims were taken out in Mr Buzza's paddock, but only two or three appeared to be on the payable line. However further prospecting shows that the lead of the old Myer's Flat trends towards Mr James Stewart's paddock, and already a number of claims have been pegged out. The most successful, as yet, is the shaft sunk by Mr Schlemm and Wilkinson, on the road between Buzza's and Stewart's. These miners are now down about 15 feet, and have washed off some splendid washdirt. On Saturday they washed off 5 loads, and got nearly an ounce to the load. The dirt still continues to look rich, and the adjoining claim, taken up by Powell and party, is now down about 13 feet, and they are driving for the same run of washdirt as Schlemm and Wilkinson. Devereaux and party in the "Company's paddock" washed off last week, and obtained half an ounce to the load. It is thought that the lead continues through Stewart's paddock, and across the top of the hill in a southerly direction. Some Chinamen are also doing well in the "Company's paddock". [34]

22.08.1885□In my last communication I referred to several handsome finds of alluvial gold being made in the vicinity of Myer's Flat, and ... that many similar discoveries would probably be made amongst the old alluvial workings after the late heavy rains, which generally tends to disclose the precious metal from its shallow hiding places. My prognostication did not long await gratification, as I today had the pleasure of purchasing another little nugget weighing over 2½ozs, and valued close upon £109, which was discovered this morning by two of our oldest identities, who are familiarly known amongst our local miners as "Proud Bobby" and "Charles the Great. This find was made on the bottom of ground which was covered many years ago, and has caused quite a stir in the immediate vicinity. It will probably lead to the organization of a few sluicing companies to test the auriferous mounds of mullock which so plentifully abound in this locality. [35]

15.11.1892□A few days ago I reported through your columns that a party of prospectors from New South Wales had quite recently incurred expenses to the tune of £200 in preparatory arrangements to discover an alleged payable lead of gold (alluvial), said to have been originally discovered by some of the party nearly 40 years ago, at a site near Smith's Hotel, Myer's Creek. The confidence of the party in again finding payable gold is clearly demonstrated by the considerable distance travelled for the purpose, and the large expenditure involved in procuring private property lease (embracing in all over 70 acres, from half a dozen property holders). I regret having now to state that the shaft referred to in my previous communication as being in process of sinking, has been bottomed at 74 feet with the unfortunate result that the prospectors have been sadly disappointed, as they did not obtain the colour of gold from the main bottom, which consisted of a clean pipeclay, but without washdirt. They, however, afterwards obtained a nice coarse speck of gold from a "false" bottom about 5 feet above the pipeclay. The bottom is fast dipping towards the south and consists of a tough gravelly mullock, upon which they intend opening out, but through the surface drift not being sufficiently slabbed, the shaft soon collapsed and work had to be discontinued, principally owing to the extremely harsh conditions and excessive compensation demanded by property owners. ... [36]

01.10.1898□Arrangements are being made by a syndicate to commence sluicing operations on a large scale in the gullies about Pegleg and Myer's Flat, and to this end large leases have been taken up. The erection of extensive

machinery is contemplated and it is said very small average returns will pay. [37]
13.06.1930 □ Keen interest was taken yesterday in the trial crushing by Messrs Jackson and Gregory, the pioneer prospectors of the Myer's Flat series of new claims. From the pannings and around the dumps they obtained fair encouragement. They put through 14 loads at the State battery at Eaglehawk for 4ozs 17dwt amalgam. In addition they obtained 1¼dwt from the pannings and speckings. The gold will be known today. They still have 16 loads to crush. Other parties are also awaiting to get their dirt milled. [38]

14.06.1930 □ The 40ozs 15dwt of amalgam which was obtained by Messrs T. Jackson and A. Gregory, two of the prospectors at Myer's Flat, from the first trial crushing of 14 tons, was yesterday retorted at the Bendigo School of Mines, and gave a yield of 3ozs 7dwt of gold - and average of just under 5dwt to the ton. Pannings and speckings brought the total gold to 4ozs 1dwt - a grade of just under 6dwt to the ton. Mr W. Kingston, officer in charge of the geological staff at Bendigo, commenting on the yield yesterday, said that it was satisfactory, in view of the large amount of dirt that had been put through the battery. His view was that the gold was in a streak, probably less than a yard wide, but the washdirt had been taken from as much greater width. His impression was that attention should be concentrated on discovering the run of the good wash and this could be tested by dishing the dirt. A good alluvial miner, he said, would have a better chance of picking up the tun than the ordinary miner. Prior to 1867, the country to the north and south of the present find was well prospected, but the lead was lost, and very little work has been done, the land in the vicinity being used for farming purposes. The men working on the ground at present are continuing operations. About 8 parties are engaged. 3 of them have bottomed and others are getting to what appears favorable depth. As there is about a mile of ground intact between the two sets of workings there is plenty of scope for further prospecting by working parties. Most of the ground has been pegged.

