

# City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

## RAYWOOD RESERVOIR

### Other Names

**Location** Unreserved Crown Land; corner of Inglewood Road (now known as Raywood to Elmore main road) and Speke Street, Raywood

**Map Reference** Raywood 1:25,000 - BV500.529

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



**Description** Large dry dam.

**History** Period of activity: 1865+

**Thematic Context** Mining

**Comparative Examples** Within the study area there are at least seventeen dams constructed to provide water for mining purposes. These are: Peter the Great Dam (right hand branch)(1856), Wallace Reef (1856), Flagstaff Hill (by 1857), Iron's Dam (1858), Old Tom Reef (1860), No.7 Reservoir (1861), Frederick the Great (1865), Raywood Reservoir (1865), Frühling Reef (1871), Liddell's (probably 1876), at least one at Fiddler's Green (by 1879), Elliott's Reef (by 1887), Christoff Reef (1895), Wilson's Hill (by 1896), Lightning Hill (by 1903), on the ridge above the Lancashire Reef workings (by 1908) and New Moon Consolidated (by 1910). Several of these dams are still serviceable and at least three are still in use. These three are Flagstaff Hill (by 1857), Iron's Dam (1858) and No.7 Reservoir (by 1861).

**Statement of Significance** The site is associated with the Raywood gold rush (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 and in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites.

**Heritage Boundaries** The site is bounded on the east by Speke Street and on the other three sides by property boundaries.

**References**

1. Mining Surveyors' Reports, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.
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3. J. Flett, "The history of gold discovery in Victoria." Melbourne, Hawthorn Press, 1979, 495pp.
4. Dicker's Mining Record and Guide to the Gold Mines of Victoria.
5. "List of nuggets found in Victoria." Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Victoria, no.12, Department of Mines, Victoria, 1912.

6. "Raywood." Dicker's Mining Record, November 1863, 239.
7. Dicker's Mining Record, January 1864, 3.
8. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Raywood subdivision.
9. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Raywood division.
10. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Tuesday, 19 July; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 20 July 1864, p2, col.3.
11. "Mining summary. Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 23 July 1864, p6, col.1.
12. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Wednesday, 27 July; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 28 July 1864, p2, col.1.
13. "Mining intelligence. The want of capital and machinery at Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 17 May 1866.
14. "Mining intelligence. Mining at Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 21 May 1866.
15. "Mining intelligence. Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 29 May 1866.
16. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Wednesday, 6 June; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 7 June 1866.
17. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Tuesday, 3 July; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 4 July 1866.
18. "Raywood." From our Own Correspondent, Monday, 9 July; The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 19 July 1866.
19. "Mining intelligence. Crushing machinery at Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 16 July 1866.
20. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, 12 July; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 18 July 1866.
21. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars.
22. "Mining intelligence. Christmas Reef, Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 9 September 1867, p3, col.1.
23. "Mining intelligence. Crushing machinery at Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 25 January 1868.
24. "Mining intelligence. The reefs at Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 24 February 1868, p2, col.6.
25. "Mining intelligence. Croesus Gold Mining Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 12 February 1868.
26. "Mining intelligence. Barkly Reef, Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 11 May 1868.
27. "Mining intelligence. Croesus Gold Mining Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 31 July 1868.
28. The Mining Record and Public Companies Gazette.
29. "Mining intelligence. Buxton Gold Mining Company (registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 11 September 1868.
30. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Wednesday, 28 October 1868, The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 29 October 1868.

