
'BLOWHOLE' DIVERSION CUTTING

Location

BLOWHOLE TRACK HEPBURN SPRINGS, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7723-0695

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO741

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2005

What is significant?

The Blowholes Gold Diversion Tunnel is a creek diversion which was probably built in the early 1860s when Jim Crow Creek was being extensively worked by European and Chinese miners. The short tunnel was used to divert the waters of Jim Crow Creek effectively cutting off a long section of the original creek. The dry creek bed has been extensively worked.

How is it significant?

The Blowholes Gold Diversion Tunnel is of historical and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Blowholes Gold Diversion Tunnel 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.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register]

Hermes Number 8297

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: Where an auriferous river or creek formed a peninsula, it was common for alluvial miners to cut a tunnel or an open channel through the isthmus, at a level to divert the water course and lay bare the gold-bearing gravels of the stream bed. Some thirteen such diversions have been recorded in Victoria: New Adventure tunnel, Omeo; Tunnel bend diversion, Gaffneys Creek; Thomson River tunnel, Platina; Jericho tunnel, Jordan River; Goulburn River tunnel, Flourbag Creek; Gibbo River tunnel, Benambra; Houghtons or McKoys Flat tunnel, Nicholson River; Big Peninsula tunnel, Upper Yarra; Blow Holes tunnel, Daylesford; Lerderberg tunnel, Blackwood; Evelyn tunnel, Pound Bend, Warrandyte; Delegate River tunnel, Bendoc; and Harrisons Cut, Dargo. Historical information has been found about only six of these diversions. In all cases, the diversions were constructed by European miners and range in date from 1868 to 1889. No information was found on the Daylesford diversion cutting.

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/>