

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

ELYSIAN LEAD I

Other Names Elysian Flat, Neilborough, Deep Sinkings

Location East of the township of Neilborough

Map Reference Raywood 1:25,000 - BV538.494

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description Shallow sinkings with mullock heaps between one and two metres in height spread across a width of about 100 metres and extending across Rayners Road in a north-north-westerly direction for over a kilometre. The heaps on the north side of the road are better formed and less disturbed than those on the south side. The heaps are well-rounded and weathered, but the workings remain well-defined.

History Period of activity: 1857-1904
Deepest shaft: 147 feet (at water level)

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples This site is probably the best of four deep alluvial workings identified within the study area. The other three sites are: Myers Creek (1852), Wilson's Reef (1867) and Elysian Lead II.

Statement of Significance The deep alluvial workings along the lead define the location of the first mining on the Neilborough gold field (criterion A).

Level of Significance Regional

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

Heritage Boundaries The Elysian Flat Mining Heritage Area is bounded on the south-west by Weaver Road, on the south-east by Aldridge Road, on the north-west by Rayners Road, on the north-east by Rayners Road and its extension along property boundaries for a distance of about 400 metres, then west and finally south to Elysian Flat Creek, south along the Creek to Rayners Road and then east to its junction with Weaver Road.

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Notes Elysian Flat is reported to have been so named by the original prospectors "from the floral beauty of the scene which presented itself to them as they first emerged upon it from the Whipstick".

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

Chronology 03.06.1857 I visited yesterday the new rush or what is commonly called Dead Man's Gully. It is situate in the scrub, about eight miles from the Whipstick Diggings, and is reached by going along the new line of road from Moorehead's

Reef for about five miles, and then diverging off the road into the bush to the right in an east by north direction, for about three miles. There are about 70 miners at work on the ground, and some of the claims are paying well, others are running from one and a half to 3dwts to the tub, while others are scarcely getting the colour. The sinking is shallow with pipe clay bottoms, and the diggings are on a water-worn track or gully, in the centre of a somewhat spacious flat, presenting slightly auriferous indications, and hemmed in on either side by an impenetrable scrub with outlets of open timber ground at either end. There is one small branch store on the ground, and as the road becomes better known, doubtless others will follow. There is no direct path or beaten track from the 5 mile post on the main road to where the diggers are at work, and in consequence some difficulty is presented to strangers and others in reaching the ground, and there is considerable danger to new chums or persons unacquainted with bush travelling in attempting it. It is said by some of the "knowing ones" and very generally believed that this rush is a mere "decoy bait" from the rich incognito diggings already chronicled and alluded to in former despatches. ...

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

[We beg to call the attention of our correspondent to the fact, that the gully designated by him "Dead Man's" has been named by the Resident Warden after its discoverer, Phillip's Gully, in order to distinguish it from another locality in the neighbourhood known as Dead Man's. Editor] [1]

□07.1857□The Whipstick Prospecting Association. By July 1857, many prospectors and residents of the Whipstick realised the necessity for combined effort to promote a more thorough search of the scrub for mining purposes. Little was heard concerning the Association until on 31 August 1857, a Bendigo newspaper The Courier of the Mines and Bendigo Daily Mail reported the Associations activities. " We are glad to find that the Whipstick party have lately succeeded in obtaining some assistance (to a very small extent, however) in the town, have set to work in earnest. Four men are at work under a manager". The committee are opening an entirely new country about 5 miles to the westward of the Flagstaff. The party have been at work only a week, but they have got two shafts down - one to the depth of 22 feet and the other 25 feet; neither of them yet bottomed ...The new ground now being opened up has been christened the Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser made no mention of operations on Elysian Flat until November 1857, when it announced, "A prospecting party consisting of Messrs. Ross, Mason, Jamieson, Smith and Glover, have struck gold in payable quantities close to the Deadman's Hut, on the other side of the Whipstick, near the road from Picaninny Creek to Myer's Flat. The results are about one ounce to the load. " By November, some dozen shafts were being sunk, and the greatest rush ever in the Whipstick had commenced. The Victorian Government made rewards available for the discovery of new and payable goldfields. On 15 June 1864, the sum of £350 was recommended as payments to discoverers of the Elysian Flat Goldfield. [2.38-41]

□10.1857□Whipstick ...In October 1857 a party consisting of P. G. Emmett, Eugene Ross, Alexander Lovell, Christopher D. Smith, Robert Jamieson and W T Glover, discovered a new gold field north of Flagstaff Hill in the Whipstick, which became known as Elysian Flat, which was surveyed soon after as Neilborough. This party applied for and were paid a reward of £350 by the Rewards Board in 1864. By May 1858 there were 5585 diggers working in the Whipstick. The bulk of these were at Elysian Flat, but soon after this lead was lost and not re-discovered until 1862. [3.247]

□09.11.1857□In Friday's issue notice was taken of the discovery of a new gold field the other side of the Whipstick. We are now in a position to give more

positive information on the subject. To find the site of the present rush, the road to the Flagstaff Hill must be taken. On arriving there, you proceed along the new road for nearly two miles and a half to an open flat, where dray tracks turn off to the right. You follow these tracks for three miles along the Box Forest, and at last you come upon the tents and the diggings. The gold obtained is rough and free from iron, and evidently very pure. There is an extent of ground sufficient to employ thousands; in fact it is equal to Epsom in extent.

The prospecting party, likewise mentioned on Friday, washed out about half an ounce to a bag of stuff. One shaft has been sunk 30 feet and driven about 25 feet and the washdirt yields about 10dwts to the load. Another shaft is being sunk on a line with the dip, which they expect to bottom tomorrow. Sutton and mate bottomed a shaft at the depth of 29 feet and came on the top of a reef with boulders of quartz weighing as much as a hundredweight, lying directly on the washdirt. They tested some of the dirt, and it yielded a pennyweight to the tub. There are about 10 or 12 holes going down; there is plenty of water. [4]

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

With one exception, all the stores in Scotchman's Gully, have been removed or are in course of removal to the new diggings, and the Camp Hotel is left alone in its glory. ... [5]

□19.11.1857□Some parties who returned from the new diggings last night, report in most favorable terms of the prospects of the diggers in that locality. A great many blanks were sunk last week. A large crowd of diggers surrounded the prospecting hole, and insisted upon two of their number being allowed to prospect it. Their request was acceded to and the average of several dishfuls washed therefrom was 1dwt. Renewed energy resulted and the direction of the sinking was slightly altered, with what success may be judged by the fact that nearly all the holes which have been bottomed this week have paid moderately well. The population yesterday exceeded a thousand, and the enthusiasm of some of the diggers may be estimated by their working day and night. [6]

□20.11.1857□Rush Oh! The Whipstick is once more the cry and scores of swagged diggers and stores, and storekeepers ad infinitum may be seen at this moment thronging the road to Elysian Flat, the new Whipstick diggings. When I wrote my despatch of last week there were not more than a score of diggers on the ground, including the prospectors, and on visiting the ground yesterday (Thursday) I find a population of not less than 500 men, exclusive of women and children, tents and stores going up, claims marking off, newcomers arriving in quick succession, and all the usual bustle and confusion of a new rush. The information contained in one or two recent issues of the Advertiser is substantially correct, with one exception, namely, in describing the route to the new diggings, instead of turning off the main road (from Moorehead's Reef) to the right, as stated in one of the paragraphs alluded to, the turn off should be to the left. By turning off to the right you would go in the direction of Phillip's Gully, whereas Elysian Flat lies precisely the opposite direction. There is no difficulty, however, in finding the ground, a well beaten dray track runs close to the digger's tents. ...

