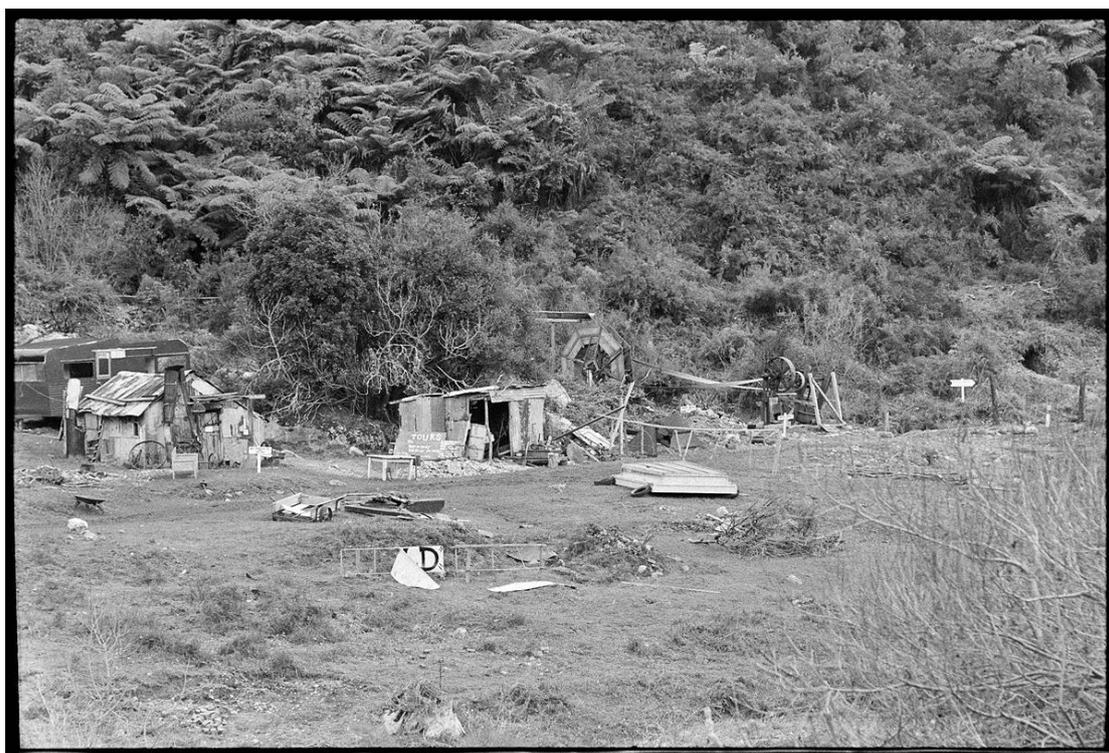


“Gold Camp”

The “Goldcamp”

This was a tourist attraction. It was situated across the river from the present picnic reserve and was operated by Mr Lindsay Aitchison (with help from casual labour). It opened on Labour Weekend 1970 and continued until about 1975. Various attractions included old mining machinery operated by a water wheel, gold panning, displays of old photographs, etc.¹



Gold Camp gcc-18247, 12 June 1971, BoP Times. Tauranga City Libraries.²

The Gold Camp sign has blown down. At centre is the overshot water wheel driving a two stamp battery and berdan. Water comes from the Hauraki Stream.

At left are a caravan and hovel.

The public were encouraged to cross the Ohinemuri using the pipeline bridge, which was gated to try to prevent this, or by boat/punt which the “miner” would sometimes operate. A trough of crushed quartz was available for the public to try their hand at panning.³

¹ Karangahake School and District Centenary Reunion 1889-1989. Gary Staples editor. Page 48.

² <https://paekoroki.tauranga.govt.nz/>

³ By memory of the writer.



January 1973 aerial photograph showing the Gold Camp infrastructure on Battery Flat. Vehicles could drive here from Crownhill Road. In fact vehicles were accessing beyond the upstream end of the Talisman battery site at this time. Why?

Crown_3622_I_3_25.1.1973.