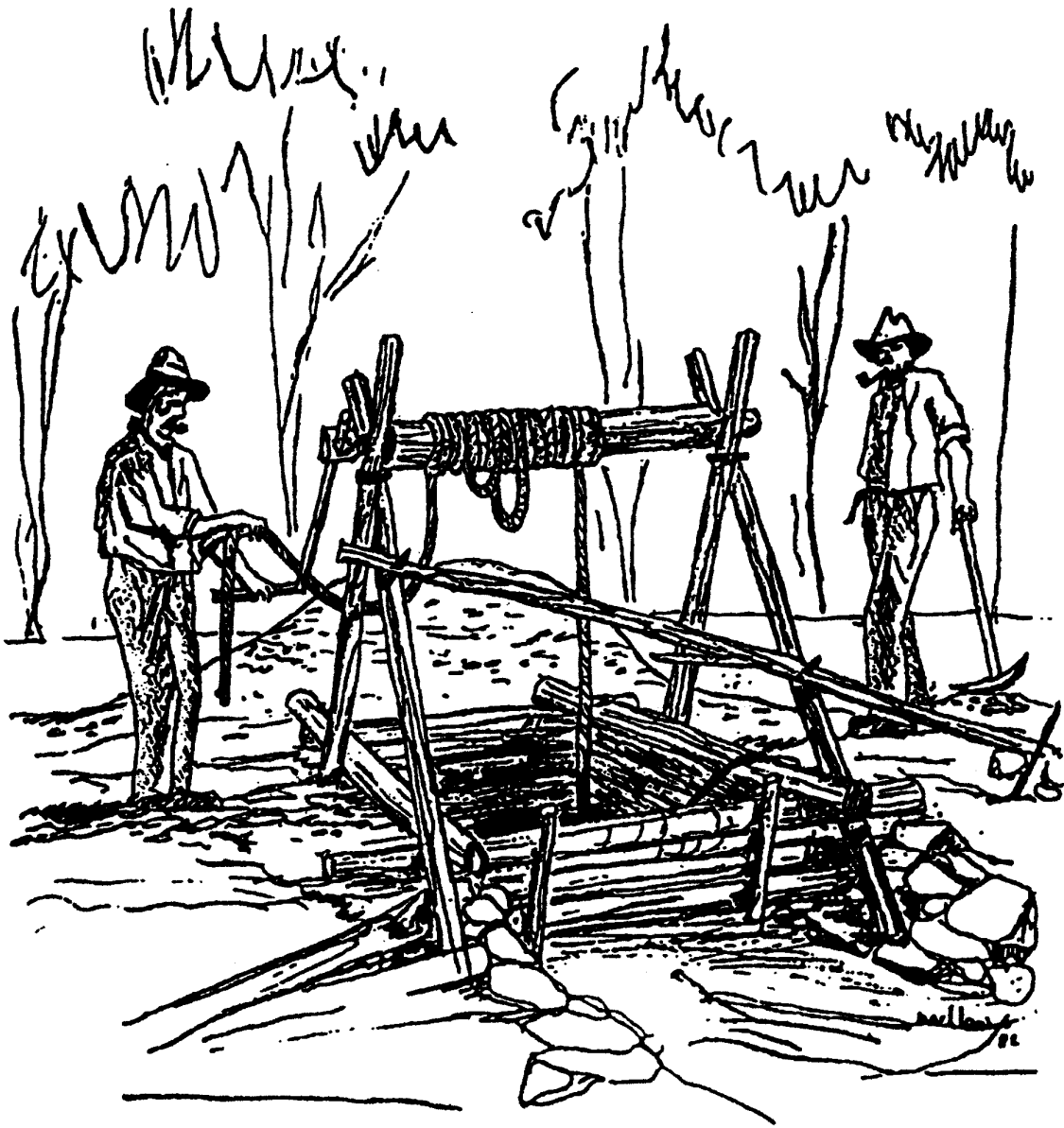


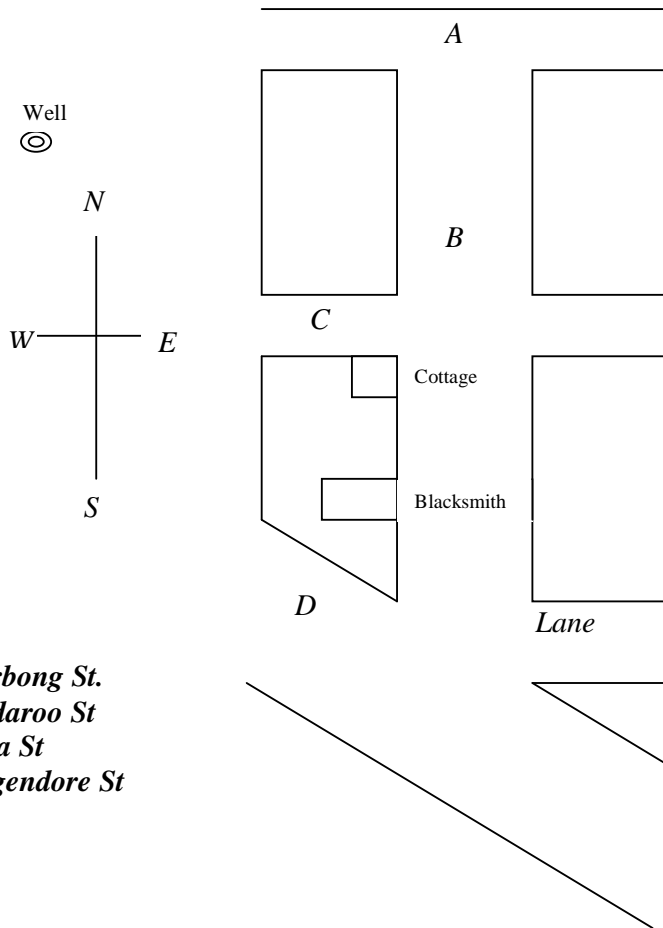
BYWONG TOWN MINING VILLAGE



TEACHER'S NOTES

1. The village of Bywong was surveyed in 18 95..... by *Surveyor Goodrich*
2. Below is a plan of the village. Can you fill in the street names?

Bywong Town



- A - *Bourbong St.*
- B - *Gundaroo St*
- C - *Burra St*
- D - *Bungendore St*

3. Why isn't there an established township at Bywong Town today?

The town was established because gold was discovered there but it was not mined in commercially viable quantities. During the drought the miners persevered, but when it broke they moved back to farming and other occupations.

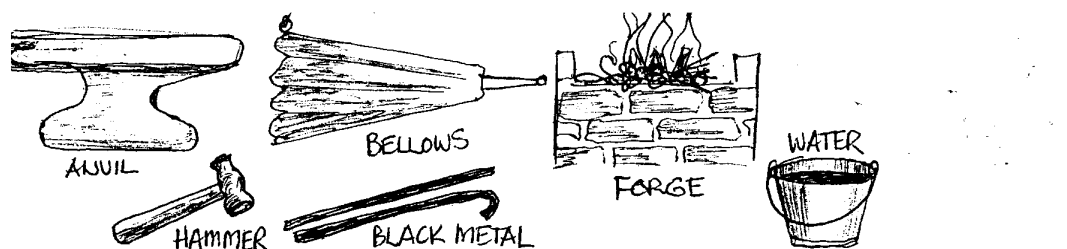
SERVICES AT BYWONG

1. Was there a store? *Yes. Owned and run by Henry Hyles until his death in 1904.*
2. What did the store sell? *Flour, Sugar, salt, tea, kerosene, candles, lamps, cloth and materials.*
3. Was there a Post Office? *Yes, it was part of the general store.*
4. How often did the mail come and from where? *Three times a week by coach from Bungendore.*
5. Was there a school? *Yes, one teacher, one room The building was removed in 1906.*
6. How many children attended the school? *48 enrolled. About 20 attended daily.*
7. Was there a doctor at Bywong? *Dr Quinn for three months. No-one for the rest of the year.*
8. What did the miners do in the case of sickness and accident at Bywong? *They relied on neighbours to administer bush remedies and fix splints for broken bones, or bring the doctor from Bungendore.*