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

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

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

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

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

If one or two sets of the Epsom Long Toms could be conveniently spared from that locality they would not only be a great convenience to the miners of Elysian Flat but, at the same time, remunerate the proprietors as well for the cost of drainage and hire. [7]

□25.11.1857□The latest intelligence from the Whipstick is that the holes which have been bottomed in an easterly direction from the prospectors' shaft are doing well. A north easterly line has also been adopted and out of numerous holes being sunk, our informant states that 9dwt was the yield from 11 buckets which he saw washed. The extension of the rush is easterly, with a nearly equal determination to the north east. A few parties are trying to the south west, but the sinking is particularly hard - a conglomerate ironstone cement to a depth of 7 feet - but none have been bottomed. Population is said to be 1500. [8]

□26.11.1857□We are given to understand by a gentleman who visited the new diggings at the flat yesterday, that the ground is being worked for a quarter of a mile in length in the direction of the Whipstick. The line of diggings is about eight claims in width and the claims yield from one to 5ozs to the load. Several claims are spoken of as averaging one ounce and a half to the load. [9]

□01.12.1857□The Elysian Flat rush is rapidly assuming all the dimensions and mammoth proportions of a first class rush, and may be fairly pronounced the greatest rush that has ever taken place at the Whipstick. There are men daily arriving and pitching their tents from every part of Bendigo. [10]

□09.12.1857□The Elysian Flat rush is still the attraction and although the influx of population is not so great as it was 10 days ago, still new arrivals continue to pour in daily on considerable numbers, and the cut-up state of the road the whole distance from Sandhurst to Elysian Flat, but especially on the Whipstick new line of road from Moorehead's Reef, is significant enough. This road is, in some places 9 and 12 inches deep in sand and road dust, and, in the event of rain, will be in a pretty mess. ...

On Tuesday one or two holes in the vicinity of the prospecting claims hit upon it "pretty snug", none of the washdirt averaging less than a pennyweight to the tub,

with from 2 to 4 feet of washdirt is not uncommon in many of the claims. On the other hand there are scores of blanks. [11]

□10.12.1857□From a recent visitor to the Elysian Flat diggings in the Whipstick, we learn that things are going on much the same as by our last report. ... New diggings have been discovered about 2½ to 3 miles further on, to the north-west, and a large number have left for them. Rumour speaks very highly of its richness. [12]

□14.12.1857□We hear from several reliable sources, that gold in remunerative quantities is being procured at these diggings. ... one storekeeper in this township has informed us that for the last three weeks his average receipts of gold from Elysian Flat have been upwards of 100ozs per week. A party of Maoris, it is well known, got from 17 to 20ozs from three loads of washdirt. Water is acknowledged to be scarce on the ground. Numbers are piling their stuff, which is indicative of some belief on their part of its being remunerative. [13]

□15.12.1857□A correspondent who returned from Elysian Flat last evening states that more persons are leaving that locality than are arriving, a state of things owing solely, in his opinion, to the scarcity of water. ... Our correspondent expresses himself as entirely concurring with the substance of the intelligence from Elysian Flat which appeared in our columns yesterday, and states that the successful parties are not confined to Maoris, but that Cornishmen, Epsomites and others have been equally lucky. ... Last week some rich looking cement, equal to the best samples from Epsom, was discovered, and there can be but little doubt that the more extensively this large field is worked, the better satisfied will the diggers be with their returns. ... Yesterday afternoon we inspected a large parcel of gold brought in for sale from Elysian Flat. [14]

□1857-1902□Greatest rush in the Whipstick was to Elysian Flat in November 1857. It was rich nugget country and from 1858 to 1904, 21 nuggets ranging from 22 to 240ozs were recovered. 16 of this number were found during 1858, the boom year at Elysian Flat. [2.172]

□1857-1902□Elysian Flat Goldfield: The lead on this flat was to prove a lengthy one, and where mining first commenced, the shafts were down from 20 to 40 feet. As the lead was traced in a north-westerly direction the sinking increased, finally reaching depths of 100 to 120 feet, forming a deep lead. The lead was also followed south where it gradually shallowed, trailing off into the scrub where it was known as the Shallow Diggings. Eventually the bed of this ancient, buried stream was followed along its tortuous path for over 3 miles. . . A visitor to the new rush in mid-November 1857, estimated the population at no less than 600. He observed that with one exception all the stores on the Whipstick Diggings had been moved or were in the process of removal to Elysian Flat . . .Towards the close of November the population had risen to 1500, some 700 of them miners . . .Many miners were coming from Sandhurst and Epsom. The Epsom diggers were renowned for their skill in sinking deep shafts in alluvial ground. Each day, newcomers arrived at Elysian Flat, but because of water shortage, many also left. Washdirt had to be carted to a creek three quarters of a mile to be treated, the cartage costing 15 shillings per load.

During December .. down on the flat were between 50 and 60 stores. They had formed a street some 120 yards long. .Many miners were now bringing their families. As the first month of 1858 came to a close, the population on the diggings was estimated at 2000. The first hotel was under construction. Sometimes the run of the lead was lost, only to be found again by some miner who chanced to sink in the right place. Early mining on Elysian Flat became a series of minor rushes. The first school at Elysian Flat was opened on 26 April 1858.

By the close of 1858 the Elysian Flat Rush was past its peak, the population considerably reduced, to dwindle further over the years.