#### Notes

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

**Chronology** 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. [1.8]

□10.1863□By mid-October it was observed that many stores, butchers' shops, blacksmiths and other lousiness places on Sebastian had closed down and shifted elsewhere. The gold yield was much reduced. There was a reluctance by the miners to sink deeper shafts, for as the lead as it approached Myers Creek it deepened considerably, while returns were generally poor. The end of the Sebastian rush came in October when a new rush to the Raywood diggings, some four miles north of Sebastian took place. [2.91-107]

□10.1863□Raywood - On 22 October 1863, Mr Raywood, a Sebastian digger, was bushed for a night on Thunder Plains, about two and a half miles north-west of Elysian Flat. On the following day he found gold, sank a shaft and got three ounces of gold without washing. He went back to Sebastian for his mates, but had great difficulty finding the place again ...By 28 October Sebastian was deserted, and by the beginning of November there were 1500 on the Raywood field. The site of the discovery was thick whipstick scrub, and one of the first there was Mr McWhirter, the discoverer of Poverty Gully. The original discovery was near the top of a hill and the rush went west down the gully on the Raywood Lead. Early in November a run of gold east from the top of the Raywood Lead on the opposite side of the hill was named the Inglewood Lead, a flat opened further south was known as Armfield's. Early in December 1863 a tributary gully was discovered running west into the Raywood Lead and named American or Sailors Gully. Two other small leads, Buxton's and another towards Elysian Flat, were opened at the rush. [3.249-250]

□11.1863□The correspondent of the Inglewood Advertiser says:- There has been an alteration in mining affairs here since my last. A new prospecting quartz claim, situate about half a mile from this, was taken up yesterday, and several claims marked out; gold has been obtained in the stone, but it would be premature to give any opinion of its value until more thoroughly tested; this applies also to the Welbourne Reef, work upon which progresses slowly. I have reliable information of a 2 pound nugget having been obtained in the shallow part of Raywood Gully. Numbers of our population were yesterday scouring the bush for a reported new lead; there appears truth in this report of gold having been obtained, but the precise locality is unknown. Several miners have returned to Dunolly from the rush, and give anything by flattering accounts of it. They one and all state that its prospects have been exaggerated, and advise persons not to be led away by highly-coloured reports. This information has caused a number of miners to remain who had prepared to pay Raywood a visit. [4.239]

□□24ozs nugget (No.1213) found at a shallow depth in Raywood Gully. [5.62, 6]

□ 1863□Alluvial gold at Raywood. On Thursday, October 22 1863, Woodward was prospecting some five miles north of Sebastian on the edge of the Thunder Plains, at a depth of 4½ feet he picked out several bits of gold. Word of the new find travelled swiftly, exercising great interest at Sebastian and among miners in the many Whipstick gullies . . . The new rush which was only three miles north-west of Elysian Flat, was named Raywood after Joseph Woodward's home town. The spot where he first found gold became known as Raywood Gully was to prove extremely rich. By October 30, many tents had been erected and the population was estimated at 1,000. On 4 November a great increase in population was reported, numbering between 1,500 and 2,000, while "tents, stores, boarding houses, shanties, blacksmith's and butcher's shops have been erected with marvellous rapidity .. Numerous buildings of all descriptions are in the course of the erection..." Raywood Gully was unable to accommodate the great number of miners, and many moved out to adjoining gullies and flats. From where the gold was first discovered in Raywood Gully it was traced for a mile-and-a-quarter where the sinking was much deeper . In a number of claims, particularly the deeper ones, hard cement was encountered. This contained gold but had to be crushed . . . This cement was carted to the crushing batteries at Elysian Flat where, although the miners fed the stone into the stampers, the charge for crushing was 14 shillings per load. [2]

□1863-1867□Raywood. The first known reference to reef mining at Raywood appeared in The Bendigo Advertiser on 7 December 1863, concerning a

crushing of five tons which yielded 4ozs 10dwts of gold from a claim aptly named the Pioneer Reef. Another reef close by and parallel to the Pioneer Reef. was the Coulter Reef. Messrs Armfield and Coulter were apparently the prospectors on these reefs, for a function held at the opening of the first crushing battery at Raywood, these men were toasted as "the first prospectors of reefs" on the field. An old open cut still exists at Raywood, on the northern slopes of Christmas Hill, which marks the site of the Pioneer Reef. Indications there suggest that mining on this reef was only to shallow depths. One claim on the Pioneer Reef sold to the Raywood Bank of New South Wales in August 1864, a cake weighing 43ozs from a crushing of 16 tons.

