

TMC TOURS MOUNT MORGAN

Mount Morgan History - Fact Sheet:

Population:

At the peak of mining around 1915, Mount Morgan's population had risen to approximately 16 000 people. Today, without the mining industry the town's and surrounding rural areas population is just over 3000

Naming of the town:

The town was named MOUNT MORGAN after the 3 Morgan brothers who started mining on Ironstone Mountain in 1882.

By 1890 it was officially known as Mount Morgan.

- Beforehand locals referred the area to as "Ironstone Mountain", where the gold was discovered. Local indigenous tribe referred to the area as Bundoona meaning "good"

Discoveries of gold in Rockhampton area:

1855 deposits found at Bouldercombe and to the north of Rockhampton.

During the 1860's deposits found at Cawarral (near Yeppoon).

1870 gold found at Ironstone Mountain (now the Mount Morgan Mine Site) by William Mackinlay, from the Calliungal Cattle Station.

Mackinlay discovered what he thought would only be a small proportion of mineral on the mountain and never did register the claim for mining.

1882 three brothers "The Morgan Brothers" who had interest in mining were told of gold deposits at Ironstone Mountain, they investigated and pegged out a large claim and proceeded to register it in their name. The mining began and the remainder is history.

The numerous companies:

The Private Syndicate:

In 1882 the 3 Morgan brothers pegged out a claim on Ironstone Mountain and registered it in their name.

"The Private Syndicate" consisted of the three Morgan brothers and other businessmen from the Rockhampton area: William Knox D'arcy, William Pattison and Thomas Hall.

The syndicate employed miners, quarrying from the top of Ironstone Mountain and crushed the ore with head stamp batteries, using mercury as an early attempt to retrieve fine gold from the ore.

The first processing area of ore was called the "Lower Works area", situated below the mountain, on the banks of the Dee River.

Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company:

- 4 years after the Syndicate was formed the Morgan Brothers sold their stake of the mine to the remaining syndicate members. Soon after the 1st company was formed

"Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company" (the first company) operated from 1886 mining underground and quarrying a type of primitive open cut method.

To replace the not so successful mercury retrieving method the company introduced a more advanced method-the chlorination process having a 90 % success rate.

The chlorination works moved to the Upper works in the 1890's, closer to the mining operation.

In 1927 the company ceased operation and went into voluntary liquidation. This was caused from: the world wide low pricing of copper, the commencement of the depression era, major industrial problems resulting in major strikes at the mine, with the final disaster of a huge underground fire. Deliberate flooding of the underground attempting to extinguish the fire ruined any chance of further operation of primary mining underground at that time.

Mount Morgan Limited:

2 years later in 1929 the mine reopened, as a subsidiary called "Mount Morgan Limited". Initially the company pumped out some of the flooded underground working, retrieving minerals from the sludge. Limited underground mining continued until 1932 when extensive Open Cut mining began.

Peko Wallsend Investments Limited:

This company bought Mount Morgan Limited in 1968 and continued with extensive open cut mining until 1981

Official mining of the ore ceased in 1981, due to low ore deposits

1982-1990 – the last 8 years of mining was re-processing of tailings (waste areas from previous processing methods).

This tailing dump area was known as Sandstone Gully, where 31 million tonnes of tailings were reprocessed. This process is known as a carbon in pulp Cyanide Treatment operation, which retrieved 14.5 tonnes of gold. After the extraction of gold the waste was dumped into the disused Open Cut Pit.

Stages of mining:

1882-1927: Quarrying and primitive Open Cut from the top of Ironstone Mountain with underground mining tunneling below the mountain

1932-1981: Extensive open cut mining

1982-1990: Re-treatment of tailings at Sandstone Gully- carbon in pulp Cyanide Plant

Mined a total 108 years of mining and re-processing.

Ore Assayed:

In 1889 the average ore grade was 4.3 ounces gold to the ton. 1 ton of ore measured far less than 1 metre volume.

1898 ore grade decreased to 1 ounce gold to the ton

At the height of gold mining many pockets of ore assayed yielded up to 60 ounces to the ton. One ounce per ton is considered to be a very rich ore load.

Quantity of ore treated over 100 years of mining:

225 tons of gold 50 tons of silver 360 000 tons of copper.

Richest gold mine in the world for 1st 10 years of mining Then became 4th largest copper production in Australia.