Series of rushes: Worked out by July 1858, known as The Shallow Rush. [2.38-41]□

□29.01.1858□The brilliant prospects held out by the new goldfield promises to far exceed everything which has been written and hitherto foretold of it; and the impression exists very generally that the ensuing winter will see a rival

population here to Ararat itself. [15]

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

Drinking water is selling at Elysian Flat at 8 shillings a cask. ... [16]

□17.02.1858□Sir, I have seen and handled a nugget of gold from Elysian Flat last evening, which was obtained from a hole, wherein several persons had previously worked, about 30 feet deep, sinking very hard. The said nugget was obtained by a party who drove but a few inches. The nugget was about the length of my hand, and has been sold for about £155. [17]

□20.02.1858□A new rush to the northwards of Hyde and Carter's store took place here a few days ago, which shows every prospect of turning out well. The claim sunk here lately by the prospecting party at the desire of the miners, was examined by an experienced miner from the White Hills, who pronounced it to be a first rate claim. Several pans of washing stuff were tried, from which a fair prospect was obtained. About 250 claims are in course of sinking, the results of which will be known in most cases in a few days. The average depth is expected to run about 40 feet the sinking for the most part is easy, though in a few instances a layer of cement, of the thickness of 6 feet, has to be gone through. [18]

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

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

The Chinese, it would appear, purpose mustering strong at Elysian Flat during the ensuing winter. [19]

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

Elysian Flat is now an established goldfield of almost boundless dimensions. [20]

□20.03.1858□Thousands of loads of piled up washed dirt now await the final process here. ... [21]

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

The long looked-for rain has at length descended. ... [22]

□29.03.1858□The rain of Wednesday last is the first of the Autumnal rains of the season. ... Hundreds of diggers and scores of drays laden with swags and all the paraphernalia of pick-and-shovel men have, since Thursday, been wending their way Elysian-wards. ...[23]

□01.04.1858□I started yesterday morning in light marching order on a pedestrian excursion to our new El Dorado in the Whipstick. I took the old fashioned, and, in my opinion, all things considered, the best road - through

ironbark, Long Gully, Eaglehawk and by the head of Sailor's Gully. ... by the time I had picked my way across the Long Gully gridiron, I was, despite the beauty of the morning, in a state of such feverish indignation (over the state of the Marong road) that it was not until I had found Beelzebub that I had begun to recover my equanimity. Further on in one of those patches of digging unnamed (like the county) which lie perdu in all directions in the country between Sailor's Gully and the Whipstick, I was agreeably surprised by the vision of a fair saint of a female hatter, armed with pick and shovel, and digging, as Sam Weller would say, like "winking". ...

From the Sandhurst post office through the now all but deserted Scotchman's Gully, to dear Mrs. Deening's Camp Hotel, in three hours, is no bad walking on a tolerably warm day, and on arriving at that excellent house, a man may be fairly considered to have earned his beer. I though so, at all events, and I took mine ease at mine inn for a quarter of an hour, not unprofitably spent in that cool, spacious, comfortable English looking parlor, decorated with many a quaint engraving of the time of George the Fourth, with short-waisted beauties and gentlemen with high coat collars, and much neckcloth, and great specimens of pastorals in worsted work, perplexing the mind with woolly doubts as to which is the sheep and which the shepherdess. This pleasant parlour has books also, a history of Derbyshire, in quarto, and a dignified folio in the window, which should be a baker's chronicle, but isn't. One cannot help admiring the enterprise, the prescience, and the faith of the good lady (generally known as the Queen of the Whipstick); who so long ago as 12 months ago, brought her household gods into this new country. ...

From the Flagstaff Hill the smoke of the fires at Elysian Flat is distinctly visible, at a distance, as the crow flies, of about four miles. The present track is, however, considerably longer. It follows the road cut last year for about a mile, and then turns sharp off to the left. There are no features of interest about the intervening space, except that it may be noted that the country falls gradually but regularly towards the north and west. ... The track does not, however, in any part approach the once-dreaded, impervious, matted Whipstick thickets. About four miles from the Flagstaff Hill a track again strikes off to the left of the main road, and leads to the shallow diggings lately opened. Here is a busy and a thriving population of at least 500 souls. At first I thought that I had arrived at the deep sinkings, for almost every shaft has a windlass, and around the mouths of many of the shafts are mounds of headings in height and size almost worthy of Epsom. The sinking, however, is only about 5 feet deep, and the driving is under the wash stuff, briefly through a stratum of reddish sandy pipeclay. It may be reasonably doubted whether the true bottom has been reached in these workings; be that at it may, these shallow diggings are on the average paying well. The gold is very bright and clear, even and shotty, and the dirt washes high up, yielding from a pennyweight and a half to 2 pennyweights per tub; indeed if water were abundant, the ground would pay handsomely to wash from top to bottom. I saw many "old familiar faces" at these shallow diggings, and found all in good spirits and satisfied with the ground, but all more or less anxious about water; but about this more by and by. These diggings at present follow the course of what may be called a scarcely discernible gully, but really on this side of the Whipstick the surface characteristics are so indistinct and undefined that one is at a loss to conceive what kind of instinct it was which had led to the opening up of these shallow workings. ... Grog is plentiful, of course, though water is not. [24]

□02.04.1858□From the shallow diggings to the Elysian Flat is about a mile - the ground still gradually descending; and here is a self-formed township, which is fast assuming a substantial and permanent appearance. Here blacksmiths abound, and the pleasant music of the anvil rings out incessantly, and tells of busy times. Here are no end of butchers - a bakery, a chemist, and a "legally-authorized", under the well-known firm of Drs Boyd and Dow, who have erected a spacious and well-built dispensary. Here are long lines of excellent stores, with many of the good old Bendigo names over the doors; and here are two hotels - the inevitable Shamrock, and the new sign, a la mode, the Sir Henry Barkly. Behind, and beside the main street, ...here and there rise the shafts of

the deep sinkings, like Epsom of old. From this point the diggings extend for two miles at the least. At that distance heavy gold was found on Monday, and some hundreds of claims were consequently marked out further ahead on Tuesday. Although where a hole strikes, marking is certain to go on ahead, it does not appear that anything like a lead exists here, or has been traced at present. The gold seems to be generally distributed right and left, and in all directions for miles, and although every claim cannot, in the nature of things, be equally rich there can be no doubt that the great majority will pay handsomely. But little progress has yet been made in the washing of the large accumulations of washing-stuff; indeed the owners of some of the best claims have not at present commenced washing at all. A good many towns are, however, at work, and the first installment of the Elysian deep sinkings may be looked for in the gold offices in the course of another week. I was shown some capital samples in the hands of miners, from 6 to 12 ounces; but I did not learn that any more large nuggets had come to light. The general expectation seemed to be, that the washing up would average at least 2 ounces to the load; and that the aggregate quantity would be very large, indeed. I was told by parties resident on the spot, that after the last rain many of the heaps of wash dirt were literally blazing with gold in the regular "jeweller's shop" style.