BLACKSMITHING

Blacksmith played an important part in Australia's early pioneer and gold history. There was no blacksmith working at Bywong but if there had been he would have been responsible for a wide range of services.

1. Name some of the services provided by a blacksmith? *Making nails, picks, shovels, horse shoes and anything else out of black metal. Mending tools, waggons and waggon wheels.*
2. Where would the miners have had to travel to if they could not afford to pay a blacksmith? *To the closest blacksmith at Bungendore or Gundaroo.*
3. What would they have done if they could not afford to pay, or to travel to a blacksmith? *Bywong had the community forge that anyone could use and most farms had their own forge with basic tools for blacksmithing. Pioneers needed a basic knowledge of blacksmithing to survive.*
4. Sketch and name the main tools used in blacksmithing.



NEEDS OF MINERS AT BYWONG

FOOD

1. What sort of food did they eat? *The drought reduced the quantities of fruit and vegetables that were available. Rabbit, possum, kangaroo, damper.*
2. How did they cook it? *With wood on open fires or fireplaces and stoves in the small huts.*
3. Where did they get their supplies? *From the local store or from Bungendore 18 kms away.*

WATER

1. Where did they get their water from? *The closest creek was 3 kms away, or they bought it from a water carrier for 1 shilling per bucket.*
2. Why was the government well sunk? *Because the creek was so far away and the population had increased to over 300.*
3. Who dug the well? *3 Chinese well diggers*
4. How does the water get into the well? *It was a seepage well. The water flowing underground seeps through the gaps in the stone lining.*
5. Why is the well lined with stone? *To prevent the sides from collapsing, and to help filter the water.*
6. What was the water used for? *For drinking. Water was so scarce that people hardly ever washed.*

