

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

NIL DESPERANDUM MINE

Other Names

Location Parcel No. P130635, mine site on both Crown - Gravel Reserve (mullock heap and filled shaft) and Freehold Land (machinery site), north side of Raywood-Elmore main road, east of road to Neilborough, Raywood



Map Reference Raywood, 1:25,000 - BV501.527

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No

Description Just inside the boundary fence of a private property is a large brick winding engine foundation, 25 feet by 10 feet and 4 feet high. Constructed of hand-made bricks set in a concrete mortar, this foundation has been modified or repaired with concrete at its northern end. The upper course of bricks has been removed, exposing long sections of 2-inch diameter mounting bolts. Small brick foundations lie either side of the large foundation, the western one capped with thick concrete. Two boiler depressions are visible to the west of the engine foundations. 5 metres east, at ground-level, is a concrete engine foundation with protruding 1¼ inch mounting bolts. Running east from this foundation is a line of timber battery stumps set in rough concrete footings. The stumps are grouped in four sets, representing the site of a 20-head battery. A remnant of a large mullock heap lies south of the engine foundations, on Crown land. The foundations have been modified and are partially hidden by trees. Access is also restricted by boundary fences.

History Period of activity: 1865-1916 consisting of three companies Nil Desperandum (1865-1873), Nil (1882-1890+) and New Nil Desperandum (1906-1916)
Line of reef: Welbourne
Maximum recorded annual production: 3746zs obtained from 6158 tons in 1868 (Nil Desperandum) 2599ozs obtained from 7356 tons in 1908 (New Nil Desperandum)
Total production: 16,367ozs obtained from 58,992 tons
Dividends: £16,000 (Nil Desperandum), £3000 (New Nil Desperandum)
Deepest working level: 780 feet
Deepest shaft: unknown, but below water level

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples The Nil Desperandum is to Raywood as Frederick the Great is to Sebastian.

Statement of Significance The site is associated with quartz mining at Raywood and the success of the mine, in terms of its production levels and yields, contributed to the development of the township (criterion A). The site also has potential to educate and illustrate a relatively well-preserved mining site with foundations most likely dating to the period 1906-1916 (criterion C).

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. In particular, further historical research should be undertaken to determine the sequence of plant, machinery and equipment used on the mine from its inception.

Heritage Boundaries The rectangular site is bounded by a local road to the north and extends southwards for 30 metres over a distance 5 metres either side of the extremities of the machinery foundations.

- References**
1. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Raywood division.
 2. Dicker's Mining Record and Guide to the Gold Mines of Australia.
 3. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, Monday, 14 October; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 16 October 1867, p2, col.6.
 4. "Mining intelligence. The Nil Desperandum Company." The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 17 October 1867.
 5. W. Perry, "Tales of the Whipstick: a history of the Whipstick, Neilborough, Sebastian, Raywood and Myers Creek gold rushes, Victoria." Eaglehawk, Perry, 1975, 249pp.
 6. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 11 November 1867, p2, col.6.
 7. "Raywood." From our Correspondent, Saturday, 16 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 18 November 1867, p2, col.6.
 8. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 December 1867, p2, col.5.
 9. "Raywood." From our own Correspondent, 20 November, The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 December 1867, p2, col.5.
 10. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 27 January 1868.
 11. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 10 February 1868.
 12. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 24 February 1868.
 13. Dicker's Mining Record and Melbourne Stock Bank, Railway, Insurance, Gas, Mining and General Share Register.
 14. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 23 March 1868.
 15. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 6 April 1868.
 16. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 20 April 1868.
 17. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 4 May 1868.
 18. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (Registered)." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 1 June 1868.
 19. The Mining Record and Public Companies Gazette.
 20. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Gold Mining Company (Registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 10 August 1868.
 21. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company (registered), Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 21 September 1868.
 22. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars.
 23. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 31 January 1870.
 24. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 14 February 1870.
 25. "Mining intelligence. Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 February 1870.

26. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Sandhurst division.
27. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 27 December 1870.
28. "Mining registrars' statistics." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 15 June 1872, p5, col.2.
29. Goldfields of Victoria. Reports of the Mining Registrars for the quarter.
30. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk subdivision.
31. "Mining intelligence. South Nil." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 3 November 1884, p3, col.4.
32. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Eaglehawk division.
33. "Mining intelligence." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 5 September 1885, p6, col.3.
34. Reports and Statistics of the Mining Department for the quarter.
35. G. Meyer, "The History of the Township of Fosterville." undated
36. Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines and Water Supply, Victoria.
37. Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines, Victoria.
38. The Bendigo Advertiser, ? March 1915.
39. Department of Mining and Industrial Development records.

