

Plan of the Gold Mill Ruins

Numbers refer to numbered items inside brochure

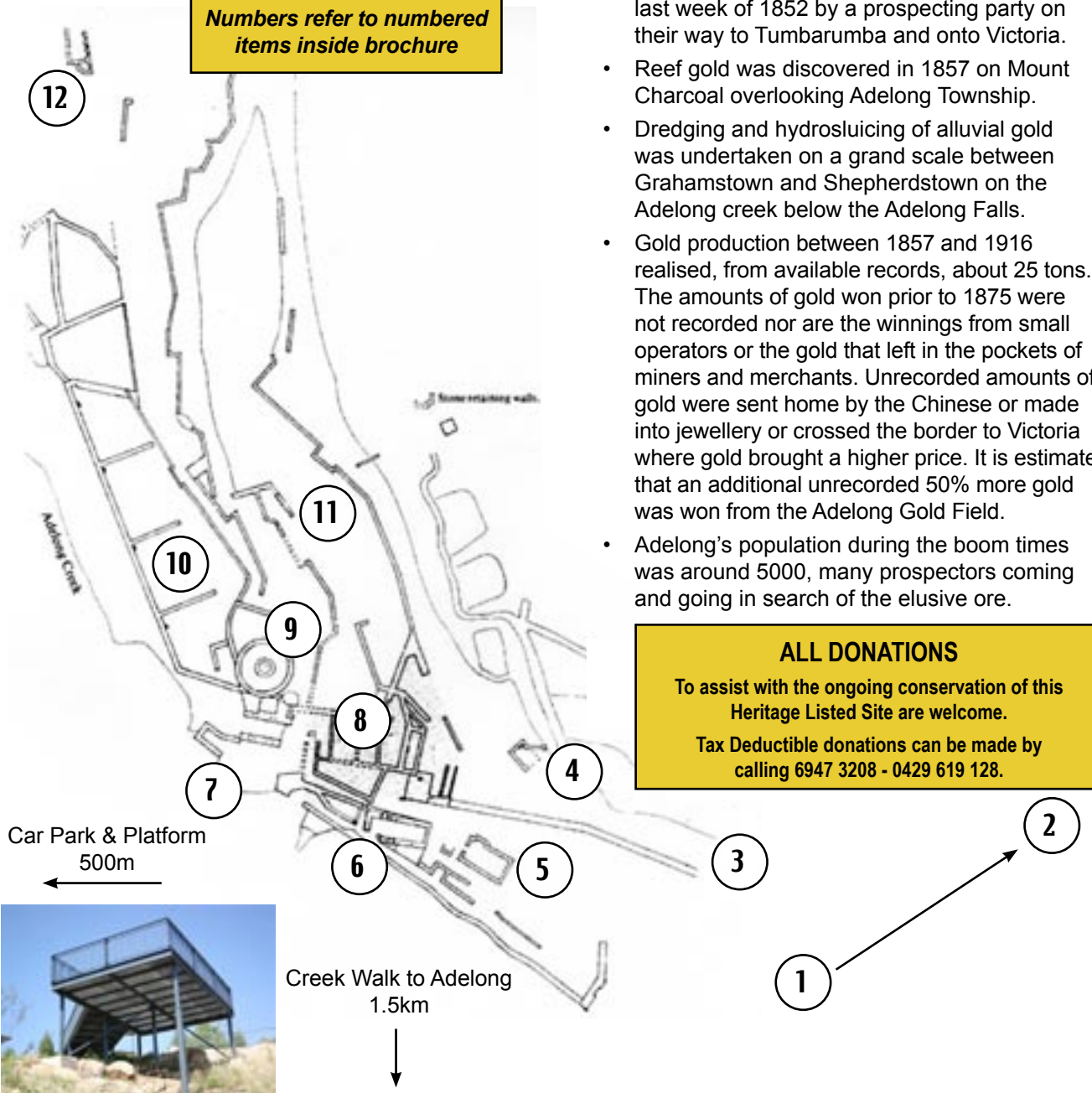
A Brief History of the Adelong Gold Field

