

# GRAPEVINE CUTTINGS (August 2001)

By Rob Upson

## A GOLDFIELD'S TEN QUESTION QUIZ

To acknowledge the sesquicentenary of the discovery of gold in Australia, here for your edification and enjoyment, is a Goldfields Quiz, or a game of Alluvial Pursuit!!

- Q1. Who is credited with the first discovery of gold in Australia? Also when and where?
- Q2. Who or what is a 'wideawake'?
- Q3. The largest gold nugget in the world weighed in at 2284 ounces (65 kg). What was it called and where and when was it found?
- Q4. Who or what was a 'vandemonian'?
- Q5. We all know how Bendigo got its name, but what is the origin of the name Ballarat?
- Q6. How many historic mining towns can you name in Victoria that starts with the letter 'B'?
- Q7. There are two significant statues in Bendigo commemorating the diggers and mining of gold. What are they and where are they located? (Geo. Lansell excluded)
- Q8. There are many lines of reef, containing gold bearing quartz, that run approximately north-south under Bendigo. There were basically only three significant and the most productive lines of reef. Can you name them?
- Q9. What did the Chinese call the Bendigo goldfields?
- Q10. Which two towns vie for the distinction of having first discovered gold in Victoria?

### Answers to the Goldfields Quiz.

- Q1. Edward Hargraves is credited with the first discovery of gold in Australia near Bathurst, NSW, on February 12<sup>th</sup> 1851. Coming from the California gold rush he noticed that the creeks and valleys around Bathurst were similar and that they should contain gold.
- Q2. A 'wideawake' is a soft felt hat worn by the diggers. It had a low crown and a wide brim and so-called because it didn't have a nap.
- Q3. The world's largest gold nugget was unearthed on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1869, at Moliagul, Victoria, by John Deason and Richard Oates. It was called the *Welcome Stranger* nugget.
- Q4. A 'vandemonian' was the derogatory name given to convicts and ex-convicts on the goldfields from Van Diemen's Land. When transportation to this island ceased in 1853 the term was no longer used. The name was changed to Tasmania in 1856 and now we know the inhabitants as Tasmaniacs!!!!
- Q5. Ballarat comes from an aboriginal word meaning camping or resting place. The swamp, now Lake Wendouree, was a favourite camping place.

- Q6. Mining towns in Victoria beginning with 'B'? I can find eleven, maybe you can find others. Ballan, Ballarat, Bailieston, Barker's Creek, Bealiba, Beaufort, Bendigo, Beechworth, Blackwood, Bright, Buninyong.
- Q7. Where Pall Mall divides into Bridge St. and McCrae St. stands the monument depicting the goddess, Victoria (or Fortuna), providing nuggets for the pan of a prospector. Commemorating the Golden Jubilee of gold, it was completed in 1906 and unveiled by the then premier, Thomas Bent. Ninety years later, the monument to the Cornish Miner was unveiled in Lyttleton Terrace between the Library and the Town Hall.
- Q8. The size of the Bendigo goldfields is approx. 20 miles by 7 miles with 37 distinct lines of reef. The central area covering 6 miles by 1 mile from Quarry Hill to Eaglehawk contains the three main lines of reef called New Chum, Garden Gully and Hustlers. Other lines include Carshalton, Sheepshead, Nell Gwynne, Deborah and Lightning Hill.
- Q9. Dai Gum San was the original Chinese digger's name for Bendigo, meaning Big Gold Mountain.
- Q10. Clunes (June 1851) and Warrandyte (July 1851) battle it out for the towns where gold was first discovered in Victoria. They were closely followed by Ballarat (August 1851), Bendigo (October 1851) and Beechworth (February 1852).