Notes

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

Chronology 06.1865□Auriferous discoveries on the site of the present township of Raywood in November, 1863, cause 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 (1865) paralysed alike the exertions of puddlers, quartz miners and alluvial miners, and doubtlessly retarded new discoveries. [1]

□09.1865□The reefs at Raywood are actively at work again, with every prospect of ultimate success; awaiting the erection of an engine. [1]

□03.1867□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 90ozs obtained from 200 tons of stone at between the surface and 50 feet. [1.37-38]

The Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood, are at present crushing about 1200 tons of their quartz at the Eureka engine, Sebastian, seven miles distant. [1.37-38]

□06.1867□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood: 583ozs 2dwt obtained from 850 tons of stone at between the surface and 130 feet. [1.24]

The Nil Desperandum Company are still obtaining good returns from their mine, although they labor under a great disadvantage in not having machinery on the ground; this difficulty, however, I am informed, is about to be overcome, as tenders have been invited by them for the erection of 12 or 18 head of stampers on their own claim. [1.24]

□09.1867□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (13 September) - mine continues as good as ever; stone looks well. That in the upper level about 14 feet thick, in the lower about 10 feet thick; all appearances richer than usual. The main shaft now down 84 feet. The machine being completed with all possible speed. About 600 tons of quartz on the surface. [2.120]

□□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood: 160ozs obtained from 160 tons of stone at between 60 and 140 feet. [1.21-22]

In my last report I intimated that the Nil Desperandum Company had called for tenders for the purchase of a crushing plant to be erected on their own claim on the Welbourne Reef. I am now pleased to observe that their object has been attained, and its erection will be completed in about four weeks hence. The claim is looking richer than ever, and it is computed that the company have about 1200 tons of stone ready to put through when their machinery starts working. [1.21-22]

□16.10.1867□The engine for the Nil Desperandum Company is nearly finished, and in a few days will be ready for crushing. ... [3]

□17.10.1867□Our Raywood correspondent informs us that some very rich stone was obtained yesterday in the Nil Desperandum Company's ground. The specimens found exceed in richness any that have ever been got from their claim. [4]

□10.1867□Raywood. The Nil Desperandum Company were soon in need of a crushing plant. At first their quartz was carted to Elysian Flat and crushed at Robert's battery. In mid-1867, the company purchased a set of stamps from the Yorkshire Company, Bendigo ...The function opening the Nil Desperandum crusher took place on 25 October 1867. [5.129]

□11.11.1867□The mining manager, under date of 9th. November reports that the crushing plant is now in full work, and, with a few stoppages that all new machinery is subject to, is working very satisfactorily. The stone already gone through bids fair to come up to expectations. [6]

□18.11.1867□A beautiful cake of gold, weighing 215ozs 13dwt was exhibited in the window of the Bank of Victoria this morning. This fine cake with 10ozs 3dwt obtained from the quicksilver, making in all 225ozs 16dwt was taken from the Nil Desperandum Company's claim, the produce of 257 tons of stone, taken promiscuously from their large paddock and crushed in 13 days. As the stone crushed is only about one fifth of the paddock, they have good reasons for expecting that the yield of the whole will be something over 1000ozs. ... [7]

□02.12.1867□The mining manager reports to date, 29 November - I have to report that during the past fortnight, there have been 246 tons of quartz crushed, that have given a return of 246ozs of gold. The mine still continues as good as ever. I intend to sink a shaft down from the present workings to the water level, and cut the reef at that depth, and, if the same reef continues to that depth, the prospects of the company will be second to none in the district. ... [8]

□□A very good show of gold was exhibited this morning in the window of the Bank of Victoria consisting of two cakes - the larger one weighing 241ozs 10dwt from the Nil Desperandum Company. This cake, with 4½ozs obtained from the quicksilver, making in all 245ozs, is the produce of exactly 246 tons of stone, or just an ounce to the ton. The other cake, weighing 152ozs 1dwt, is from the Cornish and Welsh Company, Jones's Reef, Kamarooka, ... The Nil Desperandum Company crushed 246 tons in 11 days, and there are still about three fifths of their paddock to crush. [9]

