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# RED HILL HYDRAULIC GOLD SLUICING SITE



1 red hill hydraulic gold sluicing site  
castlemaine pipe line side view

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## Location

BREAKNECK HILL TRACK IRISHTOWN, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1230

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO966

## VHR Registration

November 28, 1996

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 11, 1999

The Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site consists of a large sluicing pit containing a network of pebble dumps and tail races. The slopes of the hill below the pit have been extensively ground sluiced, and the gullies draining from the northern and southern sides of the hill have been deeply excavated by high pressure water. The water was brought to area by a race constructed by the River Loddon and Tributaries Water Company in the early 1870s. This race was re-used and repaired in 1906 and 1937. The hill also has a number of house sites, an extensive network of water races and sluice heads, and two dumps of iron sluicing pipe.

The Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is of historical, archaeological and scientific importance to the State of Victoria.

The Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site 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. Hydraulic sluicing of alluvial gold deposits is an important key ingredient in an understanding of gold mining technology as it was employed in country where water was plentiful and perennial.

The Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site is archaeologically important for its potential to yield artefacts and evidence which will be able to provide significant information about the cultural history of gold mining and the gold seekers themselves.

[Source: Victorian Heritage Register.]

## Permit Exemptions

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. No permits are required for the following classes of works provided they are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Conservation Plan For Historic Mining Sites prepared by David Bannear in 1996. \* Mineral Exploration \* Fire suppression duties \* Timber production \* Weed and vermin control \* Public safety \* Rehabilitation

Construction dates 1851,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered archaeological place,

Hermes Number 5014

Property Number

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## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1230 in the category described as a

Heritage and Archaeological Place:

Red Hill Hydraulic Gold Sluicing Site, Castlemaine Historic Area, Vaughan, Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Extent:

1. All of the Crown land including a large sluicing pit complete with pebble dumps and tail races; and all the ground and gully sluicing, water races, dumps of sluicing pipe, and house sites and any other remains of hydraulic gold workings within a radius of 500 metres of a point with Australian Map Grid co-ordinates E533 N852 on 1:100,000 map sheet number 7723 Castlemaine.
2. The River Loddon Water Supply Company's water race, and all the Crown land either side of it for 10 metres, from where the race crosses Irishtown Track, E N on 1:100,000 map sheet number 7723 Castlemaine to E N on 1:100,000 map sheet number 7723 Castlemaine.
3. All the Crown Land including water race flume within a radius of 150 metres of a point with the Australian Map Grid co-ordinates.

Dated 7 November 1996

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G47 28 November 1996 p.3074]

*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/>*