As to the extent of the new field it is almost illimitable. ... I was informed by our well-known townsman, Mr James Iron, who has a party working on the shallow diggings, and who is ever in the van of mining enterprise, that he had ridden out the day of my visit 15 miles north of the present workings, and found the same surface characteristics, and the same auriferous indications everywhere existing. It would thus appear that the Whipstick Ranges are but the edge of a great basin lying to the north and west, and that as the diggings approach the Plains deeper sinkings and richer deposits will be discovered, with every reasonable prospect of a succession of shallow diggings being struck along the edge of the scrub all trending to a deep basin beyond. A new city, and a new and vast population will soon take the place of what has been so long the wilderness of the district. The present population at the deep sinking is about 3000 and large arrivals are daily pouring in. That there is gold, and abundance of gold, sufficient to support twice the present population of the Bendigo, is no longer a matter of doubt, the one great want is water. [25]

□06.04.1858□Almost every second man you meet is bound for Elysian Flat. ... Since the discovery of the leviathan 71-pounder everybody is on the qui vive in the vicinity of deserted holes, and during the past week a good deal of rummaging and fossicking has been going on among the deserted holes. ... P.S. The following memorandum from an Elysian Flat mining acquaintance with regard to the large 71 pound nugget of the preceding week was left in with me a short time subsequent to my leaving made up and forwarded last week's report. ... I saw a nugget 71 pounds 10ozs on Elysian Flat, yesterday. It was sold to Mr Mann, of Sailor's Gully, for £3 16 shillings per ounce, got out of a hole abandoned by two different parties. Half a foot driving brought it out. [26]

□12.04.1858□The accounts from these diggings still continue encouraging. Gold is daily brought into the market from this locality; a piece, weighing 12ozs 12dwt was sold to Mr. Bannerman on Friday, which was procured in the deep sinking on Elysian Flat by a party who stated that he had been three months on this field previously without getting any gold.

Another nugget. A fortunate miner brought in, and sold to the Bank of New South Wales, a nugget of 20ozs, which was got in an old hole, the precise locality of which the lucky finder declined to disclose. [27]

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

There have been some very good finds in the shallow sinking this week, one party having nuggetted out as much as 4ozs; while another lucky individual fell across a piece weighing 2½ozs. The storekeepers of the district tell me that they buy a great quantity of gold, so that there can be no doubt but that some are doing a rare good stroke. Meanwhile, refreshment tents, bakeries, butcheries and casinos are springing up on every hand. ... [28]

□23.04.1858□The continued absence of rain has had a very sensible effect on

the incoming population of the past week, while many are obliged to leave from the same cause, and a general stagnation of washing operations as the result of the long drought. ... The new ground lying between the deep and shallow sinkings is now occupying attention, and a considerable number of holes are going down, and in all probability the deep and shallow sinking will be united. The sinking in this new ground is from 16 to 30 feet, and some good prospects are said to have come off several of the holes now bottomed. Those who are disappointed with the shallow sinking usually set in here. ...In some of my former reports I alluded to the feasibility of the Black Horse Flat turning out a rich goldfield, especially that portion stretching from Adelaide Hill to the Wallace Reef, and thence on to Sydney Flat. When all this country is connected with the Elysian Flat goldfield, which it is not improbably it will be in time, this will be another large slice to Bendigo, of a value impossible to estimate. ... The weather still threatens rain, which cannot come too soon. [29]

□26.04.1858□A very important meeting, as will be seen by a report in another column, was held on Thursday last at Elysian Flat, for the purpose of taking into consideration the best means for supplying the gold field with water. Two schemes were laid before the meeting, both of which it was considered advisable to entertain; and committees were appointed to inquire into their practicability. The first proposed by Mr Benson ... to raise £4000 in 80 shares of £5 each, which amount he considers sufficient for the excavation of two reservoirs, and the sinking of two shafts for wells, on various parts of the field. ... The second plan, which it appears has been suggested by Mr Duncan, was laid before the meeting by Dr Wall. It proposes to conduct a continuous supply from the Loddon River to the Elysian, by means of a race. [30]

□26.04.1858□Supply of water for the Whipstick. A meeting on the above subject was held at the Shamrock on Saturday evening. The attendance was large. ... Mr Benson addressed the meeting on the subject, pointing out the urgent necessity of some measures being carried out at once, and offering some suggestions as to doing so by means of deep shafts and reservoirs. The suggestion was well received. [31]

□27.04.1858□... so far as the incoming population to Elysian Flat is concerned this week, a decided increase over that of last week is perceptible, ... The worst that can be said of Elysian Flat at the present time is, that water is scarce, for every prospect of a speedy supply. Nugget from Elysian.

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

□30.04.1858□A deputation from Elysian Flat, Bendigo, were on Tuesday honoured with an interview with Captain Pasley, in the absence of the President of the Board of Land and Works. ... The Age. [33]

□01.05.1858□Notwithstanding the late heavy fall of rain, the miners at Elysian Flat are, as we understand, very little better off, as regards a supply of water. ... [34]

□05.1858□Elysian Flat seems to be a sort of 'plutonic region' as it were, at least so far as retaining water is concerned. [149]

□31.05.1858□We hear that several parties are doing pretty well at the shallow sinking, about a mile and a half this side of the Whipstick, and near the deep sinking. One party of three took out an 8ozs nugget, and it was rumoured that another party had got a nugget weighing 40ozs. Great complaints have been made for the want of water; but some very heavy showers of rain which fell there on Saturday last - much heavier than we had it here - will give them a supply for some little time. [35]

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

There is little or nothing of importance to communicate in the mining intelligence of this district this week. At Elysian Flat all goes "merry as a marriage bell" with

the single exception of water, which is again getting scarce; while at the Old Whipstick and surrounding gullies a considerable number of newcomers have set in during the week, and all the old hands and Chinese still hold on here. At the water supply meeting at Elysian Flat, on Thursday last, a considerable difference of opinion existed with regard to the respective merits of Mr Benson's proposal of sinking deep shafts for water supply, and the "reservoir" plan ... although Mr Benson proposes a very likely locality to sink in for underwater, viz The "Dead Man's Gully", yet it is doubtful whether he would succeed in striking water in sufficient volume to supply the district; besides there is the expense of raising the water and conveying it to the diggings. ... [36]

□01.06.1858□Meeting of the Whipstick and Elysian Flat Water Company to consider implementing Mr Benson's proposals. [37]

□14.06.1858□The great scarcity of water, which for a considerable time past has existed, is being more severely felt every day, so much so, indeed, as to cause a very considerable number of diggers to leave here for Bendigo and elsewhere, it may be to return again under other and more favourable circumstances. Notwithstanding, however, this very serious drawback to the satisfactory working of this goldfield, a large population numbering at a rough computation, perhaps, from 1500 to 2000, still remains, determined, it would seem, to give it a fair trial which it has certainly not received as yet. ... [38]