□12.1867□Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood (14 December) - the mining manager reports that the mine is still looking well; the principal part of the permanent workings also nearly completed. The fortnight's crushing was 227 tons of quartz, yielding 184ozs 10dwt of gold. Silver not yet retorted. The whip is now in full work, and is a great saving in the expenditure of the claim. [2.251]

□□Nil Desperandum Company, Welbourne Reef: 801ozs obtained from 893 tons of stone at 111 feet. [1.20]

□□Nil Desperandum Company:- This company has, since my last report, completed the erection of an excellent quartz-crushing machine, of 170-horsepower, with pumping engine and tailings pump, with offices and necessary attachments of the most substantial character, at a cost of £3500. The prospects of the mine are most promising, the lode at present working at a depth of 111 feet, being 10 feet wide, the golden indications improving. 34 men are engaged on this claim. [1.20]

27.01.1868□The mining manager, under date of 25 January, reports that the yield of gold for 10 days' crushing has been 86ozs 14dwt from 179 tons of quartz. The falling off in the yield is attributed to having to take a quantity of mullock that could not be avoided in putting in the permanent works, which are now nearly completed. In sinking a pass to the upper workings we have struck another distinct reef, evidently a large one, as it now covers the whole of the shaft and shows good coarse gold. There are yet 3 weeks' crushing on the surface. [10]

10.02.1868□The mining manager, under date of 6 February, reports that during the past fortnight there have been 237 tons of quartz crushed, yielding 110ozs 14dwt 11 grains of gold. The large paddock is now nearly all crushed, so that the future crushing will, I believe, give better returns. [11]

24.02.1868 □ The mining manager, under date of 21st. February, reports:- I have raised and crushed 270 tons of quartz which yielded 1467ozs of gold. The stone was taken from all parts of the mine, and I can safely say from the present appearances of the stone that the yield for the ensuing fortnight, will be as good if not better than the last. The mine is in first rate working order. [12]

23.03.1868 □ Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (21 March) - Manager reports that during past fortnight 243 tons of quartz have been crushed, realizing 144ozs of gold. Stone taken from lower workings of mine. Contractors for enlarging and raising dam bank progressing well. When completed storage for water will be sufficient to keep machine constantly working. Several of mine force engaged cutting drains, and in filling mullock into shaft to secure workings. [13.116, 14]

03.1868 □ Nil Desperandum Company, Welbourne Reef: 689ozs 4dwt 11 grains obtained from 1384 tons of stone at 106 feet. [1.20]

06.04.1868 □ The manager reports, under date 4th. instant - that in consequence of cleaning the boiler, and doing other necessary repairs, the crushing was stopped for four days. ... The dam, when finished, will contain storage water supply to keep the machine going 12 months. The mine is still looking well. [15]

17.04.1868 □ Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (17 April - 535 tons of quartz raised and crushed, yielding 256ozs of gold; mine looks as well as ever. Since last report 391 loads of mullock have been place in mine for securing workings. Dam all but completed; now waiting a fall of rain. [13.153, 16]

□ 04.05.1868 □ The mining manager reported that 67ozs 10dwt were obtained from 70 tons of stone, and 136 loads of mullock were placed in the mine to secure the workings. [17]

□ 01.06.1868 □ The mining manager reported that 129ozs were obtained from 310 tons of stone, and 182 loads of mullock were placed in the mine to secure the workings. [18]

□ 06.1868 □ Nil Desperandum Company (Registered), Raywood (13 June) - crushing operations have been stopped for want of water; a few men only have been employed the last fortnight placing mullock for securing workings. Whim will be ready for use next week, when sinking of main shaft will be proceeded with. [13.216]

□ □ Nil Desperandum Company, Welbourne Reef: 733ozs 14dwt obtained from 1702 tons of stone at 130 feet. [1.23]

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 Nicholls' and Nil Desperandum. The latter company have just completed the erection of an excellent whim, in connection with their famous claim on the Welbourne Reef. [1.23]

□ 07.1868 □ Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood - The manager reports on 11 July: crushing operations resumed at mine on 6th. Instant, a supply of water having been obtained from late rains. Main shaft sunk and timbered 45 feet from 116 feet level. Sinking still being proceeded with; water increasing a little. At 180 feet a cross cut will be put in, when there will be a good stope to rise upon. [19.8]

