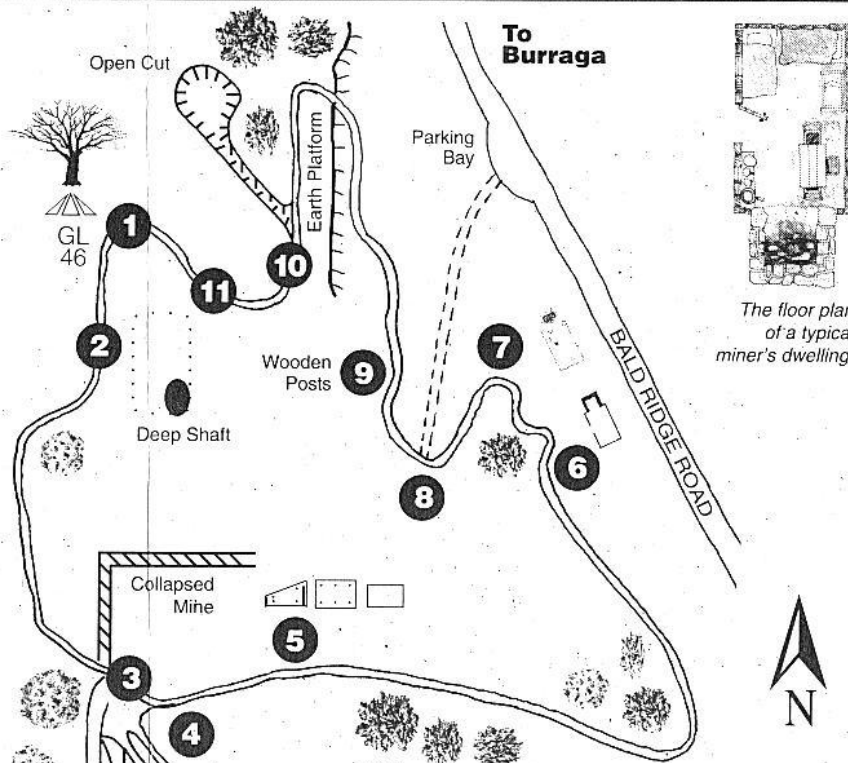
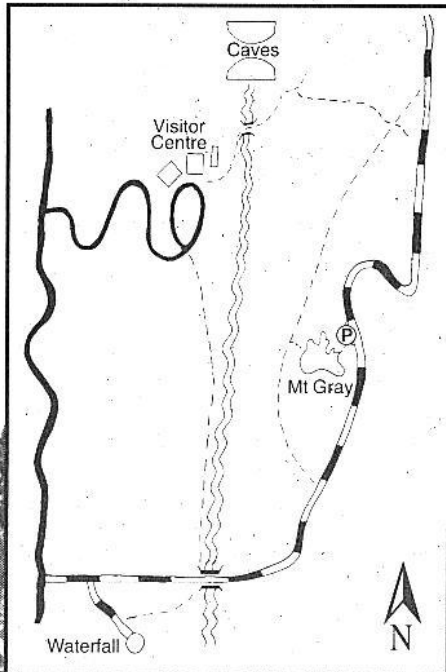


1. Survey Tree
2. Diggings
3. Entrance to Old Mine
4. Tailings Piles
5. Site of Three Buildings
6. Remains of Miner's Dwelling
7. Interior Remains of Dwelling
8. Start/Finish by car
9. Wooden Supports
10. Open Cut Mine
11. Site of Blacksmith Shop

Detailed descriptions for each site appear on the inside of this brochure.



The floor plan of a typical miner's dwelling.

Mount Gray Gold Field

The site of **Mount Gray** is now listed as a Heritage site on the National Estate – mining is no longer permitted.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & WATER (NSW)
PARKS & WILDLIFE DIVISION

Abercrombie Caves

Following the discovery of gold in the area around 1851, prospectors began searching for the precious metal along the banks of **Grove Creek**. The largest of these workings is at **Mount Gray**, covering an area of about 20 hectares.

