

City of Greater Bendigo: Marong Heritage Study Mining Sites

MYERS CREEK ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Other Names

Location Freehold Land, Myers Flat, Myers Creek

Map Reference Marong 1:25,000 - BV515.337

Victorian Heritage Register No

National Estate Register No

Planning Scheme No



Description A band of shallow alluvial sinkings about 10 metres wide extending north-north-west across Leichardt Road for about one kilometre. The mounds of mullock are about one metre high.

History Period of activity: Alluvial gold mining in the area began in 1852 and extended along the creek as far as Sebastian by 1863.
Deepest shaft: 30-100 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: Fiddler's Green (1852), One-Eye Gully (1856), Peter the Great (1856), Elysian Lead (1857), Phillips Gully (1857) and the Shallow Diggings (1858). This is one of the earliest and one of the most extensive.

Statement of Significance The site defines the location of one of the earliest and more permanent shallow alluvial workings on Bendigo beyond Bendigo Creek itself (criterion A) and marks out the main line of alluvium which was worked northwards from Myer's Flat to Sebastian and beyond (criterion C).

Level of Significance Regional

Recommendation The site should be protected under the heritage overlay of the Great Bendigo Planning Scheme, by registration with the Victorian Heritage Council, and in accordance with the general principles of the conservation policy for mining sites.

Heritage Boundaries The area is bounded by Leichardt Road on the south, Myer's Creek on the east, Quinns Road West on the north and freehold property boundaries on the west.

References

1. F. Cusack, "Bendigo: a history." Melbourne, Heinemann, 1973.
2. W. Perry, "Tales of the Whipstick: a history of the Whipstick, Neilborough, Sebastian, Raywood and Myers Creek gold rushes, Victoria." Eaglehawk, Perry, 1975, 249pp.
3. "Mining intelligence. The lost lead at Myer's Creek." The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 6 September 1867.
4. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Wednesday, 4 September; The Bendigo Advertiser, Friday, 6 September 1867.
5. "Myer's Creek." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 7 September; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 9 September 1867.

6. "Mining intelligence. Epsom." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 9 September 1867, p3, col.1.
7. "Mining intelligence. Myer's Creek gold." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 24 September 1867, p2, col.4.
8. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 28 September; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 30 September 1867, p2, col.5.
9. Reports of the Mining Surveyors and Mining Registrars, Sandhurst mining district, Sandhurst division.
10. "Mining intelligence. Myer's Creek." The Bendigo Advertiser, Tuesday, 1 October 1867, p2, col.6.
11. "Mining intelligence. Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 12 October; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 14 October 1867, p3, col.2.
12. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 19 October; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 21 October 1867, p3, col.2.
13. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 26 October; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 28 October 1867, p2, col.6.
14. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 2 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 4 November 1867, p3, col.1.
15. "Myer's Creek rush." From our Correspondent, Saturday, 9 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 11 November 1867, p2, col.6.
16. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 19 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 20 November 1867, p2, col.6.
17. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent, Saturday, 23 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 25 November 1867, p2, col.5.
18. "Myer's Creek rush." From our own Correspondent." Saturday, 30 November; The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 2 December 1867, p2, col.5.
19. "Mining intelligence. Myer's Creek." The Bendigo Advertiser, Monday, 10 February 1868.
20. "Mining intelligence. Mr. Brough Smyth on alluvial mining." The Bendigo Advertiser, Wednesday, 22 November 1882, p3, col.2.
21. R. A. F. Murray, "Report on the means of testing the extension of the Myers Flat lead." Progress Report, Geological Survey of Victoria, no.7, 1884, 4.

Notes

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

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

the gold receiver's office, extensive stables and the grim, log cabin type lock-up. [1.64-65]

□ 1852 □ C. Rudston Read, a gold commissioner, established his camp at Myers Creek in 1852. Napoleon Gully was about a mile east of his camp ... The extension of mining was in 1852 temporarily halted along a curved line extending some ten miles from Sydney Flat, along the northern side of Lightning Hill to Epsom. The Whipstick had been reached. The scrub and dense forest, together with a shortage of water and a reduction of population were perhaps the main reasons for halting the advance. [2.8-9]