□ 08.1868 □ Nil Desperandum, Raywood (24 July): the second contract for sinking and slabbing the main shaft, now nearly completed. Shaft now 90 feet deep, and close slabbed all down. In a few days shall be able to open out a crosscut for purpose of cutting reef at present depth. [19.32]

□ □ Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood - during the last 17 days 499 tons of quartz raised and crushed; yield 95ozs 4dwt of gold. Whim shaft now down 181 feet. At that depth crosscut being put in to stone. (7 August) 319 tons of quartz crushed for fortnight, yielding 104ozs 7dwt of gold. The plat at lower level cut; crosscutting towards reef progressing; ground very hard. Water gradually increasing. 327 loads mullock have been placed in mine during past fortnight. [19.32, 20]

21.09.1868 □ The manager reports, under date 18th September:- 265 tons of quartz, mostly taken from the stopes rising from the 116 foot level have nee crushed during the fortnight, yielding 99ozs 10dwt of gold; the crosscut at the lower level is in 37 feet from the main shaft, and as we are through the stone

into soft slate, the reef must be very close. Crushing operations are suspended in consequence of want of water; but from the appearance of the weather a supply may be obtained at any moment ..., 144 loads of mullock have been placed in the mine to secure the workings. [21]

09.1868 Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (22 August) - 339 tons quartz crushed during fortnight, yield 86ozs 11 dwt 12 grains gold. Stone taken from all parts of the mine rising from 116 feet level, with exception of 20 tons taken from crosscut at lower level; crosscut now in 17 feet from main shaft, ground very hard; mining expenses are heavier. Machinery in good order. (3 September) - 275 tons crushed, yield 96ozs 3dwt taken from stopes rising from 116 feet level. Crosscut in 23 feet from waster shaft - hard quartz all the way. 440 loads mullock placed in mine to secure old workings. This with expense attending crosscutting, renders expenditure high in comparison with actual expenses of raising stone to keep machine fully employed. The water in dam running short, and unless a rainfall soon, shall be compelled to stop crushing. [19.61]

Nil Desperandum Company, Welbourne Reef: 1344ozs 18dwt 13 grains obtained from 1697 tons of stone at 130 feet. [1.23]

The Nil Desperandum Company have cut the reef at the water level (151 feet). This company still continues to obtain very handsome returns from their mine. [1.23]

10.1868 Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (18 September) - 265 tons quartz, mostly taken from stopes rising from 116 feet level, crushed during fortnight, yield 99ozs 10dwt gold. Crosscut at lower level in 37 feet from main shaft. Are through stone into soft slate; reef must be very close. Crushing suspended through want of water. [19.90]

11.1868 Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (19 October) - 388 tons quartz raised and crushed during past 17 days, yielding 310ozs 14dwt gold. Stone was taken from north stopes rising from 116 feet level, with exception of 35 tons from bottom level. Have cut through reef, and commenced putting in permanent levels. Reef on average about 9 feet thick, showing gold occasionally. From 116 feet level winze being sunk to lower level. 174 loads mullock placed in mine to secure workings. (30 October) - during fortnight 285 tons quartz raised and crushed, yielding 250ozs 4dwt gold. Quartz was taken from stopes rising north of 116 feet level, with exception of 30 tons from bottom level. Winze sunk 30 feet through reef, and showing little gold all the way in sinking. 166 loads mullock placed in mine to secure workings. Mine looking very well. Dividend of one shilling per share declared. [19.116]

12.1868 Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood (12 November) - during fortnight 295 tons quartz raised and crushed, yielding 110ozs 4dwt 12 grains gold. It was taken from north stopes rising from 116 feet level, with exception of 30 tons from lower level. Winze finished. Tanks erected, which will be means of saving water; supply in dam estimated to last 6 weeks. 100 loads mullock placed in mine to secure workings. The yield of gold for the past month has been 203ozs. (17 November) - main shaft down 93 feet, securely slabbed. At 45 feet several spurs cut, also at 74 feet, all of which bear north-easterly direction. Crosscut being opened out at bottom of the shaft, and from nature of strata stone may be cut very shortly. (26 November) - 293 tons quartz raised and crushed during the past fortnight, yielding 145ozs 2dwt gold. Stone taken principally from stopes rising north from 116 feet level, with exception of 30 tons from lower. Reef at this depth about 9 feet thick; stone very hard. 137 loads mullock placed in mine to secure workings. (27 November) - during fortnight opened out crosscut to west, and driven 10 feet through very hard ground into softer slate, which will expedite operations. Tenders called for to drive 40 feet north-east, at end of which expect to meet reef, and as ground is soft about 3 weeks will accomplish this. [19.150]

