

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

SHALLOW DIGGINGS ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Other Names Veteran's Rush, Shallow Sinkings

Location Freehold Land, corner of Scotts and Dixon roads, Elysian Flat

Map Reference Raywood1:25,000 - BV536.476

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description South-west of the corner of Scotts and Dixon roads there is a short run of shallow alluvial workings no more than 30 metres wide and about 150 metres in length. The mullock heaps are no more than 0.5 metres in height.

History Period of activity: 1858
Depth of sinking: 5-40 feet

Thematic Context Mining

Comparative Examples This site is one of a number of shallow alluvial workings identified within the study area. Some of the other equally significant early sites are: Myers Flat (1852), Fiddler's Green (1852), One-Eye Gully (1852) and Peter the Great (right hand branch)(1856).

Statement of Significance The site contains one of the last remnants of shallow alluvial workings known as the Shallow Diggings, which were an important phase in the early mining around Elysian Flat (criterion A). These workings, situated in an extremely shallow valley, illustrates the difficulty which the early miners had in following the line of the lead (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.

Heritage Boundaries The approximately square site, about 120 metres by 120 metres, is bounded by Dixon Road on the east and Scotts Road on the north.

References

1. "Mining Intelligence. Further discoveries in the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 3 March 1858.
2. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From a Correspondent, The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 26 March 1858.
3. "Mining intelligence. A visit to the Elysian Flat." By a Special Correspondent, The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 1 April 1858.
4. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 31 May 1858.
5. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 9 June 1858.
6. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, The

- Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 14 June 1858.
7. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our Correspondent, The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 22 June 1858.
 8. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 June 1858.
 9. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Another nugget from Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 1 July 1858.
 10. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From a Correspondent, 29 June 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 2 July 1858.
 11. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 9 July 1858.
 12. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, Thursday, 15 July 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 17 July 1858.
 13. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Whipstick." From our own Correspondent, Thursday, 17 July 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 22 July 1858.
 14. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, 24 July 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 28 July 1858.
 15. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Whipstick." From our own Correspondent, 2 August 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 4 August 1858.
 16. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Whipstick." From our own Correspondent, 7 August 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 11 August 1858.
 17. "Mining intelligence. Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 16 August 1858.
 18. "Mining intelligence. The new rush at the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 16 August 1858.
 19. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, 8 September 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 10 September 1858.
 20. "Bendigo mining intelligence. The Whipstick." From our own Correspondent, 15 September 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 16 September 1858.
 21. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." From our own Correspondent, 28 September 1858; The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, 30 September 1858.
 22. "Bendigo mining intelligence. Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 4 December 1858.
 23. "Elysian Flat." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 22 December 1858.
 24. "Mining intelligence. Reef in the Whipstick." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 29 August 1863.
 25. "Mining intelligence. Elysian Flat rush." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 8 September 1877, p5, col.6.
 26. "An alluvial nugget." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 April 1882, p2, col.5.
 27. "The Whipstick. An historic centre ctd." The Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday, 29 August 1931, p2, col.2.

Notes The shallow alluvial workings are very weathered and are almost certainly a remnant of the original workings of 1858.

Assessed by Peter Milner in July 1998.

Chronology 03.03.1858 □ We understand that an extended claim was granted yesterday to three miners: named Joseph Lance, James Oates and Hugh Oates, for the discovery of new gold workings in the Whipstick district. The position of this field, according to the prospectors, is about three quarters of a mile to the south west of the first refreshment tent on the road to Elysian Flat after passing Willoughby's restaurant, on the new cutting and must therefore be situated about two miles to the southward of the Elysian. The sinking is shallow (about 14 feet) and the gold hitherto obtained is heavy and water-worn. One nugget in the sample produced by the prospectors must have weighed 6dwts. [1]
 □ 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, ... The long looked-for rain has at length descended. [2]

□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 thought 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, matter 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 as 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. [3]

□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. [4]

□09.06.1858□We understand that the shallow diggings at Elysian Flat are extending higher up the gully, and that a fair amount of success is attained. Water is very scarce. Messrs. M'Nair and Company are forming a dam 200 feet long, 18 feet wide and 6 feet deep, and they have sunk a shaft to a depth of nearly 100 feet on the plan suggested by Mr Benson. Some washing is still going on, and we are informed that Mr Iron has washed with his machine, for several parties, stuff averaging two ounces to the load. [5]

□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. ...

