

'Hope' for a mine

Fulton Creek Township (1862 – 1897)

The township of Fulton's Creek remained dependent through its life on business from fossickers and mining activity in the area to survive. In its heyday sources suggest there were four shanty stores and restaurants with dinner menus said to include wallaby, wombat, native pheasant and quoll.

Described as an old scot from Glasgow, John Fulton discovered the first reef in the vicinity of the township and he registered a claim in 1861. He was not successful in his claim, or in leaving any other historical footprint.

The mine that did spring up there was run by Fulton's Creek Gold Mining Co. N.L. Their newly constructed crushing machine was christened in a naming ceremony as Fulton's Hope with the mining manager's daughter riding from Bairnsdale to perform her naming duty at the ceremony. Unfortunately the mining venture fell through after just two months and the battery was later relocated to the McGregor mine near Walhalla.

"Finale – an action for debt judgement in default, issuing of a writ, seizure of the battery, liquidation and ruination. All said in a few words, but meaning a lot to the unlucky shareholders"
Reflection of a Fulton's Creek resident.

A character of the town was Gilbert Bruce Smith who prospected the area and lived in a hut on the outskirts of town with only a cat and dog for company. A devoted man of Christ, Bruce as he was known, walked to Donnelly's Creek to teach Sunday school. Along the way he used to shoot an animal to pay for his food and board during his stay.

Source: "Donnelly's Creek: From Rush to Ruin of a Gippsland Mountain Goldfield" Luke Steenhuis (re-published by R. Paoletti 2011).
"Ghost Towns of the Mountain Goldfields" Luke Steenhuis. 2006



*Local Fulton Creek township residents. (c.1890)
From Rudi Paoletti, Gold for the Taking, A Pictorial History of the Heyday
of the Walhalla-Wood's Point Gold Belt, 2007.*

(Note: Fulton's Creek photos are extremely rare, and unfortunately this is the best quality obtainable).