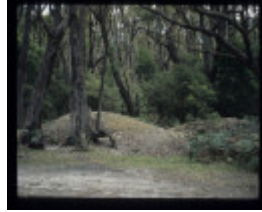

MAFEKING ALLUVIAL WORKINGS



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Location

GRAMPIANS ROAD MAFEKING, ARARAT RURAL CITY

Municipality

ARARAT RURAL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7423-0025

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 6799

Property Number

History

Heritage Inventory History of Site: In 1900 there was a large rush to the Grampians area, south of Mount William, to what became known as the Maefking Rush. Gold was first found in the area by two wood splitters, named Arthur and David Schache, but was not found in payable quantities, until Philip and Frank Emmett prospected the area. In July 1900 a small rush set in and gold was found in at least ten gullies. The government issues free rail passes to field, and within a few weeks 10,000 men were on the Maefking field. The surveyed township at the rush was called Naram Naran. The gold was found in several steep-sided gullies draining off the eastern flank of Mount William. The rush was short lived and soon the mining population had been reduced to about 60 or 70 men. These men were described as sluicers and fossickers who were reported as making 'good wages' when water was available. At other times, the men found work in the local sawmills. In all some 25,000 ounces of gold was won from the field. As little to no new country was opened up the field did not experience in dramatic revivals or development of organised mining. One prospecting party did spend a couple of years driving a tunnel into Sugar-Loaf in search of a reef, but with no success. There was also a syndicate formed (Maefking Syndicate) to undertake extensive sluicing operations at Mount William. In 1938, the syndicate's tail race was reported as completed, but that sluicing had been postponed due to lack of water. The syndicate does not appear to have mined with any success. In 1939 the township of Maefking was destroyed by a bushfire.

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/>