The large rush which took place a few weeks ago, alluded to in a former report, situated at the extreme end of the original shallow sinking, or Veteran Rush, as it is sometimes called, taking a south westerly direction through dense scrub, is still being worked with great vigor and apparent success. Several very handsome nuggets have been found in this place, in shallow ground, in depth about 2 feet. A five ounce, a short time since, was taken up on the point of a pick, about 18 inches below the surface, which was sold at Messrs Beeby and Telford's store, and one weighing about 40ozs was reported to have been found in the claim next to it. I conceive no other conclusion can be fairly arrived at than that the ground, throughout the length and breadth of this rush has been found payable, from the length of time it has been working, and with little or no diminution in the number of miners engaged in it. Water - water - is now the reiterated cry on every site. Immense piles of washing stuff may be seen almost every place the eye rests, where an expectant payable shaft has been sunk - waiting to pass through the final ordeal. Many of the claims in this rush have doubtless been found to be sufficiently payable to afford the cost of carting to the creek, but on the other hand there are numbers who, being doubtful as to the satisfactory result of the washing process, prefer to wait until bounteous nature deigns to send the necessary supply.

Within the last few days another very considerable rush has taken place upon ground on either side of the creek, which lies to the left of the road as the old deep sinking is entered, and distant from the Shamrock Hotel about half a mile. The sinking is about 40 feet and report speaks particularly favourably of the finds there; and I have been credibly informed that some first rate holes have been bottomed.

I was favoured yesterday, by Mr Dingwall, an extensive storekeeper on the shallow rush, with the sight and handling of a singularly beautiful nugget, solid and massive, and possessing that peculiar bright colour which is a distinguishing feature in the gold found on this field. Its weight is about 6ozs, and was found in a claim on the new rush above referred to. A rather singular incident in connection with the discovery of this nugget, may not be altogether uninteresting or unworthy of a passing notice. The owners of the hole which contained this nugget had carted their last load of washdirt to the side of the creek; intending to wash up on the following morning; it appears, however, that a digger, who had happened to pass along the creek before the owners arrived, saw something shining on the heap of washdirt in question, his curiosity having become excited he approached, and picked up what proved to be a 6ozs nugget, which to the man's credit be it noted, he had the honesty to enquire to

whom the washdirt belonged, for the purpose of delivering it up to the rightful owner. I was informed by the man himself that he was presented with £2 as a reward. Both parties were, no doubt, satisfied with each others conduct in the affair.

Another rush has taken place in the shallow sinking, on ground directly opposite Mr. Matthew's Shamrock Store, it is called "Gormon's Rush", from the fact that a digger of that name having "dropped" on a goodly sized nugget in a claim there. Several respectable sized nuggets, I am informed, have been seen the light there, and payable holes bottomed, and there can be little doubt if the ground was well rushed, and properly tested it would turn out well.

... Messrs M'Nair and Company, acting upon Mr Benson's suggestions, having selected ground for that purpose situated about a quarter of a mile from, and opposite to, the shallow rush, have, upon their own responsibility already sunk a shaft above 90 feet in depth, and are constructing a large reservoir in close proximity, thereto, the dimensions of which are to be 200 feet long, 18 feet wide and 6 feet in depth, and it is hoped that their example will encourage others to a like course of action, so that Elysian Flat may go ahead.

Several large dams, well timbered and otherwise secure, are now being constructed for the reception of the next rain that falls. They are situated in close proximity to the centre of the rush between the deep and shallow sinking, near Mr Kelly's store, and appear to be a decided improvement on those dams - if dams they could be called - which, because of the frail materials of which they were formed, were carried away by the last flood. [6]

□22.06.1858□ Since my last report the number of miners who have struck into ground here forming part of the shallow sinkings, known by the name of Gorman's Rush, lying to the left of, and distant about a stone's throw from the road nearest to the creek, that leads into the deep sinkings, have considerably increased, and now that the rain has fallen in sufficient abundance for washing, as well as for other purposes for some time to come mining operations will doubtless be prosecuted with proper vigour. ...