□02.07.1858□30 June 1858. Another large nugget weighing about 4 pounds was reported yesterday evening to have been taken out of a hole in the deep sinkings behind the stores of Messrs Clarke and Bensted, situate in the main street. [39]

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

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

Another nugget, weighing nearly 6ozs was picked up off the surface by a digger, forming one of the prospecting party at no great distance from the ground on which the last rush took place, in the scrub at the end of the original shallow sinkings, which caused some little excitement and a considerable rush to the spot. [40]

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

Another rush within the last few days has taken place on ground branching off to the right from the centre of the deep sinking, directly opposite the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, of which report speak favourably. About 50 shafts have been sunk 30 feet. It has been stated that the yields here on the average, are quarter of an ounce to the load. [41]

□22.07.1858□At Elysian Flat matters are decidedly in the ascendant. "Deaf Harry" (of Whipstick notoriety) and party, in all three persons, succeeded in bottoming right on a patch some time ago, that washed up to the tune of £200 sterling, and as that has been all nearly knocked down, by dint of John Barleycorn, the alluvial bank is now being literally drawn upon, and promises to stand a run, if not a rush. The claim wherein this jolly fine bank is situated is in the deep sinking, not a hundred miles off the original prospector's claims.

Without taking baker and butchers, bread and beef statistics as a standard, the

total population of the Elysian Flat district alone cannot be estimated under 2000 souls. ...

The rains of Wednesday and Thursday last still keep up the supply of water at the Old Whipstick, but at Elysian Flat it is scarce enough. ... [42]

□17.08.1858□A piece of good fortune has lately fallen to a previously unlucky party of diggers in the shape of a 22ozs 15dwt nugget, besides several smaller ones, in all about 30ozs out of six loads of dirt. This good fortune was met with by going into an old deserted hole, at the back of the Union Store, Elysian Flat. The parcel was purchased by Messrs Schlemm and Company, in Pall Mall. The large nugget is a fine clear piece of gold, well water-worn. [43]

□26.08.1858□At Elysian Flat everything goes on as briskly as usual in the mining way, although there is a general complaint of dullness among the smaller class of retail storekeepers; a fact not very surprising when it is taken into consideration that their number is legion. ... [44]

□08.1858□During August 1858, a survey was commenced for the site of the township of Elysian Flat. The township was to be on rising ground a short distance west of the Elysian Flat Creek. ...The town site was gazetted the township of Neilborough on 3 August 1860. In 1865 Neilborough was included in the Borough of Raywood at its formation. The Borough of Raywood eventually amalgamated with the Shire of Marong in 1915. [2.38-41]

□04.09.1858□There has been a rush to Cay's station on the Loddon, and numbers have left Elysian Flat and the Whipstick for the new point of attraction, which is upwards of 30 miles off. ...

The diggers are opening up the main street at Elysian Flat, The sinking is about 40 feet. One party has struck payable stuff, and considerable hopes are entertained that the lead will be found. [45]

□10.09.1858□At the outside or south-westerly extremity of the deep sinking, some good patches have been struck this week, at 30 feet sinking, and washdirt has been taken out of one hole that will run from three quarters to two ounces to the load, while some of the dish prospects of the other holes just bottomed promise still better. [46]

□11.09.1858□The diggings on the main road are still being prosecuted with vigour. At the depth of 22 feet a layer of cement is found so hard that it is necessary to blast it. Some of the claims are paying pretty well, and in one case, we believe, 4ozs to the load has been washed out, though $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs is the usual run. [47]

□16.09.1858□The deep sinking still continues to maintain its ground, and some of the pilot holes or outsiders at the extreme end of the deep sinking alluded to in my last, are being worked with a will and a way. The 35ozs of gold, among which was a 20ozs nugget, reported to have been taken out of a hole at the back of the ore, some two or three weeks ago, is said to have come out of a hole much lower down, and at that time a pilot hole or outsider. Gold, however, and heavy gold, too, has been taken up out of more than one claim in the vicinity of the Union Store, which claims still continue to be worked with vigour. ... [48]

□29.10.1858□Large numbers of diggers and drays loaded with digging and tent paraphernalia have been leaving Elysian Flat during the whole of the past week for Epsom, and a bit of a new rush has been going on for the last ten days at Fiddler's Green and Red Jacket, and in consequence things are looking unusually flat here, especially in the shallow sinking, which is all but depopulated. ... [49]

□03.11.1858□The dry weather has driven away a large number of miners and several storekeepers from Elysian Flat during the past week. ... The mining intelligence of Elysian Flat is exceedingly meagre this week, and may be summed up in a few words. The ground alluded to in my last in the vicinity of the Union Store and Sir Henry Barkly Hotel has attracted a considerable number of miners, some of whom are taking down new holes, while others are jumping into old deserted holes and driving them, but as yet with no definite results. The puddlers are fairly "dried up". ... [50]

□08.11.1858□The court house at this place is now finished and fit for use. It is built of wood, painted etc, the internal fittings are of cedar. ... The population is gradually diminishing. ... [51]

□22.12.1858□... At the present time there may be, in round numbers, about 400 men digging at Elysian Flat, including those at the Shallow Rush; although from the number of tents which meet the view on looking around the Flat one would be led to suppose that the population was much more numerous, but the majority of the tents and a great number of the stores are untenanted. Within the last four months the decrease in population has been very great, more than three quarters of those there in August last have betaken themselves to other diggings. ... The Shallow Rush is almost deserted, and the very few who remain there are barely getting remunerative wages. Of those who are at work on the Flat about one half probably may be getting fair wages, while the others are earning just enough to maintain themselves. Here and there a party may come on a lucky patch, as has been the case since the commencement of these diggings. [52]

□23.12.1858□These diggings at present offer a very encouraging spectacle, in consequence of the very opportune supply of water by the late rains. The population is about 1500, according to the veteran "Benson" who is an authority in all matters Elysian, and appears to be on the increase. ... A number of Chinese, apparently about 200, located themselves on the field yesterday at the lower end of the deep sinking. ... [53]

□28.12.1858□Mining matters are almost in statu quo at Elysian Flat. ... [54]

Early in 1859 the population of Elysian Flat declined. Occasionally there were minor rushes to various parts of the

Flat, but most alluvial mining was confined to the lower end of the flat in deep sinking The last mining on the deep lead was in 1902, where Morshead's shaft reached a depth of 121 feet. This was the deepest shaft on the Elysian Flat alluvial, and Morshead's mine was called the Ram's Horn. [2.42-62]

