



Gold Discovery in Bargo.

This was an advent of the greatest importance: for it was to cause the small settlement to grow into a busy mining camp.

Of the first "find" there is little evidence: it was probably in the early sixties. Towards the end of the year 1868 many diggers began to arrive, but lack of water prevented the development of the field. About the beginning of February, 1869, rain fell and the Bargo correspondent of the "Western Post" reported that the aspect of things had completely changed following the rain and digging was going on busily and everyone appeared to be making more or less gold. The Bargo gold field upon which the township of Bargo was built was proclaimed on the 11th February 1869. The area at the time being subject to a conditional purchase by a gentleman - Mr J. Hartigan. From that time the gullies, and later the reefs around Bargo yielded a rich harvest of the precious metal. In the wake of the diggers, came the business people and the settlement along the creek grew into the town of Bargo - a busy thriving mining community.

When gold was discovered at Gum Flat
~~the~~ the Village of Cerge was settled. Of course
the population was a lot more than it is
now. With the gold running out and the price
of gold unviably to mine, the population left for
greener pastures. When I went to school in
Cerge there was two schools. The Catholic school
and the Public school. With not enough pupils, the
Catholic school closed down.

There was no ~~at~~ such thing as a Veterans
street lamp then all the roads were either
dirt or gravel. The water for the town came from
the Reservoir a large dam in the common south east
of the Public School. Most of the kids who lived
out of Cerge went to school either by walking, horse
and sulky or riding a bike, there was no such thing
as a school Bus.