The great change which has taken place in this portion of these goldfields (shallow rush) since Saturday last, consequent upon the fall of rain which came down at intervals in considerable quantities during part of that day and Sunday, is strikingly observable in the manifestations of life and activity which now prevail among the diggers, and which greet the eye in almost every place where mining operations are being carried on; ...

I was this morning informed, on reliable authority, that two large nuggets, one weighing about 33ozs, and the other about 75ozs were found in the shallow sinkings; the former in a claim situated nearly opposite the Miner's Store, and the other about 50 yards higher up the rush in the direction of the scrub.

On visiting Messrs Clarke and Benson's store in the main street, a few evenings since, I was favoured with the sight of a very fine sample of gold, which I was informed was obtained out of a claim in the deep sinkings, about a quarter of a mile from an at the rear of the Main Street, it possessed the same character of the gold generally found in this field, coarse and heavy, it amounted in quantity to about 15ozs, and if it was only a week's work, which, however, I am not prepared to say, the owners I think could have no possible reason to be dissatisfied with their work during that time.

The new rush referred to in my last, in which a good many claims were sunk on both sides of the creek (about 40 feet in depth) as the deep sinkings is approached, has not, I regret to say, turned out as well as was anticipated, or could be desired. Great expectations were entertained of the auriferous quality of this ground from the reported payable nature of several of the claims sunk, but I have been informed that the finds here which the more sanguine-minded of the diggers hoped would ultimately have led to the discovery of a lead, proved to be nothing more or less than a few very payable patches, which soon ran out, and the consequence has been that many who sunk "shicers" have left, to try their fortune in other parts of the field, there still remains, however, a considerable number of diggers at work here, who, there can be no doubt, have obtained payable claims.

The large rush in the scrub at the end of the shallow sinkings, is still going

ahead, and the rain which fell lately will enable the diggers here to wash a considerable portion, if not all, of the many and large piles of wash-stuff. ... I paid a visit on Saturday last to the ground upon which those enterprising gentlemen Messrs M'Nair and Company have been carrying on extensive operations for some time past. The shaft which is going down has already reached to a depth of 120 feet, but no water has yet been struck, and the large reservoir which is in course of construction within a short distance from it is progressing favourably, and, it is expected, will be completed and ready for the reception of water in a fortnight or three weeks time. ... [7]

□28.06.1858□We learn that M'Nair and Company have sunk their shaft to a depth of 135 feet. The shaft has now reached a body of slate, having passed through mudstone and there is already a small supply of water, which, it is expected, will rapidly increase for the next 20 feet. [8]

□01.07.1858□Mr Bannerman has shown us a nugget brought in from the Whipstick, which was found on Tuesday last in about 30 feet sinking. The weight is 33ozs 14½dwt of an irregular shape, and encrusted with small gravel. A splendid parcel, about 300ozs, of rough Whipstick gold, purchased by Messrs Beeby and Telford, has been brought in and disposed of to Mr Bannerman. [9]

□02.07.1858□The original shallow sinkings, alias the 'Veteran Rush' has, without doubt, proved to be the most auriferous portion of these goldfields which has as yet been discovered since the rush to Elysian Flat first took place, now many months since, and notwithstanding the opinion expressed by many persons here that it has seen its palmy days, and is well nigh worked out, it still continues to preserve that distinguished position above every other part of this flat. ...

Two respectable sized nuggets, one weighing 10 and the other about 13ozs, were lately taken out of one of the claims next to that now being worked by Mr Humphries, in the shallow rush, who, it will be remembered, was fortunate enough a short time since to drop on a handsome nugget weighing 13ozs 14dwt in an old hole about 6 feet deep which had been abandoned as worthless.

There was a rumour afloat here last Saturday that a monster nugget, weighing somewhere about 8 pounds weight of solid gold, was taken out of a hole a few days since, in the new rush in the scrub at the upper end of the shallow sinkings, the truth of which statement however I am not in a position to corroborate, not having been able to discover the fortunate finder (if any such there be) of the glittering monster. Another party with whom I conversed informed me that since they commenced working their claim on Gorman's Rush (shallow sinking), up to the present time, which has extended over a period of more than three months, they had obtained no less a quantity than 6 pounds weight of the precious metal. I was informed by one of the partners belonging to the firm of Messrs Beeby and Telford, storekeepers, that during the past week they had purchased as much as 200ozs of gold. Not so bad, either, taking into consideration the reputed poverty of this goldfield.