12.1868 Nil Desperandum Company, Welbourne Reef: 980ozs 13dwt obtained from 1475 tons of stone at 85 feet. [1.20]

03.1869 Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 59ozs 1dwt obtained from 24.5 tons of stone at 180 feet. [22]

06.1869 Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 539ozs 12dwt 3 grains obtained from 1567 tons of stone. [22]

□□The returns from the Nil Desperandum, although small, are more than sufficient to pay all working expenses, which at present are excessive, owing to the old workings being refilled with dry sludge obtained from the company's dam. [1.31]

08.1869□Nil Desperandum Company, Bendigo. Half-yearly meeting was held on 12 July. Report stated that half-yearly operations were not so profitable as previous one, but permanent works carried out will tell to future advantage, 609ozs 17dwt gold were obtained from 1987 tons stone, and although average yield is only about 6½dwt per ton, operations would have been much more profitable if crushing machinery had not been idle nearly half time for want of water. Mine has improved in appearance within past few weeks, and shareholders may reasonably expect that next half-year's work will be much more profitable. Water-shaft was now down as it could be sunk without aid of machinery, and directors wished to have shareholders opinion as to advisability of immediately procuring pumping and winding machinery. [19.35]

□09.1869□Nil Desperandum mine, Raywood, is now well opened up, and steady yields may be expected for some time. [19.49]

□□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 508ozs obtained from 1786 tons of stone at 160 feet. [22]

The returns from the Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood, continue small, but more than sufficient to cover the working expenses of the mine. [1.34-35]

□12.1869□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 536ozs 15dwt 2 grains obtained from 2078 tons of stone at between 116 and 160 feet. [22]

□01.1870□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood. Half-yearly meeting was held at office of manager on 14 January. ... 3730 tons of stone have been crushed during six months, yielding 927ozs of gold, an average of 5dwt per ton, which has enabled directors to declare two sixpenny dividends, amounting to £1000, and still leave a balance of £152 in hand to credit. Prospects of mine are as promising as they have been for a considerable time, and there is no doubt but present half-year's operations will be as profitable as those of the past. ... Assets - mining plant and machinery, dams etc. £4619 10 shillings. [19.157-158]

□31.01.1870□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood: The mining manager (Mr. G. W. Froggatt) reports - during the last fortnight 300 tons of stone have been crushed, yielding 630zs 3dwt of gold. There is nothing new to report from the mine. [23]

□14.02.1870□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood: The mining manager (Mr. G. W. Froggatt) reports - during the last fortnight 340 tons of stone have been crushed, yielding 75ozs of gold. The appearance of the mine is more promising, and better yields may be expected for some time to come. [24]

□28.02.1870□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood: The mining manager (Mr. G. W. Froggatt) reports - during the past fortnight 271 tons of stone were crushed, yielding 77ozs 4dwt gold. Some time was lost during the fortnight for necessary repairs. The stone crushed was principally from the bottom level. [25]

□09.1870□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 314ozs 13dwt obtained from 1611 tons of stone at 215 feet. [26.29-30]

□12.1870□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood. During the last 3 weeks 434 tons of stone have been crushed, yielding 74ozs 6½dwt. A contract has been let for the erection of pumping and winding gear. A dividend of sixpence per share has this day been declared. [27]

□□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 420ozs obtained from 1800 tons of stone. [26.32]

□03.1871□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 451ozs obtained from 1800 tons of stone at 155 feet in a reef 30 feet thick. [26.29-30]

□06.1871□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 321ozs 10dwt obtained from 1630 tons of stone at 150 feet in a reef averaging 8 feet thick. [26.30-31]

□09.1871□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 212ozs 10dwt obtained from 900 tons of stone at 130 feet in a reef 12 feet thick. [26.29]

□03.1872□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 248ozs 15dwt obtained from 1200 tons of stone at 210 feet in a reef 60 feet thick. [26.28]

15.06.1872□Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood, obtained 248ozs 15dwt from 1300 tons, being an average of 4dwt 3.50 grains from a 60 foot reef at a

depth of 210 feet. [28]

□06.1872□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 486ozs obtained from 1880 tons of stone at 250 feet in a reef 30 feet thick. [26.33-34]

