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# Menzies Creek Gold Diggings



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## Location

Menzies Creek Walking Track, Monbulk VIC 3793 - Property No S03558

## Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO232

## Heritage Listing

Yarra Ranges Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2000

Menzies Creek Gold Diggings have high local significance as part of the "Emerald Goldfields", a place where an early Dandenong Ranges goldfield was opened in 1851 at a time when the first gold finds were made at Warrandyte and Clunes and the rich fields at Ballarat and Buninyong. There was a revival of mining along Menzies Creek during the 1890s and 1930s depressions. A Menzies Creek Walking Track has historical significance as the original route from the Avard Park area (once a mining camp) to the diggings in the Kidd's Bridge area. Traces of gold diggings and remains of a water race are said to be visible along Menzies Creek near the Avard picnic ground.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000;
Other Names	Emerald Goldfields; Menzies Creek Walking Track, Butterfield Reserve, Avard Reserve,
Hermes Number	115540
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The Menzies Creek gold diggings covered an extensive area. Part of this area remains within public ownership today, including Butterfield Parks - Kidds Bridge area, and the track from there to Avard Park (however Avard Park is outside the Shire of Yarra Ranges). The Butterfield Reserve area extends along Woori Yallock Creek from its junction with Menzies Creek. It is a small bushland reserve with indigenous vegetation along the creek and some exotic plantings in the picnic area. There is no obvious evidence of mining activities exposed on the surface, however there may be archaeological evidence that survives.

Avard Park is similarly a small reserve with large ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) and a barbecue. There is a row of deciduous trees along the road. This reserve is just outside the Shire boundary. Between the two reserves is a walking track through the dense creek-side vegetation. This track follows the historical track that connected these two areas. There is said to be some evidence of mining visible near Avard picnic ground, however this evidence was not located during the present study.

## Physical Conditions

No evidence survives

## Integrity

Unable to estimate

*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/>*