□24.02.1859□The population at Elysian Flat has lately fallen off very considerably, but still many persons who know the field well are of opinion that it will yet become a prosperous and populous district. [55]

□04.03.1859□We are informed that a considerable rush has taken place at the Elysian Flat, a number of persons left Sandhurst yesterday. The rush is at the deep sinkings, averaging about 13 feet, the sinking is very hard, a majority of the holes already bottomed show encouraging prospects. [56]

□28.03.1859□At Elysian Flat and the Whipstick the population has for a long time been decreasing, and is at present very small. This is chiefly owing to the general want of water, and the difficulty of tracing the leads. At the former place the quartz workings are being carried on with very tolerable success. [57]

□22.04.1859□In the old alluvial workings M'Lachlan and Hardy have discovered gold in their shaft, opposite the Barkly Hotel in a layer of gravel 3 feet above the bottom, from which gold was before taken. We are informed that they have nuggetted out from 15 to 20dwt a day. A shaft has lately been bottomed at the end of the old lead with very satisfactory results. It is on the same line with the shafts belonging to Scott and Whipstick Bob. [58]

□28.04.1859□... The rush opposite the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel is still going ahead, several claims having struck the lead during the week with very good prospects. In some of them as much as half to three quarters of an ounce a day has been nuggetted. ... On the main lead several shafts are going down, but have not yet been bottomed. [59]

□30.05.1859□This place, once the scene of general activity, and residence of many thousands, through the want of water during the summer, and the alluring attraction of Daisy Hill, is now reduced to a few hundreds. ... The two leads of quartz reefs are taken up for a great distance; many claims are registered, and others rapidly going down. The prospecting shaft is producing some splendid stone, in fact after a shower of rain the gold sparkles therein as numerous as the stars in the firmament. 21 buckets of stuff upon being crushed produced 17ozs of gold, thus proving that quartz reefs are to be found on flats as well as on ranges. The stone from this shaft is very peculiar, and more resembles solid blocks of beautiful marble than quartz. A machine and engine of 12 horsepower, are being erected here. ... [60]

□02.07.1859□The late rains on these diggings have flooded some few of the old claims situated on the best ground, as well as some of the quartz reef shafts

which registers are just expired, which are now entirely useless, being filled with water. A new shaft belonging to Attwood and Company is completely filled with water. The prospectors on the same reef - the Sir Henry Barkly - are still drawing good stone to the tune of 5 or 6 ounces per ton. Moore's party, the prospectors on the Masonic Reef, have just seen gold this week, and already Mr M'Phail, proprietor of the crushing machine, has a shaft going down. The crushing machine will be in working order at the end of the week. It is rumoured that the crushing price is to be £1 one shilling. [61]

□11.07.1859□Go ahead Elysian Flat ! I had the pleasure on Saturday last of handling some nice stone taken from Stringer's Reef on the shallow diggings. There is also a quartz shaft going down on the old road from the Camp Hotel to this place, and one of the party, Mr Grierson, informed me that gold has been seen in the casing. There is also a shaft down 100 feet, and now being driven on, on the hill near the Police Camp. There are seven different reefs now being prospected on the Flat. A small rush took place last week behind the Essex Bakery, but it now has the appearance of a shicer. The miners here are about to form themselves into prospecting parties in order to find the continuation of the old lead, and also to prospect the flat near where Goodfellow's dairy used to be. ... [62]

11.□08.1859□A correspondent send us the following report:-

Good again. The Messrs Oats and Company, proprietors of a prospecting claim on the Sir Henry Barkly Reef, crushed at Mr M'Phail's machine, 100 tons of quartz, which to their agreeable surprise, realized 365ozs of the precious metal. The following particulars are from another correspondent:-

The alluvial diggings here at present appear almost deserted, there being very few payable claims. Nearly all the miners that can afford the outlay are turning their attention to quartz mining. ... [63]

□20.08.1859□Yesterday Messrs Hay and Bell were granted 150 yards on this reef (Nuggett Reef) at Elysian Flat, which they have prospected for some time. At a depth of 75 feet they have struck the reef, which is about 8 feet thick, and if the value of the stone is to be estimated by the specimens yesterday brought to our office by the lucky prospectors, the reef is likely to turn out one of the best in the district. The reefs runs in a parallel direction to the Sir Henry Barkly Reef, and is situated a few hundred yards near the township. Various other reefs are being prospected for by parties on the Flat, and it is hoped that their discovery may save to restore this place to something like its wanted briskness. [64]

□08.1859□Elysian Flat Division (Michael Ryan). The population is as follows:

□□European□Chinese

□Alluvial miners□ 810□480

□Quartz miners□1,184

□□1,994□480

The machinery is as follows:

Alluvial mining: Steam-engines employed in winding, pumping, puddling, etc, 1-12 horsepower; horse puddling machines, 240; whims, 13.

Quartz mining: Steam engines employed in winding, pumping, and crushing etc, 19-290 horsepower.

Approximate value of all plant in the Division is £56,580.

My division comprises Sandhurst and Elysian Flat. The latter portion is about 16 miles distant from Sandhurst.. Up to the present time it has not been well prospected, although an area of about six square miles has been partially worked. Latterly, individual mining has become unremunerative, and most of the miners have abandoned their claims. There are, however, four application for leases, and a very general opinion exists, that the reefs would richly repay a judicious application of capital. [65]

□17.09.1859□The Elysian Flat not worked out yet. [66]

□10.11.1859□A rush, which if one can judge from present appearances, is likely once more to revive the fast drooping resources of Elysian Flat, has taken place within the last day or two on the Flat, to the eastward of Mendors Elysian Flat Hotel. ... [67]

□11.11.1859□Once more we have hit on the gold, and the consequence is a rush of some importance. The ground is a little to the east of where the Barkly

Hotel formerly stood, and near to a block of land recently surveyed for a company. The gold was found by a party prospecting for the Barkly Reef. They washed the bottom, and got between 2 and 3ozs. The washdirt is, I believe, about 3 feet thick, and is supposed by some to yield as high as 6ozs to the ton, while there are others who estimate its yield at much more moderate figures. ... It is notorious that the flat has not been half prospected. A narrow gutter has, indeed, been followed through the middle of the flat, but the rest of the ground is entirely new. ... The reefs here run through the flat. The workings commenced at each end, and are gradually approaching each other. ... [68]

□11.1859□2580 miners at work within the Elysian Flat division. [65.12]

□12.1859□2474 miners at work within the Elysian Flat division. [65.11]

□12.1859□Elysian Flat: Up to the present time it has not been well prospected, although an area of about six square miles has been partially worked. Latterly individual mining has become unremunerative, and most of the miners have abandoned their claims. There are, however, four applications for leases, and a very general opinion exists, that the reefs would richly repay a judicious application of capital. [65.11]