□ 1853 □ Alluvial diggings ... many Italian diggers, and even more Italian-speaking Swiss remained, dispersed particularly, about Epsom and Huntly, at Myers Creek and about the edges of The Whipstick ... Few made fortunes from the fickle Whipstick gold, and with the growth of quartz mining, as a group they turned increasingly to charcoal-burning and timber-getting for the mines. [1.60] 06.09.1867 □ We were informed yesterday, on very reliable authority, that the lead at Myer's Creek had been found in a prospecting claim, situated about a mile and a half below Bolger's Paddock, and heading towards Sebastian. The washdirt was obtained at a depth of about 37 feet, the gold being plainly discernible in the dirt and was taken up and before being washed in the dish. ... [3]

Last evening a report was in circulation to the effect that a party of miners had discovered payable gold about one mile below Bolger's property and a rush in the neighbourhood, of course, followed. It appears that the prospectors (Messrs Weddell and Company) have been bottomed since Wednesday last, and they informed me that the best prospect they had received from the tin dish was about 2 grains, and from many they were unable to raise the colour. The ground is situated about a quarter of a mile below Trounce's dam, and adjoining Gregory's paddock. ... The creek at this point runs out on a flat, which induced the prospectors to prospect this part of the flat. They have already driven a distance of 40 feet, and they purpose washing a few loads this week, in order to give it a fair trial. The depth of the shaft is 36 feet, and foul air exists, which will necessitate the introduction of a windsail to remove this obstruction. Nicholl and party, just below the prospectors, have bottomed at a depth of 39 feet and merely obtained the colour. ... There are but two shafts bottomed, and a number of miners were on the ground shepherding this morning. ... [4]

09.09.1867 □ It is now confidently believed that the lost lead has been recovered, and it has been stated, on reliable authority, that a prospect of half a pennyweight from two nail cans was obtained. Weightman Brothers, the proprietors of the shaft from which the above prospect was obtained, showed me a piece of cement which was thickly impregnated with gold. From a second prospect they obtained one pennyweight to the tub, and the gold is of a coarser sample, similar to that obtained higher up. Weightman Brothers, whose claim is situated in the centre of the creek, which runs on the flat, are of opinion that it is a continuation of the old lead, and state that the lead is heading towards Sebastian. The ground is rushed in all directions and a number of miners have got to work. ... A number of diggers have again cleared out this morning, but the state of affairs at present wears a very healthy appearance. [5]

The rush at Myer's Creek drew away the greater portion of the Chinese population at Epsom, and a large number of the European miners, but since their unsuccessful efforts in tracing the lead, many of the parties have returned to their former haunts. [6]

24.09.1867 □ There was a very fine sample of gold exhibited in the window of the Oriental Bank, Eaglehawk, on Saturday, weighing 313ozs from the Myer's Creek diggings. A large proportion of the metal was in pieces weighing from 2 to 5dwts. The Bank of Victoria had also a beautiful sample from the same quarter weighing 150ozs. The yield from Myer's Creek is expected to be steady for some time, as those on the gold are blocking out and either washing up or crushing the stuff as they go along. [7]

30.09.1867 □ The week has closed without the diggers having been able to recover the run of payable gold at the new lead, and the most of those who have been testing the ground adjoining Messrs Shadbolt's and Gregory's paddocks

have resolved to abandon the shafts. ... [8]

09.1867□At Pottery Flat and Huntley there is not quite so much doing, partly owing to the rush to the Myer's Creek diggings, ... [9.18]

01.10.1867□Digging operations, owing to the heavy rains prevailing of late, have been almost at a standstill, and the yield of gold has been considerably less than that of previous weeks. The purchases of the Oriental Bank amount to about 170ozs and those of the Bank of Victoria to 250ozs. ... The Government reservoir at Myer's Creek is quite full, and is a fine sheet of water. ... The township at Myer's Creek diggings is henceforth to be known as Myerstown. ... [10]

