

Victorian Heritage Database Report
Menzies Creek Gold Diggings



Location:

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

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:

Listing Authority: HI

Heritage Overlay Number: HO232

Statement of Significance:

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 Avarad 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 Avarad picnic ground.

Description

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 Avarad Park (however Avarad 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.

Avarad 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 Avarad picnic ground, however this evidence was not located during the present study.

No evidence survives

Unable to estimate

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115540
Property number	S03558

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online