□09.1872□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 481ozs 13dwt obtained from 1846 tons of stone. [22]

□12.1872□Nil Desperandum, Raywood: 296ozs 15dwt obtained from 1975 tons of stone. [22]

□03.1873□Nil Desperandum, Welbourne Reef: 660ozs obtained from 3846 tons of stone at 200 feet in a reef averaging about 30 feet thick. [26.32]

□09.1873□Nil Desperandum, Welbourne Reef: 613ozs 12dwt obtained from 3630 tons of stone at 250 feet upwards in a reef averaging 20 feet thick. [26.31-32]

□03.1882□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 29ozs 17dwt obtained from 120 tons of stone. [22]

□06.1882□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 202ozs 2dwt obtained from 901 tons of stone. [22]

□09.1882□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 196ozs 4dwt obtained from 949 tons of stone. [22]

□09.1883□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 268ozs 16dwt obtained from 1285 tons of stone at 386 feet. [22]

□12.1883□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 594ozs 12dwt obtained from 1610 tons of stone at between 316 and 386 feet. [22]

□12.1883□... at Raywood, the prospects of the Nil Company have greatly improved. [26.35-36]

□03.1884□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 394ozs 11dwt obtained from 868 tons of stone at between 316 and 386 feet. [22]

□06.1884□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 776ozs obtained from 1460 tons of stone. [29]

□□The Nil Company are doing very well lately. The reef at the 386-foot level still continues westward, where there is a strong body of stone, in which good gold is seen. [30.15-16]

□09.1884□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 714ozs 9dwt obtained from 1285 tons of stone at between 346 and 386 feet. [29]

□□The Nil Company, at Raywood, have lately erected an engine, 24 horsepower, value £450; boiler 26 feet long by 5½feet in diameter. Work in the mine during the quarter has been almost entirely confined to stoping at the 386-foot level. [30.19-20]

03.11.1884□South Nil: Timber for the shaft is now on the ground and sinking will be commenced at once. [31]

□12.1884□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 497ozs 12dwt obtained from 1594 tons of stone at between 344 and 386 feet. [29]

□□The Nil Company, Raywood, have met with a nice body of stone, which promises to be of a payable character. [32.17-19]

□03.1885□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 684ozs 12dwt obtained from 1397 tons of stone at 350 feet. [29]

Progressive work is being carried on at Raywood. The Nil Company have cut a new make in the shaft at 420 feet, which promises to be of a payable character. [32.18-20]

□06.1885□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 929ozs 8dwt obtained from 1309 tons of stone at between 330 and 360 feet. [29]

□□Nil Company:- The stone crushed has been mostly taken from the backs above the No.3 level. The winze from the No.2 has been sunk 14 feet; ground-sandstone. The shaft has also been sunk to a depth of 462 feet from surface; water heavy. [32.18-19]

05.09.1885□Nil (Raywood) have a very good return, 2509 tons having yielded 245ozs of gold. A 9 penny dividend was declared. [33]

09.1885□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 1357ozs 2dwt obtained from 1320 tons of stone. [29]

12.1885□Lease No.5414 for 8 acres 3 roods and 32 perches and 4 men granted on 21 December to The Nil Gold Mining Company No Liability, Raywood. [22]

□03.1886□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 373ozs obtained from 1125 tons of stone at between 316 and 384 feet. [29]

□06.1886□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 176ozs obtained from 580 tons of stone at 386 feet. [29]

□12.1886□Nil Gold Mining Company, Whalebone Reef, Raywood: 319ozs 5dwt obtained from 1160 tons of stone at 450 360 feet. [29]

□03.1887□Nil Gold Mining Company, Whalebone Reef, Raywood: 615ozs 10dwt obtained from 1461 tons of stone at 450 feet. [29]

At Raywood the Nil Company has had better success lately, and is now again paying dividends. [32.20-21]

□06.1887□Nil Gold Mining Company, Whalebone Reef, Raywood: 766ozs obtained from 1797 tons of stone at 415 feet. [29]

At Raywood the Nil Company has been working with fair success, a couple of dividends having been paid. [32.20-21]

□09.1887□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 349ozs 10dwt obtained from 1315 tons of stone at 400 feet. [29]

At Raywood, the Nil Company have been deriving a moderate profit from their crushings. [32.22-23]

□12.1887□The yields from the Frederick the Great (Sebastian) and Nil Companies (Raywood) have been fairly good. [32.21-22]

