

Forest Creek Gold Diggings



Things to do:

- Walk around the .5km track and read the story of gold on the nine informative boards placed around the track.
- Play in the Geo-maze, a low maze constructed from local rocks depicting the geological history of the area.
- Examine the old Ruston & Hornsby engine used to deliver water to the sluicing nozzles.
- Have a picnic beside the old dam
- Purchase a gold panning kit at the Castlemaine Market Centre and return to pan for gold.
- Solve the mystery of 'Whatever Happened to Dundee Jock'

Quick Facts

A surviving section of the original 1850's diggings. This is a genuine alluvial gold landscape.

Access: By car

Period: 1850's to the present

Time: Allow 20-30 minutes to 2 hours

Stories: The big rush, alluvial gold, technology.

Within a year of the start of the Mount Alexander gold rush, miners in their tens of thousands had poured into the broad valley of Forest Creek.

As more and more newcomers pegged their claims, they followed the deposits of gold up the eroded flats and valleys feeding the creek. It soon dawned on the crowd that gold washed into the river flats came from the surrounding rises.

In March of 1852, White Hill was the scene of a rush within a rush, and a month later the adjacent rise known as Red Hill was swarming with hopefuls, some lying stretched out on the ground to secure their eight foot by eight foot claim (about two metres by two metres).

Today, the Forest Creek Gold Diggings occupies the remains of White Hill and Red Hill. There have been nearly 150 years of continuous mining here, and a



remarkable range of techniques has been used to extract the alluvial (river deposited) gold. All of these techniques were versions of the panning process, whereby clay and gravel are washed away from the heavier gold, and all have left their traces.