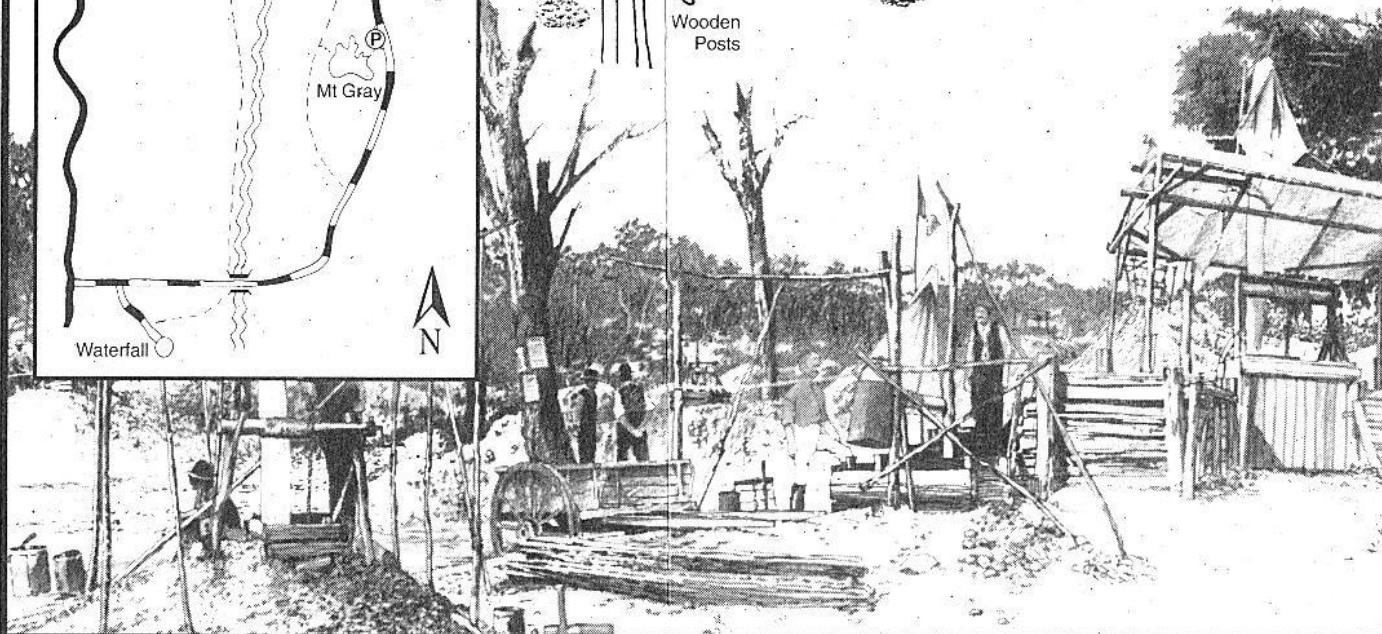
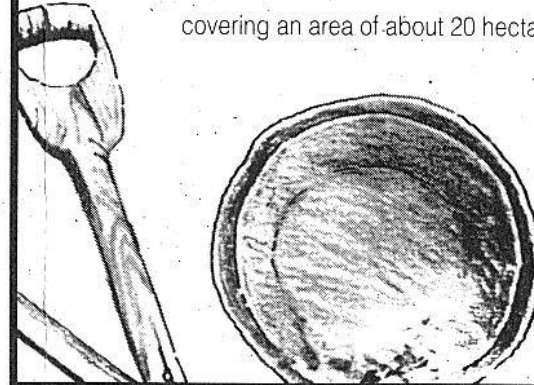



Illustration from the book *Gold! the fascinating story of gold in Australia* written and illustrated by John Nicholson. Published by Allen & Unwin. First published in Australia, 1994.

Discovering Mount Gray

If you have walked to Mt Gray from the camping area your tour starts at sign Number 1. The wide section of the track just before the Mt Gray sign is the original road leading to Burraga.

For those who have driven to the site, the tour starts at sign **Number 8**. Signs are numbered in an anticlockwise direction.

1. Survey Tree (Start & Finish for walkers)

 Markings on a dead tree. This was one corner of Gold Lease 46. Imagine marking out your land in such a fashion.

2. Diggings

The last serious attempts at mining at Mount Gray was in 1898 when Messrs Graham and party did a little prospecting nearby. Diggings can be found in many places on these hillsides.

3. Entrance to Old Mine

It is likely that this was the site of the earliest mining operation which was undertaken by the Grove Creek Gold Mining Company in 1875.