- Alluvial Gold was first found at Wondalga in the last week of 1852 by a prospecting party on their way to Tumbarumba and onto Victoria.
- Reef gold was discovered in 1857 on Mount Charcoal overlooking Adelong Township.
- Dredging and hydrosluicing of alluvial gold was undertaken on a grand scale between Grahamstown and Shepherdstown on the Adelong creek below the Adelong Falls.
- Gold production between 1857 and 1916 realised, from available records, about 25 tons. The amounts of gold won prior to 1875 were not recorded nor are the winnings from small operators or the gold that left in the pockets of miners and merchants. Unrecorded amounts of gold were sent home by the Chinese or made into jewellery or crossed the border to Victoria where gold brought a higher price. It is estimated that an additional unrecorded 50% more gold was won from the Adelong Gold Field.
- Adelong's population during the boom times was around 5000, many prospectors coming and going in search of the elusive ore.

ALL DONATIONS

To assist with the ongoing conservation of this Heritage Listed Site are welcome.

Tax Deductible donations can be made by calling 6947 3208 - 0429 619 128.



Site of the Reefer Battery built 1869/82



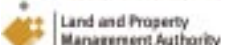
A self guided walking tour along the Adelong Creek to the historic ruins. The walk begins at the Adelong Alive Museum (2km) or the Adelong Falls car park (500m).



A viewing platform funded by the Federal Government Stimulus Plan provides all visitors a view of The Heritage Listed Ruins.

Thank you for visiting.

Project proudly supported by:



ADELONG FALLS GOLD MILL RUINS

Site of the Reefer Battery built 1869/82

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR ALONG THE ADELONG CREEK TO THE HISTORIC RUINS

1. Ruins and water race – 1869/74

On this site The Edwards mill was built, and was driven by water that was dammed upstream on the Adelong creek and channelled along the water race. The water was later channelled to the Reefer Battery via the aqueduct, upper water race and timber flume (*raised channel*).

2. “Ferndale” ruins – 1876

This cottage was built for William Ritchie manager and co-owner with David Wilson of the Reefer Battery. *Note: the terraced gardens.*

3. The ore road – 1869

This road provided access to the Reefer Battery from the reef mines above and around the site.

4. Weighbridge site – 1876

Ore dumped here was weighed in ore bins for processing within the Reefer mill.

See details on the Reefer Battery

5. Site office – 1870

From here daily activities were controlled. Ore was assayed for value and processing.

Adjacent to the office is evidence of the strong room and blacksmith’s shop. Here the gold ingots were stored for shipment to the Sydney Mint.

6. Upper water wheel – 1882

Water was delivered to the wheel via a metal lined timber flume via the upper water race.

Note: The axle above the processing area.

7. Lower water wheel – 1870

Water was delivered to this wheel via the lower water race. A log dam in the creek diverted the water which was controlled by a timber and steel sluice gate in the headwall into the lower water race. (*now in-filled with steel plate*)

Both water wheels operated separately to drive different machinery in the processing area.

8. The Reefer Battery and ore crushing mill – 1870/75

Within this area the major processing took place using mechanical methods to crush the ore and mercury to separate the gold. The ore was fed by gravity from the weighbridge through:

three ore chutes, three to five stamper batteries, three Chilean mills, amalgamation tables, blanket tables and 2 berdans which ground the ore.

9. The Buddle – 1875

This was the grading machine “saving” gold from the tailings and was powered by the lower water wheel.

10. Tailings pits – 1876

Waste tailings dumped here after the crushing and grinding process were transferred on to the buddle and reverberatory furnace for further gold processing.

11. The reverberatory furnace and chimney stack – 1876

The furnace is connected to the brick chimney by a 25 metre flue. The furnace was used to roast the pyrites and burn off the sulphur prior to chlorination at an unknown site and later to the cyanide process.

12. Site of Cyanide plant – 1930

Constructed near the end of the crushing plant’s life. This was the final process in extracting gold from the tailings.

Adelong Alive Museum

Features a scale model of the Reefer Battery and more detailed information on gold mining in the Adelong district.

The booklet - “A Tour of the Reefer Battery” by Tom Wiles gives a comprehensive description on the operation of the ore crushing mill.

The museum is operated by volunteers and open by appointment.

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