The Perseverance Reef, a quarter of a mile north of the town is known to have yielded hundreds of ounces. The company was formed in 1868, operating on a large body of stone 19 feet wide. Much of it was unpayable ...The site of this former mine is now part of the Raywood Golf Links.

The Buxton Company was registered in July 1868. This reef, crossing Buxton Gully to the north of the township, was rich in patches, the shaft eventually reaching a depth of 260 feet.

Another early (mine) worked on Raywood was that of the Croesus Company, whose claim adjoined that of the Nil Desperandum, on its northern side. In January 1869, the Croesus claim had four shafts at various depths ranging from 70 to 120 feet

An early report concerning the Nil Desperandum, December 1864, records a crushing of 73 tons which yielded 63ozs 3dwt. .. The shaft was later sunk to 500 feet. An interesting innovation in underground blasting technique was introduced at the mine early in 1869. This was the use of gun cotton. During 1887 the Nil Desperandum was again paying dividends, but values later slumped, and the mine closed down in 1889. During its 25 years existence, £30,000 was paid in dividends.

Another company, the New Nil Desperandum was formed in 1906, and worked from the original shaft of the old company. Extensive development work was carried out and the shaft deepened from 500 to 800 feet. Mr James Hoskins was manager from 1906 to 1908. Mr W Bren then took charge for some years during which time almost 15,000ozs of gold was obtained. Mr R Eddy managed the mine later and up to the time when operations ceased in 1916 ...One of the last miners to work in this mine stated that at the 800 feet level the quartz was 150 feet wide and 20 feet thick. He also said that "so great was the excavations made by the tributers that eventually they were unable to get their machines to the face".

The first quartz miners were greatly inconvenienced by lack of crushing facilities. Some reefers had their stone carted to Elysian Flat, some three miles distant, with the cost for cartage seriously depleting profits. In January 1864, Coulter and Party who owned a battery at Huntly, had bullock-dray load of stone carted there for a trial crushing. There was an urgent need for a crusher at Raywood and in 1864, an Inglewood man, Mr Page, erected the first battery on this field. The site chosen was approximately a half mile north from the centre of town. A series of shallow holes, and an old dam bank and an area of scattered sand on the present Raywood Golf Course is probably the site where the first crusher was operated. The end of April 1864 saw the completion of the dam, 267 feet long and races were to be ploughed extending for five miles to conduct as much rainfall as possible into the reservoir. The battery consisted of 12 head of revolving stamps, driven by a 10 horsepower steam engine. The boiler was 20 feet long. Sometimes the battery was idle through shortage of water . . . A shaft was sunk, and a depth of 108 feet a supply of water was obtained. The proprietor planned to deepen the shaft to 120 feet and tunnel on each side of the shaft in the hope of obtaining further supply. In March 1865, the battery was dismantles and re-erected at the Company's claim on the Dead Horse Reef near Harvey Town, Eaglehawk.

With the removal of Page's battery, Raywood was again without crushing facilities. In less than two years, there came to this district one of the most unusual crushing machines ever on the Bendigo gold field . . .Hart's Patent Cylindrical Quartz Crushing Machine . . . two iron cylinders, one revolving within

the other. The inner cylinder was perforated with holes, the stone being admitted by means of a chute. As the inner cylinder revolved the stone dropped through the holes, and was ground to a powder. Mercury was introduced with the quartz . . . The machine was apparently made in Melbourne .Installation of the plant, which was driven by steam, was completed in October. Also erected were four riffle tables, another patent Hart's .The machine was officially opened and christened on 23 October 1866 ...The machine was not a great success, but for some time it was engaged in crushing hundreds of loads of cement. The machine . . . ceased work during February 1867. [2.121-128]

□1863-1880□Considering its small area, Raywood was perhaps the most prolific source of nuggets on the Bendigo goldfield. The first, of 24ozs, located in November 1863. In all, 25 nuggets of from 24 to 113ozs were found between 1863 to 1880. [2.173]