14.10.1867□The returns this week, as it was generally anticipated, are larger than in the previous one, there being no less than 1000ozs bought by the purchasers of gold on Myer's Creek and at Eaglehawk. The prospects of Myer's Creek at present are by no means unsatisfactory, although it must be admitted that there are a number of diggers barely earning a livelihood, and struggling with great hardship. The excitable shepherding class have now migrated to "fresh fields and pastures new" in the hope of meeting with better success. There is still a population of between 1400 and 1500 miners on the rush, among which are about 400 Chinamen, all of whom are industriously employed. Through the courtesy of Mr Hemphill, the agent of the Oriental Bank, I am enabled to give amount of his purchases this week, which reached 300ozs, 110ozs of which were bought today, among which were parcels of 12ozs and 24ozs. The 24ozs parcel was the produce of 25 loads, and 36 loads yielded 170ozs. ... I understand that the Bank of Victoria purchased about 250ozs this week and lost other parcels in consequence of the reduced price in gold. Mr Wallworth, chemist, informed me that his purchases this week amounted to 70ozs, which were chiefly in small parcels. Buller and party, working near Crow's hotel, obtained from a washing-off of 27 loads 10½ozs of gold. Dalezzi and Company, working next to the Bank of Victoria, netted 24ozs 6dwt 17 grains from 23 loads of dirt. This claim has yielded an average of 10ozs per load, and the workers expect to conclude their operations in two more weeks and are well satisfied. Walter and party, the next claim, secured 20ozs from 24 loads. Trick and party, from a washing off of 18 loads, gained 6ozs 7dwts. Healy and party, near Mason's store, secured from 40 loads 20ozs of gold. A party of Chinamen, contiguous to Nolan's store, washed 5ozs from 10 loads. The next claim worked by Chinamen secured 3ozs from 8 loads. It has been noticed by the purchasers of gold on Myer's Creek, that in nearly every instance parcels of gold are submitted for sale by the Chinese are of a fine character, and the assumption is that the vendors sift their gold and retain the coarse metal for remitting to China. Trounce and Attrell's machines have been extensively patronized this week, no less than 500 loads having been puddled. ...

The lower rush this week has nearly been brought to a standstill, there being only about 20 miners engaged on the field. Weightman Brothers propose puddling a machine-full next week. Maloney and party, next claim, washed a load as a trial this week, and received a yield of 4dwts. A prospecting shaft is being sunk on the other side of Shadbolt's paddock, in a line with the Celestial's shaft, in order to meet the supposed lead outside the paddock.

Late on Saturday night last, a parcel of reef gold, weighing 10ozs 1dwt was submitted for sale by a digger to Mr Wallworth, chemist, the vendor declining to inform Mr Wallworth the locality where he had procured the gold. During the week there had been a number of miners out prospecting, and there is not the slightest doubt but that this parcel of gold is the result of a 'find' of a rich reef. Considerable excitement exists on Myer's Creek as to this discovery, which I trust is likely to lead to important results. [11]

21.10.1867□In consequence of a number of rushes having taken place within the past few days there has been little done on Myer's Creek this week. The most noticeable yield this week is that of a parcel of 60ozs of gold, sold by a party of Chinamen to the Bank of Victoria, the result of a washing-off of 98 loads. The claim from which the washdirt was taken is situated opposite Mr Young's Derby House. Doyle and party, whose claim is contiguous to Purves's Royal Hotel, crushed 5 loads of cement at Caldwell's machine, Pegleg, and

obtained a yield of 7ozs 17dwt 3 grains of gold. This proves that the cement contains a large quantity of gold, and there is little doubt that a good portion of it obtained on Myer's Creek would pay for crushing. I have noticed a miner for several weeks past busily engaged cradling the tailings on the banks of the creek, and he is reported to be doing remarkably well. He has obtained several nice castaway specimens among the cement tailings, and purposes having a quantity of the cement crushed. A young fossicker obtained 8dwt of gold from the re-washing of the tailings, and I am of opinion the cement contains as great a quantity of gold as the washdirt. A party of Chinese working opposite the Bank of Victoria washed 28 loads this week, and obtained a yield of 190zs. I perceive this week that a number of claims have been worked out, and I am informed by many claimholders that their claims are on the verge of being so. Myer's Creek may now be considered to be in its prime, but I have no doubt "fossicking" will be carried on for years, and this retain a fair population on the rush. There is but little work carried on in the company's paddock, only 3 or 4 claims being at work, and the cement has all to be crushed. The lower rush is but a dead letter this week, there being only some half dozen miners engaged prospecting in this locality. They, however, entertain some hopes that the place will yet turn out well. In the early part of the week a rush took place at the bend of the old workings on Myer's Flat, near the Myer's Flat Hotel, and a prospect of 1dwt from 8 buckets of stuff was reported to have been obtained from a depth of 4 feet. The more encouraging prospects reported from Bullock Creek had the effect of inducing the diggers to leave for that locality and suspend mining operations. ... Myer's Creek wore quite a deserted appearance on Tuesday, as the great bulk of the miners paid a visit to Bullock Creek. ... [12]