□03.1888□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 271ozs 5dwt obtained from 832 tons of stone at 440 feet. [29]

At Raywood, the principal work is being done by the Nil Company, whose returns are fair. [32.17-18]

□06.1888□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 344ozs 12dwt obtained from 847 tons of stone. [29]

At Raywood, the Nil Company have got the mine better opened up; are getting larger yields. [32.19]

□09.1888□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 405ozs 4dwt obtained from 1045 tons of stone at 360 feet. [29]

□12.1888□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 123ozs obtained from 775 tons of stone at 580 feet. [29]

□02.1889□Lease No.5881 for 14 acres and 7 men granted on 11 February to The Nil Gold Mining Company No Liability, Raywood. [22]

□03.1889□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 215ozs 5dwt obtained from 1100 tons of stone at 440 feet. [29]

□06.1889□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 119ozs 16dwt obtained from 400 tons of stone at 360 feet. [29]

At Sebastian, the yields from the Frederick the Great Company have recently been very moderate, and much the same may be said of the Nil Company at Raywood, though the latter company have latterly obtained a better prospect. [32.17]

□09.1889□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 154ozs obtained from 480 tons of stone at between 300 and 450 feet. [29]

□12.1889□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 141ozs 10dwt obtained from 425 tons of stone at 360 feet. [29]

□03.1890□Nil Gold Mining Company, Raywood: 40ozs 10dwt obtained from 160 tons of stone at 380 feet. [34]

□08.1895□[The Bendigo Advertiser]: Stewarts Ellesmere Company, (Straw and Rogers) have brought the Nil battery at Ravenswood (perhaps means Raywood) and are arranging for its erection here. [35]

□ 1906□The New Nil Desperandum Company's shaft has been sunk to a depth of 456 feet; 17 men were employed. [36.126]

□ 1907□New Nil Desperandum Company: 976ozs 19dwt obtained from 2269 tons of stone. [37]

□ □New Nil Desperandum Company, at Raywood, has been crushing payable stone, and is now engaged in erecting a battery at the mine. [37.146]

□ 1908□New Nil Desperandum Company: 2599ozs 9dwt obtained from 7356 tons of stone and £2000 paid in dividends. The company had now obtained 3576ozs 8dwt from 9625 tons of stone. [37]

□ 1909□New Nil Desperandum Company: 1674ozs 15dwt obtained from

8138 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 5251ozs 3dwt from 17,763 tons of stone and paid £2000 in dividends. [37]

□ □The Nil Desperandum Company is getting the usual quantity of crushing matter, and a cross-cut is being driven at the bottom level. [37.137]

□ 1910□New Nil Desperandum Company: 2110ozs 12dwt obtained from 7452 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 7361ozs 16dwt from 25,215 tons of stone and paid £2000 in dividends. [37]

□ □The New Nil Desperandum Company obtained some good returns; the mine is wet and the ground hard. An air compressing plant is in course of construction. [37.134]

□ 1911□New Nil Desperandum Company: 1342ozs 7dwt obtained from 6650 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 8704ozs 12dwt from 31,865 tons of stone and paid £2000 in dividends. [37]

□□The New Nil Desperandum Company, at Raywood, is having returns recently, and the future prospects are favorable. [37.145]

□ 1912□New Nil Desperandum Company: 2181ozs 17dwt obtained from 7817 tons of stone and £1000 paid in dividends. The company had now obtained 11,381ozs 19dwt from 41,240 tons of stone and paid £3000 in dividends. [37]

□□The New Nil Desperandum Company, at Raywood, has been crushing during the whole of the year, and employing a fair number of men, and the returns, on the whole, have been payable. [37.121]

□ 1913□New Nil Desperandum Company: 1196ozs 7dwt obtained from 5763 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 13,578ozs 6dwt from 47,003 tons of stone and paid £3000 in dividends. [37]

□□At Raywood the New Nil Desperandum Company has been regularly engaged during the year. The reef being worked at 620 and 700 feet has been let to tributers, some of whom have been getting fair returns. In sinking the shaft below the 700 feet level a reef carrying gold was met with in the shaft, and arrangements will be made to open out for this reef, also the other reef previously worked from 700 feet upwards early in the year. [37.118]

□ 1914□New Nil Desperandum Company: 1731ozs 4dwt obtained from 6961 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 15,308ozs 10dwt from 53,964 tons of stone and paid £3000 in dividends. [37]