□01.1864□60ozs nugget (No.643) found at an undisclosed depth. [5.35, 7]

□01.1864□By January, much of the cement-like washdirt from Raywood was carted to Elysian Flat and puddled. As mining extended westward down Raywood Gully the sinking gradually increased. This rich, ancient run of gold bearing gravel became known as the Raywood Lead, and its course, as it deepened, swung sharply northwards. For the most part it proved payable . . .When the sinking on Raywood Lead reached fifty feet, its tortuous course was difficult to follow . . . During April 1864, one party, Hart and Company, struck the gutter on the Raywood Lead at a depth of seventy feet, which was estimated to yield 3ozs to the load. The lead was eventually followed further north where the auriferous gravels spread out in the form of drifts. The sinking finally reached a depth of 100 feet, but as average yields were only 2dwts per load, mining here proved unprofitable. Early in December 1863, holes were being sunk in Yankee and Inglewood Gullies . . . sinking in the latter ranged from 12 to a 100 feet, and later was known as the Inglewood Lead. ...Several Claims on this lead in 1864 yielded over 20 pounds (240ozs) weight of gold each . . .Newspaper reports indicate that the Inglewood Lead was the richest alluvial area on the Raywood goldfield. Today, along the course of the former Inglewood Lead, once studded with diggers' holes with their surrounding heaps of mullock, no trace remains of former busy times. The heaps have been levelled and the area long used for agricultural purposes. [2]

□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. [8.42-43]

□□06.1864□Raywood: 200 reef miners and 1270 alluvial miners at work.

□□Coulter and Company, Raywood: 35ozs obtained from 40 tons of stone.

□□Barkly and Company, Christmas Reef, Raywood: 14ozs from 2 tons of stone.

□□Welbourne, Raywood: 50ozs obtained from 70 tons of stone. [9.48-49]

□□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. [9.48-49]

□□20.07.1864□Raywood - A very fine specimen of quartz gold is now on view at the Oriental Bank here. The specimens are very rich, the gold being very coarse, in fact, small nuggets. They were obtained from No.1 claim, Pioneer Reef, which promises to prove one of the richest yet discovered. [10]

□□23.07.1864□Mining matters here continue about the same as at the date of last report. Perhaps they may be said to have improved slightly. Several parties are said to be at work at the distance of about a mile and a half from this, where alluvial prospects have been obtained, and which it is hoped may prove a permanent addition to our alluvial working. The reefs continue to exhibit signs of improvement generally, and at Coulter's Reef some excellent stone has been found. This branch of mining is beginning to attract the attention of those possessing capital, a very well known and successful shareholder in quartz claims at Inglewood being at Raywood for the purpose of investing in some of our lines of reef. Large parcels of gold, the produce of the late washings, are daily coming into the banks, as anticipated on a sufficient water supply being obtained. Lately the ceremony of opening the new crushing machine, erected by Mr Page, took place ... the name henceforth to be "The Raywood". ... The machine was now in full work. ... [11]

28.07.1864□Little alteration can be reported in mining matters in the immediate vicinity of the township, no new alluvial workings have been discovered. Miners here are engaged in working out their claims, or prospecting for quartz reefs; the latter pursuit is becoming very general, and several prospecting claims have been taken up. [12]

□09.1864□Raywood: 300 reef miners and 1000 alluvial miners at work.  
Raywood reefs: 123ozs obtained from 175 tons of stone.

Raywood leads: 88ozs 17dwt obtained from 407 tons of cement. [9.46-47]

□□An encouraging feature ... is the ascertained fact of the stone being auriferous at the respective depths of 64 and 80 feet, the greatest depth yet reached here. This has proved the case on the Coulter's and Pioneer Reefs; the latter is situate to the eastward of the Coulter and Christmas line. [9.46-47]

□12.1864□Raywood: 1534 miners at work.