The shaft belonging to Messrs M'Nair and Company, now going down, had on Saturday last reached a depth of 140 feet; but no water, I was informed, had made its appearance, although the particular strata or bed of slate through which they were passing was becoming daily more moist.

Mr James Iron, that well known practical and enterprising gentleman, has, I understand, completed the erection of a second puddling machine, on ground selected by him for that purpose, at a convenient distance from the shallow sinkings, and is now in a position to puddle at the moderate rate of 2dwt per load, any washing stuff that may be entrusted to him by the diggers for that purpose. [10]

□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.

There are a considerable number of diggers who have been working steadily for some time past in the "middle rush", the sinking in which is about 30 feet in depth, and gradually approaching the original deep sinking, situate to the right of the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, and upon inquiry, I find that many of them are unwillingly compelled to give a "beggarly account" of duffers sunk there. Many others, however, appear satisfied so far with their finds and prospects. The line on which the gold has been struck consists of a kind of narrow, patchy and broken lead, and to those of the diggers who happened to be fortunate enough to drop upon it, payable holes have generally been found as the result of their labours. ...

The contract entered into with Messrs M'Nair and Company is now completed, the shaft having been sunk to the stipulated distance of 150 feet. I was informed that the water, which has proved extremely brackish, did not make its appearance until the shaft had been sunk about 145 feet, although for some time previously, the increasing dampness of the slate and sandstone through which they were passing, gave evident tokens of a near approach to water. It is probable that the sinking will be continued, under a new contract, by the same parties, who, I think, there is every reason to believe, from the workmanlike manner in which it has been sunk, and slabbed, have given entire satisfaction to their employers. [11]

□17.07.1858□The louring 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. ...

On Monday morning last, at an early hour, from 150 to 200 diggers marked out claims, and struck ground extending over an area of about half a mile in length, and five or six claims in width, being a continuation of that part of the middle rush, which after having commenced its course from the original shallow sinkings, and extending in a circuitous route for about three quarters of a mile across the flat in an easterly direction, and leaving the creek considerably to the left, and only branches off to the right, heading towards and forming the junction of that rush with the original deep sinkings. The sinking here is tolerably hard, with sandstone and slate bottoms, and varies in depth from 16 to 30 feet. The diggers appear to be pitching into the work as if they meant it, and I imagine from the character of the prospects revealed (in one instance, it is reported, as much as one pennyweight to the bucket) they are tolerably sanguine that payable patches will eventually be dropped upon, and it may be piles realized. ... It is not more than a few weeks ago that a nugget weighing nearly 4 pounds was taken out of a hole not much more than a stone's throw from the present rush, and another, it may be remembered, weighing 72ozs, was found in a hole at no great distance from it, by a party of Cornishmen from the White Hills. Another beautiful and massive nugget, which I saw and handled, weighing a little over 7ozs, was, on Thursday last, taken from under a pillar in an old hole on the shallow rush, nearly opposite the Miner's Store, which was offered for sale and purchased at the store of Messrs Beeby and Telford. I learned from a digger in the same rush, upon whose statement I can rely, who is working a claim higher up the flat, in the direction of the scrub, and who at various times has showed me several beautiful nuggets of various sizes, which he extracted therefrom, that he and his mate obtained gold out of their present claim chiefly composed

of nuggets, amounting in value to between £300 and £400.

The rush in the scrub at the end of the shallow sinkings does not look so lively as it did a few days ago, a good many of the diggers, I believe, after having worked out their claims, and piled up and enclosed their washdirt, in the absence of water, left this locality, for the present, for other ground, many of them, in all probability, forming part of the last new rush at the junction of the middle rush and the deep sinkings above referred to.

Within the last few days another rush has taken place, on ground situate to the left of and just outside the original shallow sinkings, a short distance from the store of Messrs Beeby and Telford. About 30 claims have been marked off, and some of them have been bottomed; but I have been unable to ascertain any cheerful intelligence in the way of payable finds up to the present time.