28.10.1867 □ Mining matters have been rather quiet this week, and I have heard of no particular yield worthy of notice. A number of claims have been worked out within the past few days, and we may now look forward to a daily diminution in our population. ... The bridge erected by the Marong Shire Council, over Myer's Creek, was opened today. [13]

04.11.1867 □ The weekly returns from Myer's Creek are now on the decline. A marked change for the worse is perceptible, and a great diminution in our population has taken place within the past three weeks. The population of Myer's Creek at present does not exceed 1000, 300 of whom are Chinese, and a good number of diggers are working for a nominal sum. ... [14]

11.11.1867 □ Myer's Creek has undergone a marked change since my last report. The most part of the claims are on the verge of being worked out. A good number of stores have been removed bodily from the rush during the past few days, and the majority of those standing are labelled 'for sale'. The long toms are now but very poorly patronized in consequence of the puddling machines being found adequate for all requirements. There has been but little gold-buying this week among the banks, and no remarkable yields. Mr Wallworth's purchases for the week amounted to 130ozs, which were chiefly in small parcels. There are still about a dozen miners engaged on the lower rush who are "contented with little and hoping for more". I learn that as high as 7dwts to the load have been washed from one of the claims contiguous to Shadbolt's paddock. ... [15]

20.11.1867 □ The goldfield is now beginning to wear a very dull appearance in consequence of the limited number of miners at present engaged in mining operations. ... In the early part of the week the principal puddling machines were at a standstill for the want of employment. ...

A small rush took place last week to some ground near the Swan Hill Road, but it is now deserted. A party of miners have been prospecting in the company's paddock near the head of the old workings for the last three weeks, but they have failed to trace anything payable, and have now abandoned their project. A trial crushing of cement from an old shaft at the head of the old workings, near the Government reservoir, was made on Thursday last, and resulted in a yield of 5dwts per ton. This, I understand, will pay well. Nothing has transpired in the vicinity of the lower rush since my last report. Bolger's cultivation paddock is now a dead letter, mining operations having been entirely suspended. [16]

25.11.1867 □ Again this week a good number of departures have taken place. ...

The diggers are leaving in mobs daily, and I venture to speculate that the population of Myer's Creek will not exceed 200 miners by the close of the present year. [17]

02.12.1867 □ In the vicinity of the lower rush there is a decided change in the state of things this week for the better, and it is the opinion of many of the miners that the lost lead will shortly be found in the neighbourhood. Hunter and party, whose claim is contiguous to Shadbolt's paddock, from a washing off this week obtained a yield of half an ounce per load. I am also informed that other claims have given a yield as high as 8dwts per load. The deserted claims between Weightman Brothers shaft and Shadbolt's paddock fence have been taken possession of. ...

Trounce and Company's mills have been actively employed during the week. Two of our puddling machines have been at a standstill for the want of water, in consequence of the owners not having made proper provisions for the preservation of the precious element when it was to be had in abundance. ... The greater portion of the claims below Price's store are now worked out, and the locality presents a most deserted appearance. ... [18]

12.1867 □ At Myerstown some of the machines are at a standstill for want of water, but Trounce and Company have a good supply, and are kept busy puddling for the public. The population has decreased very much. [9.17-18]

