

---

# NIL DESPERANDUM MINE FEATURE

---

## Location

RACECOURSE ROAD BEAUFORT, PYRENEES SHIRE

## Municipality

PYRENEES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7523-0071

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

---

### Interpretation of Site

Nil Desperandum Mine is associated with the turn of the century deep lead mining revival.

The site has low archaeological significance.

### Archaeological Significance

The area may contain subsurface archaeological deposits such as structural foundations and artefact scatters although due to poor visibility and high grass growth no artefact scatters were noted. The significance of such features is low due to the limited interpretive value afforded by foundations and diffuse artefact scatters, and the abundance of this site type in the region and the state.

The site contributes to Victorian Historical Theme : 4.5 Gold Mining - Mining for gold, alluvial and deep lead. The site is representative of turn of the century deep lead mining throughout Victoria's goldfields.

Historical  
Significance

The site has low overall historical significance due to the sites poor integrity and large number of eXisting mining sites of this type in Victoria with greater interpretive values. The site also has low overall local historical significance as a more intact example from this phase of mining occurs at HI 7523-0052 in close proximity.

Hermes Number 161821

Property Number

---

## History

Gold was discovered in Beaufort in 1854 and by 1855 most of the gullies and tributaries were being worked by shallow alluvial mining. By 1858 the fury of the gold rush had greatly dissipated. In the early 1860s a small number of miners commenced to prospect the shallow leads in an attempt to find deeper running auriferous gutters. Many of these men were new arrivals skilled in the art of deep sinking having learnt the trade on the Ballarat gold field. The tools for these miners were horse powered whims or whips and for the more affluent, steam engines. However few mines were successful and by the 1870s the deep lead mining had run its course. A short lived revival of deep lead mining occurred around the turn of the century

Nil Desperandum production details for 1898-99 indicate 3546 ounces of gold was obtained (Vicmine Report Details). The Argus ( 7/1/1902:8) reported that within the month the mine will be worked out

*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/>*