On my visit, yesterday morning, to the ground occupied by Messrs M'Nair and Company, I ascertained, upon inquiries, that a fresh contract had been entered into with the same parties by that firm for the sinking of their shaft to a further depth of 35 feet; 8 feet of which had up to that time, been sunk under the new contract. The work is progressing but tardily, and it would appear is likely to prove tedious, owing to the hard nature of the strata (slate and mudstone) through which they have to pass, and which has compelled them to have recourse to blasting operations, in order to facilitate the work. Water still continues to come in but slowly, not a large quantity perhaps than a quarter of a pint per minute. The large dam close by is still unfinished, but in all probability it will be ready for water by the time the new contract is completed, when it is expected a constant supply will be obtained. [12]

□22.07.1858□More nuggets from the Whipstick ! Whether it be in Bendigo bankers and gold brokers' reports, show windows, or coffers, and storekeepers' or bonifaces' purses and drawers, go where will, nuggets from the Whipstick are turning up and meeting you at every point ! ...

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. Several good holes have been bottomed at a bit of a rush that took place in the early part of the week, between Pahlow's public house and M'Nair's water shaft, and a 6½ozs nugget was got on Saturday last in a claim in the shallow sinking. ...

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. ...

Elysian Flat - Another large nugget, weighing 31¼ozs was found on Thursday last in a hole about 7 feet deep, in the shallow rush, about five claims distant from that out of which one of a similar size was taken by a digger named Humphries a few weeks ago. It was found by an elderly man, commonly called or known here as "California Bill". A party of diggers who had been working a claim in the Middle Rush, at no great distance from Mr Kelly's store, whose washdirt had been averaging about three quarters of an ounce to the load, having reason to suspect the honesty of one of their party, were in consequence determined to get rid of him, and unwilling to expose his delinquencies, gave him the chance of selling out if he could find a purchaser, he did so, and sold his share for £5, since which time they have struck gold to the tune of about 27ozs to the load. This claim having turned out the best that has yet been sunk on the rush, and which in all probability will lead to a large rush in the immediate neighbourhood. Another party in the next claim is reported to have washed 39ozs to one load of dirt. [13]

□28.07.1858□The rain fell here the whole of yesterday, thick and heavy. ... Last week's return of gold from the new rush, Elysian Flat, has caused a considerable influx of population to that locality, and fabulous finds are reported

(though not verified) to have been taken up out of a newly bottomed hole on Thursday last. Certain it is, however, that 30ozs to the load have been washed out of another claim on the same rush. [14]

□04.08.1858□... Since the rain the diggers at Elysian Flat have been giving their attention chiefly to conserving water and "washing up", and some of the piles, especially from the new rush, have far exceeded the expectations of their fortunate owners. I have seen from 5dwt to as many ounces washed to the load from various parts of the shallow sinking. And although I have not had ocular demonstration of the fact, yet I have been informed from various reliable sources that some of the richest patches yet discovered on this goldfield have been dropped on in this rush. One claim is said to have produced over 200ozs of gold from less than six loads of wash dirt. While some of the adjoining claims have averaged an ounce to the tub or 8ozs to the load, throughout all the washdirt that has yet been knocked down, and singular to relate the adjoining claims in a different direction show scarcely a colour. At different places in this rush more towards the shallow ground, the bottom taken off a hole here last week washed a single 3ozs nugget, and not a speck besides. The theory of leads does not seem to apply to this goldfield, even in the deep sinkings. ...[15]

□11.08.1858□The partial rains of the past week still keep up an ample supply of water for the time being in this district, and everything in the mining way moves apace proportionately. The impetus given to washing operations at Elysian Flat is very great indeed, and mostly everybody here may be seen at the tom and the tub, and piled-up washdirt is disappearing rapidly. The late rush still holds good and continues to attract considerable numbers, both of new arrivals and Elysian diggers, and a marked improvement is observable this week in the increase of the former. No finds of special interest have come to hand since my last report, though the ceaseless din of toms and cradles makes such an event not at all improbable, and promises to increase the weekly yield of the field beyond its usual average. ...