Christmas Reef, Raywood: 12ozs 10dwt obtained from 40 tons of stone.

Coulter's Reef, Raywood: 15ozs obtained from 40 tons of stone. [9.48-49]

□□No new discoveries in alluvial have taken place around Raywood, and the population has consequently diminished. [9.48-49]

□03.1865□Raywood: 900 miners at work.

Coulter's Reef, Raywood: 187ozs obtained from 27 tons of stone at 90 feet. [9.46-47]

□06.1865□Raywood: 750 miners at work.

Coulter's No.2, Coulter's Reef, Raywood: 25ozs obtained from 25 tons of stone at 94 feet.

Christmas Reef, Raywood: 14ozs obtained from 29 tons of stone at 106 feet. [9.50-52]

□□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. [9.50-52]

□09.1865□Raywood: 250 miners at work. [9.54-55]

□□Three prospecting alluvial claims have also been registered:- ... one of 65 yards square, three-quarters of a mile north of Raywood. [9.54-55]

□12.1865□Raywood: 200 miners at work.

Christmas Reef, Raywood: 2ozs 10dwt obtained from 10 tons of stone at 106 feet. [9.53-54]

□03.1866□Raywood: 200 miners at work. [9.51-52]

□05.1866□Although in some instances lately the crushings from the reefs at Raywood have yielded as much as 10ozs to the ton, persons requiring stone crushed have to cart it all the way to Huntly. ... [13]

□05.1866□The recent rains have been of great benefit to the miners at Raywood, who have been enabled to recommence work in claims which had been abandoned for months. Within the last week several nuggets have been found in the alluvial workings - one 4ozs in weight. On the Christmas Reef some very good stone is being raised, from the claim of Messrs Heeble and Company, but in consequence of the great distance the company would have to cart it for crushing, they are paddocking it for the present. [314]

□05.1866□A miner working in the gully immediately adjoining the Wellbourne Reef got a specimen yesterday of about 6ozs weight, containing about 5ozs gold. He also got another small nugget of 6dwts and some coarse gold from the first tub. The discovery has induced another party to take up the deserted May Reef, on the opposite side of Sailor's Gully. There was a rush to mark off the ground; but Mr Cole, the storekeeper, was the fortunate man. [315]

□06.1866□The reefs of this place are at length beginning to attract attention,

and it is rumoured that an engine will shortly be erected. ... There are 3 reefs from which good stone has been obtained; the first in importance is the Christmas, or Coulter's Reef, from which stone has been raised from a depth of 110 feet, yielding as much as 10ozs to the ton. This claim having reached the water level, is at present exempt. There are two other claims on this line that are getting stone, one of them from a depth of 130 feet; the last crushing from this claim yielded 14dwts per ton, and the reef is 14 feet thick. In the other claim they are raising very good stone from different levels; the deepest level is 100 feet and the reef is 230 feet thick, the whole of which it is anticipated will pay handsomely. Two other claims to the south of these are sinking for this reef, and there are other claims on this reef from which any amount of payable stone could be raised if an engine were upon the ground. The next is the Wellbourne Reef which has lately been taken up by Mr. Francis, of Gunn's Hotel. The past stone raised averaged rather more than an ounce to the ton, and since Mr. Francis has taken possession of it they have found some very fine specimens (?), and the shareholders are very sanguine of handsome returns. The third reef alluded to is the May Reef, last week applied for by Mr Cole, storekeeper, of this township. The stone from this reef that was crushed yielded 12dwt to the ton. All these reefs have, with the exception of two claims on Coulter's, been exempted or altogether abandoned because there has been no means of crushing the stone; but now that the rain has come, and they have been taken up, it is certain that there is an opening for a capitalist to make good use of his money by erecting an engine. [16]

□06.1866□Raywood: 200 miners at work. [9.48-50]

□06.1866□The Christmas line of reef is yielding payable stone, as also the Welbaum, Pioneer, and Coulter's, but the distance to cart the stone deprives the miner from crushing more than sufficient for current expenses. [9.48-50]