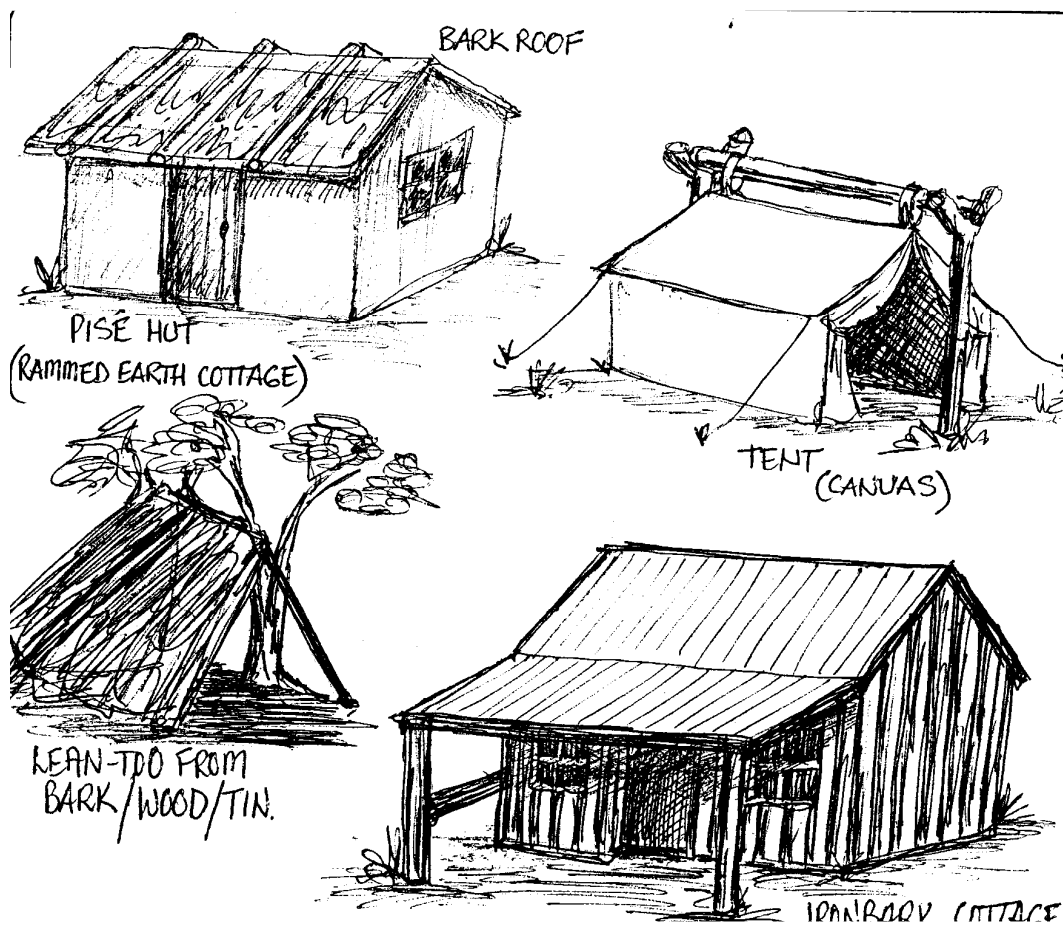
SHELTER

1. List the different types of dwelling at Bywong.
2. What do you think are the reasons for the different types of construction?

Rammed earth, iron bark huts, tents, lean-to's made from bark and other wood. Later other materials like iron and cut boards came to the village but anything that was readily available was used to build the usually short term accomodation.



3. Where possible ironbark trees were used for buildings in Bywong. What were the reasons for using ironbark? *Hardwood was not eaten by termites, and did not need to be painted or preserved. It does not burn easily, and because it takes so long to grow, does not rot quickly.*
4. Stringybark trees were also used at Bywong. Describe what was used from the trees and for what purpose. *The bark, stripped from the trunks was used as roof covering.*
5. Sketch four different types of dwellings and describe what materials were used.



6. What is a pise hut? *Rammed earth with termite nest, native grass or horse hair added to bind.*
7. How long would it take to build a pise hut? *A few weeks with the help of others.*
8. What sort of roof was used? *Initially stringbark, later iron if they could afford it.*
9. Why is pise fragile? *It would be damaged by rain.*
10. What was used to weatherproof the walls? *Whitewash – lime and tallow [animal fat]*

MINERS SKILLS

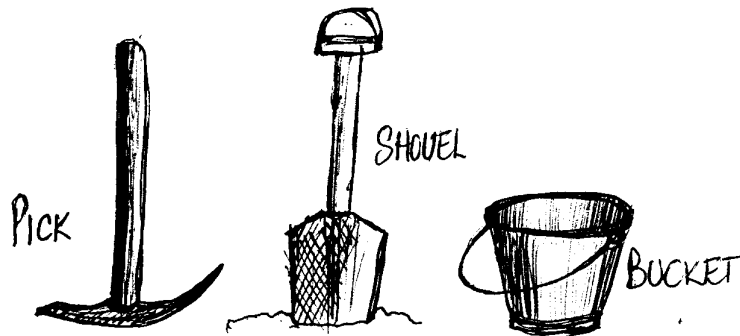
1. What is the name of the type of gold mining at Bywong? *Reef mining*
2. How did the miners know that there was gold in the ground? *Lowe and Alchin spotted 'vug' spots on some rocks and then discovered a reef of gold.*
3. What is the host rock to gold in the Bywong area? *Quartz*
4. What are the main indicators that the miners would have looked for, to find out whether gold might be in the ground?.....*Vug spots on rocks, seams of quartz in shale, calcite through rock, weathering of quartz.*
5. How did the miners extract the quartz from the ground?....*Picks and shovels, explosives, and buckets to bring the ore to the surface.*



