

GRAPEVINE CUTTINGS (March 1998)

By Rob Upson
BENDIGO'S GOLD VOLUME

The inscription near the top of the poppet head in the Interpretive Centre reads:

"The Bendigo Area has produced 18.4 million ounces of gold".

That sounds like a lot of gold. If it was all melted down into a single ingot, how large do you think it might be? About the size of the interior of

- (a) a double decker bus
- (b) the Interpretive Centre
- (c) a Birney tram
- (d) Kellie's Daewoo Lanos

At today's market price how much do you think this amount of gold might be worth?

- (a) approx. A\$ 1 billion
- (b) approx. A\$ 4 billion
- (c) approx. A\$ 8 billion

Answers:

Gold is quite a dense metal. It is nearly 20 times heavier than water and about 7 times heavier than aluminium. A 9 litre household bucket full of gold would weigh about 175 kg.

Try lifting that and running away with it !!

Our ingot of gold would have a volume of approx. 27 cubic metres or about the size of the interior of a Birney tram and be worth about A\$8 billion.