□04.07.1866□The place has certainly improved lately, as one day last week a quartz claim was taken up south of the Nil Desperandum Company's ground, and some very good stone has been got, at a depth of about 18 feet. Three claims have also been taken up on the Christmas, or Coulter's Reef, south of Makin's claim. So many claims being taken up have caused a small stir in the town. ... [17]

□19.07.1866□The claim that was taken up last week on the Wellbourne Reef, south of the Nil Desperandum lease, is turning out very well indeed. 6 tons of stone yielded 18ozs 15dwt 5 grains. In consequence of this splendid yield the shareholders of the company are in good spirits, and with very good reason. 50 tons of stone from Heckle and Company's claim on the Christmas Reef yielded 36ozs 3dwt, 28 tons of this stone were raised from the 140 foot level, and taken from a new lode of stone 10 feet thick; these 28 tons yielded 22ozs. ... [18]

□17.07.1866□There is considerable stir at the present time in the reefing interest at Raywood on account of the probability of a crushing machine being erected. ... Mr Hart, inventor of the patent cylindrical crushing and amalgamating machine, made a proposition to a meeting of miners to erect one of his machines on certain terms. These were accepted, and Mr Hart proceeded to Melbourne to bring the machine up. Those who have taken the matter up have decided upon erecting the machine behind the White Horse Hotel. ... Heckle and Company, on the Christmas Reef, who are busily engaged putting in the main level north and south of the shaft, at a depth of 140 feet, and this being done, men will commence rising on the stone, and as room is made more men will be put on, when a large quantity of quartz will be got out, as the reef is about 12 feet thick, and contains gold throughout. The last crushing of 50 tons yielded 36ozs of gold. The result of this crushing has induced several parties to commence work on the line south. Three claims in the hands of Sandhurst speculators have been amalgamated and work has been begun. The Pioneer Reef is parallel to the Christmas Reef, and on this line Hunter and Company are raising and crushing quartz from their ground, two claims north from Heckle and Company. About 50 tons of stone have been raised, which is expected to yield an ounce of gold to the ton.

Coulter's Reef. On this line there were fair prospects some 18 months ago, but a company applied for a lease of 16 acres of ground and they, it appears, have



never taken up the lease nor worked the ground, and the consequence is, that parties willing to work the ground are unable to take possession. [19]

□18.07.1866□The most important meeting that ever took place for the interests of this district was held at Gunn's Hotel, last night, by the miners of the town and Elysian Flat. ... The meeting was for the purpose of hearing Mr James Hart, of the New Era Iron Works, state upon what terms he was willing to erect one of his patent crushing machines at Raywood. [20]

□12.1866□Raywood: 250 miners at work. [9.45-46]

□12.1866□Christmas Reef, Raywood: 121ozs 10dwt obtained from 105 tons of stone at between 60 and 100 feet. [21]

□03.1867□Raywood: 250 miners at work. [9.37-38]

09.09.1867□A late crushing of 116 tons from the No 3 claim, Christmas Reef, Raywood, yielded 64ozs 15dwt 6 grains. [22]

□09.1867□George Heckle and Company, Raywood: 155ozs obtained from 155 tons of stone at between 60 and 100 feet.

A. Litton and Company, Christmas Reef, Raywood: 49ozs 17dwt 18 grains obtained from 172 tons of stone. [9.21-22]

□09.1867□George Heckle and party are obtaining good returns from their mine on the Christmas Reef. They have a large quantity of good looking stone on the surface, which the unfavourable state of the weather prevented them from sending to Elysian Flat to be crushed. [9.21-22]

□12.1867□Schaffer and Company, Welbourne Reef: 39ozs 10dwt 21 grains obtained from 111 tons of stone at 30 feet.

Augustus Litton, Christmas Reef: 2ozs 10dwt 4 grains obtained from 30 tons of stone at between 30 and 50 feet.