It is not at all unlikely at no very distant day this goldfield will be united with the Huntly and Epsom diggings, which it is evidently part and parcel of. ... [16]

16.08.1858□We are informed that Messrs M'Nair's shaft sunk to obtain a supply of water is now down to a depth of 186 feet and since the late rain a depth of 30 feet of water has been procured. In order to test whether this water has come up from the bottom, or from the surface, the proprietors have determined to bore another 50 feet. The water is of a brackish nature. [17]

□□The rush, to which we referred last week, to the shallow sinkings, Elysian Flat, is still progressing favourably. There are at present some three or four hundred diggers engaged, most of whom are getting gold in payable quantities. One ounce of coarse rough gold was taken off the bottom of the prospecting hole, but we have not heard of others getting anything more than a pennyweight or so to the tub. The sinking is hard, and ranges from 8 to 12 feet. If we may judge from present appearances, we should imagine that, ere long, there will be a rush to this ground as there was to the old Scotchman's Gully in the days of yore. [18]

□10.09.1858□Messrs Pahlow and Sons are reported to have again struck gold very heavily in the scrub adjacent to the head of the shallow sinking. This gentleman and his family, it will be remembered, dropped on a pile at Brandy Gully, Old Whipstick, some 12 or 15 months ago, and after building the Sir Henry Barkly Hotel, at Elysian Flat, and doing business in the boniface line up to within the last few months, disposed of the hotel, at a sacrifice, it is said, and commenced digging again, which has resulted in a second pile, exceeding in richness it is believed, the celebrated Brandy Gully finds of last year. ... The peculiar patchy lead characteristics of these diggings, and which is supposed to have been followed throughout the whole extent of the deep and shallow sinking, is still being traced at either extremity of the diggings, and thus extending the area of opened up ground to a considerable extent weekly. Puddling mills, both here and at the Old Whipstick, still continue busy while the water lasts. ... [19]

□16.09.1858□The recent rushes between Old Whipstick and Elysian Flat still continue to be worked with payable results, but the great body of rushers have

returned to Elysian Flat, where new ground is opening upon a scale unprecedented in the history of this goldfield. This is especially observable in the shallow sinkings, which is rapidly striding Old Whipstick Road; and the locality where the 75 ounce was raised to terra firma on Thursday last, is, as a matter of course, rushed. But people are not quite sure whether or not this is the exact spot where the interesting stranger was disinterred. It is an old digging trick, and one not unknown on this field, for lucky diggers to throw the multitude off the scent of the golden game as much as possible, in order that they may follow up their success undisturbed. ...

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. ...[20]

□30.09.1858□In the shallow sinking a large extent of bottom has been uncovered during the past week, and, judging from appearances, with remunerative results, though there is no extraordinary find to report. The sinking in this direction has extended to beyond Iron's first machine, and almost to the junction with the original main Whipstick Road. Puddling mill operations are beginning to occupy a very prominent position on this goldfield, and to represent a considerable amount of invested capital. [21]

□04.12.1858□Things here are at present about as usual. The late rains have afforded a sufficient supply to allow some parties to wash up their stuff. Messrs. M'Nair's boring apparatus has broken, which will retard the program of work for some time. [22]

□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. [23]

□29.08.1863□Bolle, the discoverer of a celebrated Whipstick reef, named the Bolle Reef, having worked this reef till it no longer paid, went on a prospecting tour, and within the last few days has found another reef, 5 miles from the first, towards Elysian Flat, and has had one ton of the surface quartz crushed which yielded 18dwt. The next trial will be 20 tons. Judging from the gold he has at surface and the look of the stone, he anticipates that the reef will turn out as splendidly as did his other one. ... [24]

□08.09.1877□On his way to the Flat our reporter observed the general appearance of the country he passed through, and says that the cleared paddocks on the road to the township present a very pleasant appearance, as they are at present in good grass, but those with grain look rather poorly. [25]

19.04.1882□Yesterday a miner named Robert Miller, residing at Elysian Flat, sold a nugget weighing 180zs at the Commercial Bank, Sandhurst. The nugget, which was of pure gold, realized £70, and was discovered by Mueller in some old surface workings near Stranger's Reef, Elysian Flat. He had only been working in the locality for a couple of days, and the find was all the more acceptable on account of his being a poor man.[26]

29.08.1931□Two years after the rush to Elysian Flat, a shallow diggings was found between it and Flagstaff Hill, sinking was only 3 feet in depth and speedily some 10,000 diggers were upon it. Like all shallow diggings it was soon

exhausted. In the scrub to the east and north there are numerous gullies where gold has been found in considerable quantities. Among these are the Whipstick, Beehive, Phillip's and Skylark. All these gullies, however, are being exploited by the fossickers at the present. ... [27]