
GLADSTONE CREEK ALLUVIAL WORKINGS

Location

FROAM ROAD BRIAGOLONG, WELLINGTON SHIRE

Municipality

WELLINGTON SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8322-0006

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 10980

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Alluvial gold was first worked on Gladstone (sometimes called Maximilian) Creek in 1868, and a minor rush ensued. Numerous small branch gullies were worked—all on the northern side of the creek; not a colour was obtained from gullies to the south. Ground near Blink Bonny Gully was the richest, yielding nuggets as big as 44 oz. By 1872, most miners had moved on, but those remaining soon switched their attention to reefs discovered in a gully at the lower end of Gladstone Creek. Late in the 1880s, however, the persevering Jorgensen brothers* were still working alluvial ground at the junction of Gladstone Creek and Blink Bonny Gully, a particularly nuggetty locality. Miners worked their claims by ground-sluicing—using head-races and sluice-boxes—and by tunnelling into the creek terraces. The coarse character of gold in the vicinity indicated that it was being shed from a reef close by (alluvial gold tends to be finer and more waterworn when found at a distance from the originating ore body). Prospecting failed to locate the source reef until the Boyce's Find discovery in 1894.*The Jorgensen brothers (a mining family based in Stratford) were among the first and last

miners at the Gladstone diggings, and appear to have centred their activities there. Seemingly omnipresent, the Jorgensens were among the most active prospectors in 19th-century Gippsland: Niels Jorgensen was a member of the party which discovered the first reef at Crooked River in 1864; they were at Aberfeldy in 1875; in 1884, the Union battery at Omeo was owned by Jorgensens; that same year, the brothers ('old Gippsland prospectors') discovered the rich Hans Reef at Haunted Stream; Niels was prospecting at Nowa Nowa in 1887; and there were Jorgensens at Bulumwaal in 1888.

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/>