



Gympie Eldorado Goldmines Pty Ltd

The Historical Era.

The Gympie Goldfield was discovered in 1867 and was worked continuously for 60 years until 1927 to produce 3.5 million ounces of gold. It was Historically the 6th largest goldfield in Australia and the 3rd largest in Queensland after Charters Towers and Mount Morgan, with an average ore grade of 24 grams of gold per tonne. Gympie was one of the highest grade and richest goldfields in the world, paying handsome dividends to its investors in Australia and especially Scotland for several decades.

The Gympie Goldfield is famous for its course gold specimen stone that occurs where gold-bearing reefs come into contact with a seam of black slate known as the 'Productive Horizon'.

At today's gold price, Gympie gold production is worth over \$1,500,000 (AU) which gives substance to the historian claims that Gympie was the town that saved the then Colony of Queensland from bankruptcy.

The ore was mined by hand using hammer and tap drilling to insert black powder explosive that blasted the rock. Men loaded the handpicked ore into rail carts that were drawn along underground railways to the shafts by the men themselves. The heroic achievements of these early miners cannot be overstated. The earth was hot in deeper mines and ventilation limitations became the main engineering constraint on production at depth.

The Modern Era

The modern era of the Gympie Goldfield commenced in the 1970's with the amalgamation of the fragmented mining tenements. Surface exploration commenced in 1980 with deep diamond drill holes that tested unmined portions of historically known ore zones. In 1988, the deepest shaft in the field, West of Scotland Shaft at the outskirts of Gympie was reopened after 84 years. In 1993, the reopening of the Scottish Gympie No. 2 Shaft commenced and came into production after the official opening in 1996. A modern powerful ventilation fan fitted to the top of the Scottish Gympie No. 3 Shaft upgraded ventilation throughout the interconnected workings. In 1996, the old Scottish Gympie No. 1 Shaft across the road from the Mining Museum was renamed after the famous geologist, Bas Lewis and it reopened in 1988 after being refurbished.

The Gympie Eldorado Goldmine Pty Ltd was sold in 2004 after the Parent Company Gympie Eldorado Goldmine Ltd went into receivership. The new Company Gympie Eldorado Mine Ltd wound down the Operation and is currently in maintenance mode.

The Environment

The Gympie Goldmine operates beneath a modern city and the Mill operates just outside the city limits. The operation has achieved a good environmental record due to the desire to be a respected long-term business in Gympie with guidance and monitoring by the Government and local community.

Discharge mine water is almost potable quality is supplied to the community during periods of extended low rainfall to keep the duck ponds in the nearby park fresh. The Mill discharges water and tailings into a sealed and fenced dam with the Mill waters and tailings neutralised prior to discharge to stock-quality standards. Wildlife uses this dam for water during drought.

Modern mining projects like the Monkland Mine and any future mines, arising from exploration success, employ many professional and skilled trades people.

Just as in the Historical Era, for every miner, there are several others in the town that benefit from the business, employment and optimism that has been a hallmark of all Gympie gold mines since 1867. Long may it continue!