

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COLES BAY TINFIELD

Located on Freycinet Peninsula, the Coles Bay Tinfield consists of alluvial deposits at two main locations. One is located in Saltwater Creek, which is on the northern boundary of Coles Bay township, while a more extensive deposit occurs along most of Middleton Creek, which is five kilometres to the North-East.

The first tin leases were worked by Herman and Albert Koglin between 1875 and 1877. They each held an 80 acre lease at the headwaters of Middleton Creek, which is situated close to the coast near Bluestone Bay. About the same time, adjoining leases were acquired by C. Peisse and J.W. King.

In 1899, William Singline and Frank Gill were each granted a Tin Reward Claim over areas once occupied by King and Herman Koglin respectively.

Government Geologist, William H. Twelvetrees, estimated that 150 tons of tin had been recovered from the field by 1900.

The Middleton Creek deposits were worked intermittently by various parties until 1972, when they were totally acquired by Doug Lewis of Consolidated Eastern Tin Pty Ltd. The workings were finally abandoned about 1980.

The smaller Saltwater Creek deposits were originally leased by Patrick Bryan in 1888, but were not commercially worked until 1899, when Alfred Duncombe acquired a 20 acre lease. This was followed by three additional 40 acre leases during the period 1900 to 1901.

These properties were known as the Schouten Main Mining and Dredging Company's Claim. After a number of operators, the deposits were last worked by Loch McRae during the period between 1963 and 1981.

During the years of 1905 to 1906, an estimated 2,000 acres was held under mining leases. It was during this period, the largest of the water storage dams was built.

Known as Montgomery's Dam, it was located at the headwaters of Middleton Creek at the southern boundary of F.M. Gill's Tin Reward Claim.

The dam, together with the old hut fireplaces of the early 1890's, remain as the only survivors of the original tin workings.



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