
NEVER MIND WORKINGS

Location

KELLY CREEK TRACK MATLOCK, MANSFIELD SHIRE

Municipality

MANSFIELD SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8122-0016

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10735

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

Never Mind Reef ('a fine-looking reef') was struck in mid-1864, below the junction of Gooley's Creek, on the south bank of the Goulburn River. The surface stone was very rich in find gold, and seventeen claims were marked out along the reef's course soon after its discovery. The prospecting claim was at first opened up by tunnels at levels of about 100 and 180 ft on the Never Mind spur. A water-powered battery of eight heads was installed by the prospecting company in 1865, and the initial crushing averaged more than 2 oz per ton. A further 8-head Langlands battery was added the following year. At the same time, flood gates were fitted to the race which fed the waterwheel, and a blacksmith's shop and retorting and smelting furnace were constructed. Stone was passed down chutes from a series of open cuts to a tunnel beneath, and thence by a tramway in trucks to a self-acting tramway, which finally led to the battery. In 1867, the original battery was improved, the race was improved to give more fall, additional buildings were constructed, and the tramway was upgraded.

Prospects in the Never Mind Prospecting Co. were 'not very brilliant' in 1868 (yields having dropped to about 2 dwts per ton), and the mine was let on tribute; but things failed to improve. Holt & party, further along the reef on ground originally known as the Sons of Freedom claim, ran a tramway from their mine to the Never Mind battery in 1871. Other mines on the Never Mind Spur during the 1870s, including the New All Nations and Lady Franklin, may also have crushed at the Never Mind battery. The battery and tramways were overhauled by the St Osyth Co. (Never Mind tributers) in 1875, but no success resulted from their venture. After being a long time idle, the Never Mind was again re-tried during a prospecting surge in the mid-1880s, this time as the Abo mine, and a New Abo Co. (and machine) was active in 1889.

References:

Dicker's Mining Record, 6 March 1866, p. 159

Holliday notes, p. 5

Milner, p. 13

Mining Surveyors' Reports (Wood's Point Division), September 1864, September & December 1865, December 1866, March & June 1867, June 1868, December 1870, September 1875, September 1885, September 1886, December 1889

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>