George Heckle and Company, Christmas Reef: 8ozs 12dwt obtained from 43 tons of stone. [9.20]

□25.01.1868□A crushing plant of 8 stamps is in course of erection at Raywood by F. D. Stephens and Company, who purpose confining themselves to crushing for the public. ... [23]

□12.02.1868□Croesus Gold Mining Company, Raywood. The mining manager reports, to date 8th. February - Since my last report I have been extending the drives east and west, the eastern drive is now in to a distance of 75 feet, the western 38 feet, and in both levels at no previous time have the indications been so favourable for striking stone. ... [25]

24.02.1868□At the Bank of Victoria, on Saturday, some very rich specimens of quartz gold were shown, which were taken from Schaefer and Company's claim, within a short distance of the Nil Desperandum ground. [24]

□03.1868□Schaffer and Company, Welbourne Reef: 34ozs obtained from 40 tons of stone at 120 feet. [9.20]

□□Several new companies have been formed, the most important one being the Schaffer Quartz Gold Mining Company, who have taken up two claims on the May Reef, in connection with their original claim on the Welbourne line, which hitherto has yielded excellent returns.

Messrs Stephens and Nicholls have nearly completed the erection of their quartz crushing machine (for public purposes) in a gully east of Raywood. When this plant is finished it will be hailed with great satisfaction by the inhabitants generally. [9.20]

□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. ... [26]

□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. [9.23]

31.□07.1868□Croesus Gold Mining Company (Registered), Raywood - The mining manager reports under the date of 25 July: The north shaft is now down

70 feet, a drive to the west is in 87 feet for the purpose of cutting the same stone as that of the Perseverance Company. In extending the drive from the western shaft some likely looking stone has been cut. A few tons will be crushed for a trial. [27]

□08.1868□Croesus Gold Mining Company, Raywood - (25 July): north shaft down 70 feet. Drive to west is in 8 feet, for purpose of cutting same stone as perseverance Company. In extending drive from western shaft some likely looking stone cut. A few tons will be crushed for a trial. [28.30]

11.09.1868□Buxton Gold Mining Company - the manager reports, under date of 9th instant:- a contract has been let to sink a shaft 150 feet, at 8 shillings 9 pence per foot. The contractors have sunk and slabbed to a depth of 376 feet. [29]

□09.1868□Messrs Law and Ollson have nearly completed the erection of eight head of stampers in Raywood Gully, for public crushings. [9.23]

□29.10.1868□The rush that I reported a week ago is still going ahead ... towards Inglewood Hill lead. [30]

□12.1868□Schaffer, Welbourne Reef: 9ozs 9dwt obtained from 46 tons of stone.

Litton and Company, Christmas Reef: 4ozs 6dwt obtained from 42 tons of stone. [9.21]

□06.1869□Raywood: 230 miners at work. [21]

□□During the past quarter mining matters in the immediate vicinity of Raywood have not improved. The tributers who undertook to re-work the Christmas Reef were compelled to abandon their project, owing to want of funds and the unremunerative yields they obtained from several trial crushings. [9.31]

□08.1869□Croesus Company, Raywood, have struck some fine stone at 120 feet north from No.1 shaft. [28.28]

□09.1869□Raywood: 150 miners at work.

□□Croesus, Raywood: 44ozs 16dwt obtained from 14 tons of stone at 10 feet. [21]

□11.1869□Perseverance Company, Raywood, have again got to work; a new manager has been appointed, and a call of one penny per share made to carry on operations; several spurs have already been cut, and gold of a promising character seen in stone. [28.70]

□12.1869□Raywood: 130 miners at work. [21]

□12.1869□Croesus, Raywood: 1oz 10dwt obtained from 10 tons of stone at 12 feet. [21]

□12.1869□Tubal Cain, Raywood: 36ozs 14dwt obtained from 195 tons of stone at 100 feet.

Pioneer, Raywood: 164ozs obtained from 328 tons of stone at 140 feet. [21]