



# Corner Country Mining Heritage

## The Albert Goldfields

### The discovery of gold

Gold was first discovered at Mt Poole and then Mt Browne in the late 1870s. The resulting rushes led to further discoveries in a field extending through Warratta to The Granites (Tibooburra).

Settlements at Mt Browne and The Granites followed, with Milparinka being settled on the Evelyn Creek because of its proximity to permanent water.

Three villages, Albert, New Bendigo and Warratta, also sprang up.



### Mining methods varied

Each mining area used different techniques to extract the gold, depending upon where it was located within the earth. At Mount Browne the gold was alluvial, but had to be mined through shafts up to 60 metres deep.



At Warratta it was confined to quartz veins and was also mined through shafts. The ore was crushed by stamping and the gold extracted.

At Tibooburra gold was found within a metre or so of the surface and extracted through dry blowing or cradling.



### Operations cease

At times the lack of rainfall in the area caused a suspension of cradling operations for up to two years.

Even stamping operations ceased when there was not enough feed for the horses needed to fetch wood for the steam engines which drove the stampers.

Three thousand or so people lived on the fields in the early days, dwindling to a mere two hundred or so in the area by the 1920s.