This mine has now collapsed. The depression on the surface shows the shape of the mine. As the mine shaft was only about one metre tall, imagine how cramped the conditions would have been!

4. Tailings Piles

Many tons of material were removed from the mine in trolleys which rode on wooden rails. The unwanted tailings were dumped into two long piles. On the top of one pile there is still the remains of the wooden railway.

5. Site of Three Buildings

Short wooden posts and two piles of bricks indicate two large buildings with chimneys. To the East is a large, flat area thought to have been the site of a large shed (possibly a stable or machine shed). One upright support from this building still stands.

6. Remains of Miner's Dwelling

The first was wooden. If you look closely at the pile of collapsed timbers you will notice grooves, cuts and nail holes where they were joined with other timbers.

7. Interior Remains of Dwelling

The second dwelling has only the flat floor and remains of a chimney. Imagine the contents of the dwelling and the cramped conditions for the occupant.

8. Start and end of tour for those who came by car

9. Wooden Supports

It is possible that the wooden supports are all that remains of a thirty head stamper battery which is mentioned in early Mines Department records. The supports appear to be arranged in a straight line and the spacing suggests three sets of ten heads. Each set arranged in two groups of five. The pile of bricks nearby are the remains of the supports for a steam engine which was used to drive the stamper battery.

10. Open Cut Mine

The open cut is thought to be the last major mining operation at Mount Gray. The rock was taken out of the mine on trolleys which ran on wooden rails. The rails ran out onto the earth platform and dropped the gold bearing quartz into hoppers and then into wagons which were waiting underneath. After the wagons were loaded, the quartz was taken to be crushed and processed at a twenty head stamper battery down on Grove Creek. Later a thirty head stamper was installed and the ore crushed on site. The open cut provides an impressive example of the energy and determination of the old-time gold seekers who did it all with pick, shovel and crowbar.

11. Site of Blacksmith Shop

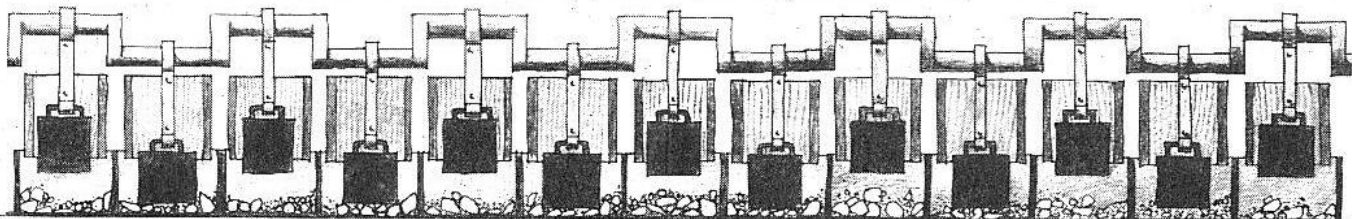
Until 1989, there was the outline of the building with the forge area and a wooden block on which the anvil sat. Today, there is no evidence of this building but, by standing still and listening you can imagine the sound of the blacksmith's hammer hitting against his anvil.

**There are some unfenced,
deep shafts in the area
- please take care.**

The story of Clarth & Co.

Mines Department Annual Reports for the gold rush years can often reveal some interesting stories. One series of entries involves a Mr CH Clarth, a representative of a Calcutta Mining syndicate. The records show that over a period of five years, Mr Clarth first set up his own company and erected a thirty head stamper battery at his leisure near Trunkey Creek. Later he moved the stamper battery to a new site at Mount Gray and after about a year of little or no work, Clarth abandoned the mine, leaving all the equipment on site. Clarth's lease was then cancelled and the machinery and equipment was removed.

During the gold rush there were many incidents of mining companies giving the impression of a paying mine by installing impressive equipment. Often there was little or no gold and these companies collapsed leaving investors with nothing.



Although there is evidence of a lot of work being undertaken at Mount Gray, very little gold was actually recovered from these hillsides. The shortage of water often prevented the ore being processed and returns were often not very satisfactory.

Mount Gray is part of the Abercrombie Caves conservation area. Please help us to look after the area by observing some simple rules:

- Protect native animals and plants
- Take nothing but photographs and leave nothing but footprints
- Fossicking is not permitted at Mount Gray