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

northwards for over 1½ miles, the sinking between 70 feet and over... For treating the washdirt, some 20 toms were set up in Myers Creek .. In mid August, an enterprising party from Dunolly, Trounce Bros. and Attrell Bros. obtained a mining grant from Mr. Warden Mollison to construct a dam at Myers Creek. This was made on one side of the bed of the creek, covering an area of 316 yards, capable of holding 4,000,000 gallons of water. This party also constructed 2 puddling machines, which together with pumps and cradles were estimated to cost £600. During the busiest period on Myers Creek, the two puddling machines treated up to 500 loads of washdirt per week. In August . . . a reservoir site was chosen . . . By October, it was completed, but complaint was made of a serious leak in the dam-bank... Maybe it did not matter so much now, for the rush was declining... Following the failure to find payable ground in the deeper ground, diggers began leaving in September ... Towards the close of November it was reported, "The diggers are leaving in mobs daily..." [2.149-163] 10.02.1868 □ Favorable reports reach us from this district about 80ozs of gold having been obtained during the past week, one buyer in the adjacent township having alone purchased upwards of 40ozs from different parties. ... [19] 22.11.1882 □ Mr R. Brough Smyth, who is at present writing for the Argus a series of articles on the Sandhurst goldfields, has devoted a good deal of space to a consideration of the question as to whether the alluvial is worked out around Sandhurst, and his remarks should possess special importance for all interested in mining in this district.

After referring to the activity in alluvial mining in early days, and to the little attention now paid to this branch of the industry, he goes on - Myer's Creek, which was once the scene of active mining operations, arises in Palaeozoic ranges, about 1½ miles west of Kangaroo Flat. Its course is a little west of north for some distance beyond Yarraberb, where it turns eastward, and is lost in swamps on the plain. In seasons of flood the waters unite with the Bendigo or Piccanniny Creek, near Kamarooka; and it may be regarded, therefore, as an important tributary of that stream, rather than as an outlet of a separate drainage area. Numerous rich auriferous gullies fall into it from the east, all of which have derived their quartz gravels and gold from the belt of reefs already referred to. Myer's Creek is auriferous near its source, but the wide flat between Punch's Gull and Widdekar, a distance of 5 miles, has not been worked. Myer's Flat, which joins the creek at Widdekar, Sydney Flat, and the lead lower down have yielded a fair quantity of gold from washdirt in ground easily mined, and it is unlikely that the upper portion of the creek would not also prove remunerative. If it could be worked with profit the removal of the alluvia would certainly result in the discovery of quartz reefs. The hard conglomerate which occurs elsewhere in the vicinity has been proved to be rich; that it extends southwards is beyond doubt, and anyone who might put up a crushing mill on the flat would be well rewarded if a regular supply of this conglomerate or cement could be obtained. 15 years ago I made a careful examination of the country north of Widdekar. Attracted by the discovery of gold at a point a quarter of a mile from this block of land, a large number of miners "rushed" the field, and took up claims for a distance of 3 miles. They found a lead running rudely parallel and westward of Myer's Creek, having all the characteristics of the modern channels of the district - low sloping banks, a torturous course, and here and there old waterholes. The sinking was through rounded and angular quartz, and soft shale for 12 or 15 feet, and hard cemented gravel for 18 or 20 feet. The bedrock was found to be a dry clay, resulting from the decomposition of the silurian strata, which here underlies the recent deposits throughout the area between Myer's Creek and Kamarooka. Further northwards the lead was as deep as 70 feet and though the washdirt was not on the average very rich, some yields were exceedingly good, as much as 2, 3, 4 and 5 ounces to the load being obtained by simply washing the earth with the tub and cradle. In some places, probably at a distance from the gutter, the gravel yielded only as many pennyweights per load. The Myer's Creek lead can be followed onwards to Sebastian (5 miles northwards), where the bed rock was reached in 1853 in Campbell's pre-emptive section. Gold was found in the first instance in shallow ground, but the gutter was 200 feet in width in places. From small claims

measuring 40 feet by 40 feet as much as 400ozs of gold was got by easy methods of working and treatment, and with no more capital than was required to purchase a pick, shovel, a piece of rope, and a tub and cradle. The appearance of the gold, rough and unworn, showed that it had not travelled far. When the lead was followed downwards its width was found to be quite 600 feet, and the thickness of the washdirt was in places 5 feet. Still lower, and following the direction of Myer's Creek, the depth of sinking increased, much water was met with, and there was at that time no machinery on the ground sufficient to pump the mines dry, and operations were suspended. The people of Sandhurst have bot only rich quartz reefs which they are now working within a far too limited area, to the neglect of those on the west and north-west more particularly, but they have basins like those at Myer's Creek, Bullock Creek and others, containing auriferous alluviums, which in many parts are untouched, and their main lead (the Bendigo Creek lead) is not yet exhausted. ... [20]