6. What rules did the miners need to obey?.....*The mine shafts had to be registered and they needed a licence*
7. What did the miners do with their gold?.....*Swapped it for food, other goods and services [blacksmithing] sold it to gold buyers and banks.*
8. What types of machine helped the miners?
Battery/stamper, whim, windlass, carts,
9. Explain the amalgamation process and what makes the amalgam?.....*At Bywong the miners used mercury spread on copper plates to capture the gold as it washed out of the stamper box. Gold and mercury become as one when they come into contact. They are separated in a 'retort' by heating it.*

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

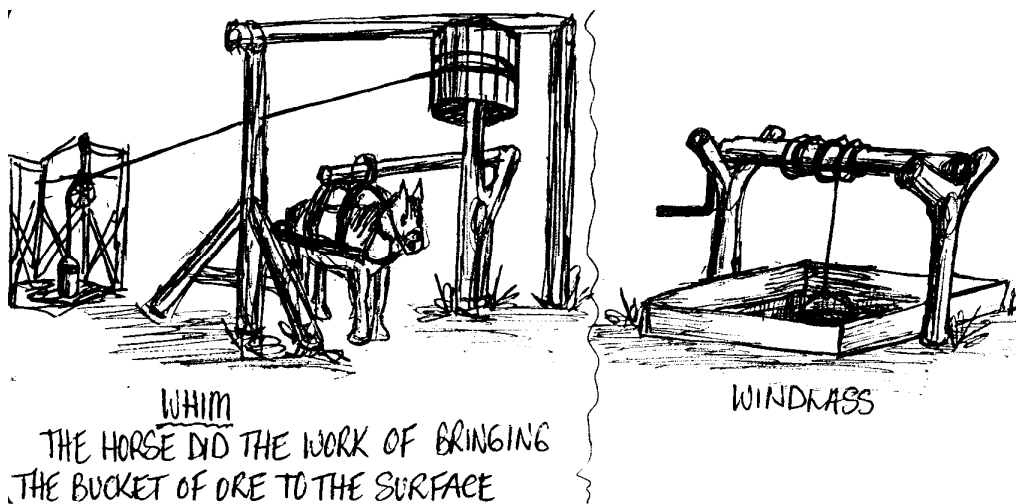
1. Sketch some of the tools used by the miners



2. Explain how the horse drawn whim works and what was needed to construct it.

A whim was constructed using wagon parts like the metal rims and floor boards to make a cylinder. This was mounted on a post with a cross piece to which the horse was harnessed. As the horse walked around the wire wound or unwound, bringing the bucket up and down the shaft.

3. Sketch and name some labour saving devices used by the miners.



4. How did these make work easier for the miners?.... *The horse did the hard work in the whim and the rope winding around the windlass pulled the bucket up and down the shaft. The miners did not have to carry the bucket up ladders*
5. Why were the miners considered lucky if they owned a horse and wagon?...*It was a luxury because transport was not easy to find. The horse and cart could carry the ore, supplies and water, be used as accomodation, or be made into a whim.*

CHIDREN OF THE GOLDFIELDS

Children of the miners at Bywong in the 1890's obviously did not have television, videos games I-pods, or any of the games that are available to children today. If you were part of a miner's family in those days, what games do you think you would have played? What sort of toys would you have had? Would you have done your share of work around the house – what would that have been? [It would have been different for boys and girls] Would you have liked to have been living then? Write a short story which gives your answers to these questions.



Did you enjoy your visit to Bywong today? Please write and let us know what parts of your visit that you enjoyed most.

THANKYOU FOR COMING.

Bywong Tours.