The men have still about 16 tons of washdirt to test, and it is probable that this will be treated with cradle and dish on the lease in order to save expense. [39]

23.06.1930 □ Prospecting is still being carried on at Myer's Flat. Some of the original parties are meeting with encouraging prospects, but the results in other cases have been disappointing. [40]

22.07.1930 □ Mr Kingston ... visited the prospecting claims at Myer's Flat. Half a dozen parties of prospectors are obtaining payable prospects. The original prospectors, Messrs Jackson and Gregory, cleaned up 14 tons for 2ozs 14dwt.

The dirt is being put through the puddling machine which has been erected. [41]
02.08.1930 □ Washing off a bucket of dirt from their claim at Myer's Flat, Messrs Dawson and Bentley obtained 7dwt. This was followed by several other good dish prospects. During the week two new prospecting shafts were sunk close to the lead. Dawes and party have been using the puddling machine this week. [42]

06.08.1930 □ At Myer's Flat, Mr Kingston found that about 20 men were keeping the puddling machine going continually. They were down to the alluvial wash, and obtaining 3 to 4dwt to the load. Gray, Elvey and party has 12 to 15 loads ready for crushing at the Eaglehawk State battery. They expect to put it through by Friday. [43]

16.08.1930 □ Greatly improved prospects are being met by Messrs Jackson and Gregory, the original prospectors, at Myer's Flat. From one dish of dirt yesterday morning they obtained over an ounce of gold. A further half dozen dishes of dirt washed during the day gave another 6 to 7dwt. [44]

18.08.1930 □ Improved prospects are being met by prospectors at Myer's Flat. The original prospectors, Messrs Jackson and Gregory, obtained nice gold towards the weekend, and prospects are reported to be good. Another party, Messrs Bentley and Dawes, obtained 5ozs 13dwt from 30 tons. [45]

20.08.1930 □ Since Messrs Gregory and Jackson, the pioneer prospectors in the Myer's Flat field, obtained further good prospects at the weekend, interest in the several claims in this area has been renewed. Messrs Gregory and Jackson are putting another 15 tons through the puddling machine which they consider will be better than ever. Other parties with good prospects purpose putting

some of their dirt through the State battery at the New Moon at Eaglehawk, but they have to wait their turn, as the battery is busy. [46]

23.08.1930 □ Messrs Gregory and Jackson, the original prospectors at Myer's Flat, who have been meeting with better results, presently have put 14 tons of dirt through the puddling machine and have obtained about 10ozs. Prospects are reported to be good. They have plenty of washdirt which they are taking for a thickness of 15 to 18 inches. [47]

25.08.1930 □ Some of the prospectors at Myer's Flat have reported improved prospects during the last week. The original prospectors, Messrs Jackson and Gregory, put 14 tons through the puddling machine on Friday and obtained 10ozs. They are meeting good washdirt which is being taken for a thickness of about 2 feet. [48]

26.08.1930 □ After having visited Myer's Flat yesterday and having had conversations with several of the experienced miners there, Mr R. V. Keane, M.H.R., expressed the opinion that there was scope for considerable extension of mining activities on the field. He announced his intention of bringing under the notice of the government the need for rendering facilities which would help those prospectors already operating, and enable others to engage in the work. ... [49]

20.09.1930 □ Following on a visit which he had paid to the Myer's Flat section of the field, Mr Kingston confirmed the report of the good gold being obtained by Messrs Gregory and Jackson, the original prospectors there. He said these prospectors, since the commencement of their operations, had averaged wages, but others had been unable to locate payable dirt. Several of the men, however, had prospects of picking up patches of good washdirt. [50]

27.10.1930 □ Gregory and Jackson working at the Myer's Flat alluvial field on Saturday, sold 3ozs 13dwt gold, which they obtained from 15 loads. [51]

26.01.1931 □ Messrs Gregory and Jackson, who are operating at Myer's Flat, obtained a good yield at the weekend. The gold was of excellent quality, one piece weighing nearly 4dwt. It is considered that the claim has excellent prospects. [52]

21.02.1931 □ Gregory and Jackson, the original prospectors at Myer's Flat, continue to work alluvial deposits of good quality. They have washed off 14 tons of dirt for 7ozs. The gold was of excellent coarse quality. One specimen weighs 4dwt 9 grains. [53]

24.02.1931 □ Poorer and party at Myer's Flat washed off for 4ozs 12dwt. ... Good prospects are still being met by Messrs Jackson and Gregory at Myer's Flat. More than 130 men are now engaged prospecting in different parts of the field. [54]

□ 1948 □ D. J. Rigby: 12ozs obtained from 3600 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

□ 1949 □ P. Lougoon: 164ozs obtained from 19,400 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

Rigby and Sons: 39ozs obtained from 9700 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

□ 1950 □ P. Lougoon: 143ozs obtained from 12,000 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

Rigby and Sons: 35ozs obtained from 7300 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

□ 1951 □ P. Lougoon: 55ozs obtained from 53,000 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

Rigby and Sons: 18ozs obtained from 2500 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

□ 1952 □ Rigby and Sons: 12ozs obtained from 2300 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat. [55]

□ 1953 □ Rigby and Sons: 8ozs obtained from 500 cubic yards of material by sluicing at Myer's Flat.