
MAGPIE CREEK ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Location

MAGPIE HISTORIC RESERVE BEECHWORTH, INDIGO SHIRE

Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0042

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO68

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Magpie Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice consists of a 200 metre long stone embankment which was probably built in the mid 1860s when the site was extensively reworked by Chinese miners. The embankment was used to divert the waters of Magpie Creek away from its natural bed which was then mined for its alluvial gold.

How is it significant?

The Magpie Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Magpie Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is historically and scientifically important as a characteristic and well preserved example of an early form of gold mining. Gold mining sites are of crucial importance for the pivotal role they have played since 1851 in the development of Victoria. Water diversion and sluicing are important key ingredients in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in mountainous country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Magpie Creek Gold Mining Diversion Sluice is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 10956

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site:

The Magpie Creek diggings were opened in 1856. In 1864, about 150 Chinese rushed Magpie Creek, all engaging in surfacing and sinking. More than 150 Chinese miners remained in exclusive occupation of the alluvial ground at Magpie Creek until at least 1867. Memorably, they were joined by a lone European miner for a short time in early 1866. Many claims yielded as much as 30 to 40 oz per week that winter. In 1887, Dunn wrote: "In the valley of Magpie Creek there is an extensive deposit of shingle over the wash-dirt. For over twenty years a large party of Chinese have been working the lead. They are now sluicing away the whole of the drift, and if it proves payable there is ground enough for another 30 years' work."

The New Wooragee Sluicing Co. operated a sand pump in the Wooragee area, possibly extending to Magpie Creek, during the first ten years of this century.

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/>