03.1860□I regret much to have to state that the alluvial workings at the Elysian Flat hold out very poor prospects at present. Most of the inhabitants have left the place, and it is almost deserted. Perhaps now that the autumnal rains have commenced, better success may attend those still working there. Water has been very scarce in that district, as the country is flat. The great part of the quartz claims are also left unworked. [69.66-67]

□14.05.1860□In these days of the scarcity of alluvial gold, nuggets of a size which in former times would only have been termed coarse gold, are now looked on as a great windfalls. On Saturday Mr Bannerman exhibited two splendid nuggets, weighing respectively 4ozs 18dwt and 4ozs 5dwt; the former found by some Chinamen at Elysian Flat, the latter by a miner in Pennyweight Gully, Pegleg. [70]

□05.1860□McPhail, Elysian Flat: 12 head battery driven by a 10 horsepower engine. [69.116-118]

□06.1860□The Elysian Flat district is now nearly abandoned, although my impression is that both payable reefs and good alluvial ground will yet be found in that neighbourhood. Within the last week auriferous quartz has, in two instances, been picked upon the surface at a short distance from the township of Neilborough. [69.147-149]

□09.1860□One new crushing machine of 6 horsepower has been lately put up on the Wallace Reef and is now at work, but the one at the Elysian Flat has stopped work. [69.258]

□12.1860□I have the honour to submit to the Board of Science the foregoing statement as required by the circular of the 1st December. As I am not certain whether it is the area of the ground that is being worked at the present time, or the area of all the ground that has been worked (together with the former) that is required by the circular above mentioned, I have, as far as practicable, forwarded the superficial contents of the whole worked part of the division. It will be observed that I have added to the ascertained number of square miles of surveyed land an approximate estimate of the area of unsurveyed land, which I should say amount to about one mile more. This unsurveyed ground comprises mostly the ground now in possession of the miner, all the gullies lying between Eaglehawk Gully and Sydney Flat, the extensive workings about the township of Neilborough of the Elysian Flat, and the various gullies of the Whipstick Scrub; some of the latter are becoming very important and ought to be laid down on the district map. ... The workings in and about the Whipstick Scrub are extending rapidly, and I am told would be remunerative if water could be retained near them: but owing to the density of the scrub, and the want of means for collecting, the miner may be said to have no water at all. However, as lately many small nuggets have been found, these gullies may be said to be progressing favourably, notwithstanding the difficulties under which the miners labour. The augmentation of the number of puddling mills during the month of November, is due to the good opinion entertained of this locality by the miners. [71.362]

□07.1861□The new rush beyond the township of Neilborough has not yet been extended, but a prospecting claim has been taken up, but nothing worth reporting has been the result. The prospectors, however, are still working it, and have still great hopes of success. [69.268-269]

□16.11.1861□... In our Ultima Thule of the Bendigo goldfield, there have been of late many troublesome scenes, requiring the presence of the Warden to lay oil on the disturbed waters, and the miners are not slow in following up such signs. Several parties have left Epsom and Huntly, and are now at work in taking out cement, which the new firm of Parkin, Lindsay and Company, who are working M'Phail's machine, give every facility for crushing by greatly reduced charges. Men are actively at work prospecting the search for the lost lead below the township of Neilborough, with every prospect of success. [72]

□11.1861□The Elysian Flat miners, few as they are, are making fresh efforts to work the reefs in that neighbourhood. One crushing machine is now being constantly employed. [71.491-492]

□02.1862□It is rumoured that the alluvial lead at the Elysian Flat, which was lost about four years ago, has been re-discovered. [59.5]

□19.01.1863□The late timorous rain has had the effect of cheering the drooping spirits of the miners of this locality who have for some time been suffering severely from want of water, and gradually affairs have a livelier look. [73]

□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. ... 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. [2.121-128]

□03.1864□While Elysian Flat is again receiving population, caused by new finds to the east of Raywood, ... 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. [74.42-43]

□06.1864□Elysian Flat: 160 reef miners and 290 alluvial miners at work. [75.48-49]

□□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. [75.48-49]

01.08.1864□The crushing machine erected by Mr M'Phail and now owned by Mr Donald James is fully employed. The stuff is chiefly carted from Raywood. [76]

01.09.1864□The latest rush, about 3 miles from Raywood, towards Elysian Flat, is likely to turn out well. Two loads of washdirt from the second hole bottomed in the 50 foot sinking have yielded 5ozs of gold. [77]

□09.1864□Elysian Flat: 250 reef miners and 300 alluvial miners at work. [75.46-47]

□09.1864□Alluvial mining: Elysian Flat, Glenlynden and Prussian Gully about a stationary population. The yields from this locality vary considerably, owing to the patchy nature of the ground. [75.46-47]

□12.1864□Elysian Flat: 546 miners at work. [75.48-49]

□12.1864□Kamarooka. What was probably the first reference to mining at Kamarooka appeared in The Bendigo Advertiser, 20 November 1863, when the Raywood rush was in its early stages. A brief report stated that two prospectors, James Taylor and Henry Scheffer had opened up a new diggings 18 miles from Raywood and 36 from Sandhurst . . .Lack of crushing facilities was an expensive inconvenience to the miners early on Kamarooka. During December 1864, quartz was carted some 7 miles to Elysian Flat for crushing. [2.143-147]

□03.1865□Elysian Flat: 480 miners at work. [75.46-47]

□06.1865□Elysian Flat: 530 miners at work. [75.50-52]

□09.1865□Elysian Flat: 400 miners at work. [75.54-55]

□12.1865□Elysian Flat: 300 miners at work. [75.53-54]

□03.1866□Elysian Flat: 300 miners at work. [75.51-52]