□□At Raywood, the New Nil Desperandum Company has been working regularly during the year, and crushing from the reef at the 346 feet, 701 feet, and 780 feet levels, with variable results. The tributers working at the various levels have at times had fair returns. [37.105]

□03.1915□The Bendigo Goldfield- Chances for Prospectors- Notable Features Described- There are many places worth trying in the large areas north of Eaglehawk, where rich stone has been mined. In the Whipstick and extending onwards to Raywood, Neilborough, Sebastian, Yarraberb, and Kamarooka, innumerable shafts denote former activity. In many instances gold was got in payable quantities, though the reefs for the most part have only been superficially prospected. In those days it was a common thing to cart the stone many miles to a battery, and over rough roads. At Neilborough, which was rich in alluvial deposits, the quartz reefs also yielded well. The work was done chiefly by co-operative parties, and was not carried on to any great depth. The Whipstick has always been regarded as an area of enormous wealth. Its alluviums have produced some splendid nuggets, and the quartz reefs in the locality, though lacking in uniformity of gold contents, have produced some sensational returns from the Old Tom mine over £20,000 worth of gold was got between the years 1868 and 1886. The deepest shaft on the ground at that time was 186 feet. An English company in later years spent a good sum of money, but the capital was chiefly absorbed in equipment and what may be termed progressive work.

As far back as 1860 work was commenced on the ground now comprised in the New Nil at Raywood. The company that first worked the ground won gold of the value of £50,000, and paid in dividends £16,000. The stone then became poor, and the mine was abandoned. In 1879 a new company commenced work, and for a time was very successful, getting nearly as much gold as the original

company, and paying little less in dividends. The formations work extended almost from the surface, and were operated down to a depth of 316 feet. The present company has extended the workings to 780 feet, and its record to the end of 1914 was - Tons crushed, 53,964; gold yield, 15,308oz 10dwt; average per ton, 6dwt, 3grains; dividends, £3000. [38]

□09.1915□Bendigo Mining Companies - Dividends, Calls and Scrip Values - The war census, which is now being taken, and the income tax schedules, which will shortly have to be filled in, impose on holders of mining scrip the responsibility of recording dividends received and the amount paid in calls, together with a statement of the value of scrip held. In order to assist the investing public in the compilation of the statistics we have compiled the records of the Bendigo mining companies. The following is the list of Bendigo mining companies:- Birds Reef, Carlisle, Casley Red, White and Blue; Catherine Reef United, Central Red, White and Blue; Clarence United, Collmann and Tacchi, Confidence Extended, Cornish United, Central Nell Gwynne, Constellation, East Virginia, Fortuna Hustler's, Garden Gully United, Golden Age, Golden Pyke, Goldfields Consolidated, Goldfields Extended, Goldfields North, Goldfields South, Great Extended Hustler's, Great Northern, Great Southern, Hercules and Energetic, Hustler's Consols, Hustler's Reef, Ironbark, Johnson's Reef, Koch's Pioneer, Manning's Central Blue, Murchison, Nell Gwynne, New Argus, New Chum Goldfields, New Golden Fleece, New Moon, New Moon United, New Moon Consolidated, New Nil, New Prince of Wales, New Red White and Blue, New Shenandoah, New St Mungo, North Bendigo, North Johnson's, North New Moon, Pearl, Princess Dagmar, Red White and Blue United, Sea, South New Moon, South Garden United, South Prince of Wales, Specimen Hill, Spring Gully, Suffolk United, Sheepshead, South Johnson's, Stafford Reef, The Langdon, Thistle Reef, United Ulster, United Devonshire, Unity, United and Redan, Virginia, Victoria Consols, Victoria and Pandora, Williams United, Windmill Hill, White Hills Gold Recovery. [39]

□ 1915□New Nil Desperandum Company: 1059ozs 8dwt obtained from 5028 tons of stone. The company had now obtained 16,367ozs 18dwt from 58,992 tons of stone and paid £3000 in dividends. [37]

□□The New Nil Desperandum Company has carried on active mining operations. The stone mined has been low grade, but richer stone may be met as the faces proceed. [37.52]

□ 1916□Raywood:- The Nil Desperandum is the only mine in which work was carried on during the year, and then it was mostly confined to tributaries, who obtained payable returns for some months. Towards the end of the year the tributaries' stone became poor, and the company temporarily suspended operations. [37.15]