

BYWONG TOWN

HISTORIC GOLD TOWN

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Risk Assessment for Bywong Town

Bywong Gold Mining Town is located on a 24 hectare property. The area is heavily timbered with re-growth eucalyptus forest. Reef mining was conducted on the site in the 1890's, and early 1900's, and spasmodically since then.

A visitor to Bywong is taken on a fully guided tour of approximately 4 hectares of the site. The tours follow paths, on which there are tree roots and overhanging tree branches. The groups walk past at least one dam, of which there are three on site. During summer months snakes are occasionally seen and avoided under the strict control of the tour guide. All visitors are warned to stay with or behind the tour guides at all times.

There are approximately 25 mine shafts on site, which are collared and covered with reinforcing for safety. The tours will take visitors in close proximity to 4 of these shafts and include views of an open cut mine protected by a full height fence, as well as viewing or operating a 'whim', hand operated stamper, large stamper and windlass. All safety features have been completed in accordance with the Department of Mineral Resources guidelines and have been inspected by officers of the Department. The site has had environmental inspections by the same Department, and found to have no traces of hazardous materials.

The visitor has the opportunity to pan for gold, using a metal rod to crush the quartz in a 'dolly pot', and then panning the ore over an open barrels of water. Instructions are given on the methods used to avoid or minimise the risk of injury – eg. keeping face away and bending knees whilst crushing. In the village, visitors view humpies, huts and other community structures including a covered well, and visit the blacksmith's shop. The forge is alight, and some visitors will have the opportunity to bend hot metal. Protective clothing is provided for this activity, and safe distances for other group members ensured.

Bywong Town carries a \$20 million public liability policy with AIB Pty. Ltd. Policy number D246593123