- 06.1866□Elysian Flat and Whipstick: 310 miners at work. [75.48-50]
- 12.1866□Elysian Flat: 300 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1867□Elysian Flat: 300 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1867□Everything connected with mining matters is at a standstill, owing to the continued drought. ... The Nil Desperandum Company, Raywood, are at present crushing about 400 tons of their quartz at the Eureka engine, Sebastian, seven miles distant. Shaffer and party, and other good claimholders, who have a large quantity of quartz stacked on the surface, are waiting until the crushing machines in Raywood and Elysian Flat commence operations, which cannot be until a heavy fall of rain comes. [75]
- 09.1867□...mining operations in this division have recently been more promising. A very rich reef, the 'Sir Henry Barkly', has been struck at Elysian Flat, and out of a trial crushing of 27 tons, 243ozs was obtained. ... 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 be put through when their machinery starts working. 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. [75]
- 12.1867□At Neilborough, the Elysian Flat Quartz Gold Mining Company have struck some richly auriferous stone. No crushing has, however, yet been made from it.
- Roberts and Company's claim, on the Barkly Reef, at Elysian Flat, has improved in richness, and is yielding well at present. [75]
- 30.01.1868□The half-yearly meeting of the Elysian Flat Quartz Mining Company, called for yesterday, lapsed for want of a quorum. [79]
- 11.05.1868□Foley and Company crushed 64 tons of stone from their claim on this reef during the week, and obtained 60ozs 7dwt of gold. Elysian Flat Quartz Mining Company had a crushing of 14 tons of quartz from the same reef which yielded 11ozs 6dwt. The want of water is beginning to be severely felt on the flat. Mr Roberts' machine has been idle for a considerable time, waiting for the rain to come. ... [80]
- 13.05.1868□Elysian Flat Quartz Mining Company (Registered) - The mining manager, under date of the 12th. instant. 14 tons of stone have been crushed from the western spurs, at present being worked, yielding 11ozs 2dwt 9 grains of gold. Stone is still being raised and a crushing will be made as soon as possible. We have not yet been able to get upon the body of stone worked by Foley and Company, the prospects of the mine are very good, the claims both north and south getting out payable stone. [81]
- 10.07.1868□Elysian Flat Mining Company (Registered) - Mining manager's report at a meeting of shareholders: I have examined the mine, and thought it best to commence working at the 140 foot level south of the south shaft. We have, during the past 3 weeks been at work cutting the plat, putting up a whip, cleaning [82]
- 06.1869□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1869□Elysian Flat: 80 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1869□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1870□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1870□Elysian Flat: 170 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1870□Elysian Flat: 170 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1870□Elysian Flat: 170 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1871□Elysian Flat: 160 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1871□Elysian Flat: 145 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1871□Elysian Flat: 150 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1871□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1872□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1872□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]

- 09.1872□Elysian Flat: 70 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1872□Elysian Flat: 65 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1873□Elysian Flat: 65 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1873□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1873□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1873□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1874□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1874□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1874□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1874□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1875□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1875□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1875□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1875□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1876□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1876□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1876□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1876□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1877□Elysian Flat: 30 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1877□Elysian Flat: 30 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1877□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1877□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]

28.□12.1877□At Elysian Flat a nugget weighing 75ozs 5dwt nugget (No.520) found in cement at a depth of 40/45 feet in old workings, a few days since, by Mr. James Webster. A model of this nugget was made for the Geological Museum. [83.29, 84.30, 85]

01.01.1878□On Saturday last a very handsome nugget, weighing 75ozs 5dwt, was found by a miner named James Webster, at the Whipstick. The particular locality is nearly opposite the Shamrock Hotel, at Elysian Flat, where a small rush took place some 3 or 4 months back. Webster was stripping cement for crushing at a depth of 40 feet, when he came on the little beauty embedded in it. Mr Webster is an old Bendigo miner, and his friends will rejoice with him in his lucky find. The nugget is one of the purest that has ever been found, having no quartz or any of the baser metals mixed with it. The ground is nearly all old workings and persons should be careful before rushing off to the locality. The nugget was exhibited in the window of the National Bank yesterday. [86]

- 03.1878□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1878□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1878□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1878□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1879□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]

□03.1879□Since my last report alluvial prospecting claims have been taken up as follows:- At Elysian Flat, prospect reported ¼dwt to the dish; 21 feet sinking. [83.30-31]

- 06.1879□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]

□06.1879□There is little new to report in quartz mining during the past three months.

Since my last report alluvial prospecting claims have been taken up as follows:- At Elysian Flat, prospect reported ¼dwt to the dish; 21 feet sinking. At Pahlow's Gully, Whipstick, 3 or 4 feet sinking, can made from 5s to 10s per day. [83]

- 09.1879□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1879□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1880□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1880□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1880□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1880□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1881□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1881□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1881□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1881□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1882□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]

- 06.1882□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1882□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1882□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1883□Elysian Flat: 60 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1883□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 09.1883□Elysian Flat: 50 miners at work. [78]
- 12.1883□Elysian Flat: 40 miners at work. [78]
- 03.1884□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 250 miners at work. [78]
- 06.1884□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 120 miners at work. [87]
- 09.1884□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 250 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1884□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 300 miners at work. [87]
- 03.1885□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 215 miners at work. [87]
- 06.1885□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 09.1885□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 190 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1885□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 180 miners at work. [87]
- 03.1886□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 150 miners at work. [87]
- 06.1886□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 160 miners at work. [87]
- 09.1886□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 180 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1886□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 170 miners at work. [87]
- 03.1887□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 150 miners at work. [87]
- 06.1887□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 150 miners at work. [87]
- 09.1887□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 210 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1887□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 03.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 170 miners at work. [87]
- 06.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 09.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 220 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 03.1889□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 06.1889□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 01.08.1898□A Ross and Company, working the alluvial at Elysian Flat, at a depth of 110 feet, have a yield of 53ozs 10dwt. [89]
- 09.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 12.1888□Elysian Flat, Sebastian and Raywood: 200 miners at work. [87]
- 02.01.1899□At Elysian Flat the alluvial is receiving ... good turnover right out to Raywood, and ... highly payable yields are reported. [88]
 - 1899□The Elysian Flat alluvial is still being worked on its northern extension, Webster and Angel and Crapper and party having each a shaft at the extreme north end of the lead. Webster and Angel have a lease of 6 acres, and the shaft at present being worked is 147 feet deep which is also at the water level. The main gutter a little north of this shaft is about 14 feet wide, but the alluvial was taken for a total of 106 feet, and averaged 6dwt per load. Crapper and party have a shaft 106 feet deep, and working a face 35 feet to 40 feet wide, and from 6 inches to 1 foot thick, averaging about 3dwts per load. Further south on the lead several parties are still at work on both alluvial and quartz. [90]
- 0□1.01.1900□At Elysian Flat the alluvial has provided profitable employment for a large number of men, and some of the returns reported were highly encouraging. [91]
 - 18.08.1900□W. Raynor and Company crushed 7 tons from the Elysian Flat lead for 8ozs 12dwt. The party are operating on wash for a width of ... and the yield is considered satisfactory. [92]
 - 1904□70ozs nugget (No.562) found at a depth of between 10 and 20 feet in the Nuggetty shaft. [84.32]
- 29.08.1931□Northwards (from Flagstaff Hill) at a distance of some 6 miles is Elysian Flat, so named by the prospectors from the floral beauty of the scene which presented itself to them as they first emerged upon it from the Whipstick. On these diggings were was once a large population. It was very rich, but nuggetty, and it was abandoned for newer fields, and has never been re-rushed. [93]