

William Braithwaite (on the far left) was later a master brick-layer and silo-builder in the district. His daughter, Florence, was born on the mountain and died there in 1905, aged two.

MINERS ON THE GOLDFIELDS (WILLIAM CORKHILL COLLECTION TT138)



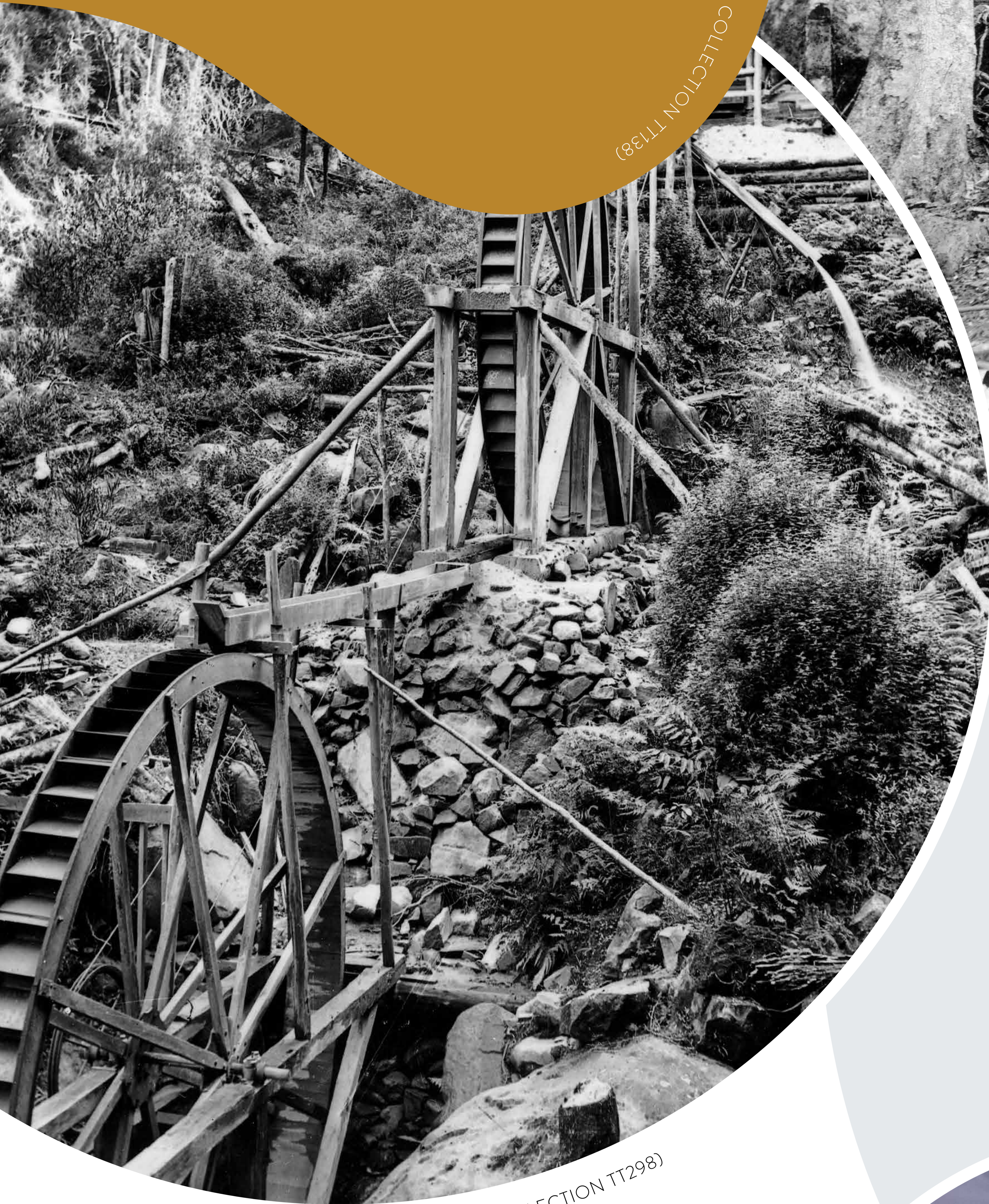
Harry Greatrex (second from the right) lived and worked on Mountain View Farm at Tilba Tilba until his death in 1930.

Dromedary Goldfields

The story of the Dromedary Goldfields is one of hard labour, ingenuity and a growing community of miners and their families.

Now, we also see a story of environmental destruction and disregard for the deep cultural connections local Indigenous people have with Gulaga.

Gold was found in waterways around the mountain in the early 1850s and by 1883 tunnels were being dug to chase the seams of gold running through the mountain. By 1902 more than 300 people, miners and their families, lived and worked on the goldfields. Mining declined sharply after 1904. Although the Dromedary Goldfields were not the most productive in Australia's early gold-rush era, at least 603kg of gold were dug from the mountain - a quantity which today would be worth more than \$50 million.



WATER WHEELS (WILLIAM CORKHILL COLLECTION TT298)

Water-wheels, built by William Clow from Wagonga, were used to drive batteries of stampers, which crushed ore dug from the mines. This allowed gold to be recovered from the rock in which it had been deposited.

Hydraulic sluicing used water channelled through canvas pipes from dams built high on the mountain. Powerful jets of water washed sediment and soil from creek beds and gullies into sluice boxes, in which the alluvial gold settled. Sluicing increased the efficiency of gold extraction but was extremely destructive, turning gentle valley floors into entrenched gullies with exposed rock walls.



GULAGA (CATHIE MULLER)

FLUME TO R.H. EASDOWN'S MINE (EASDOWN COLLECTION)

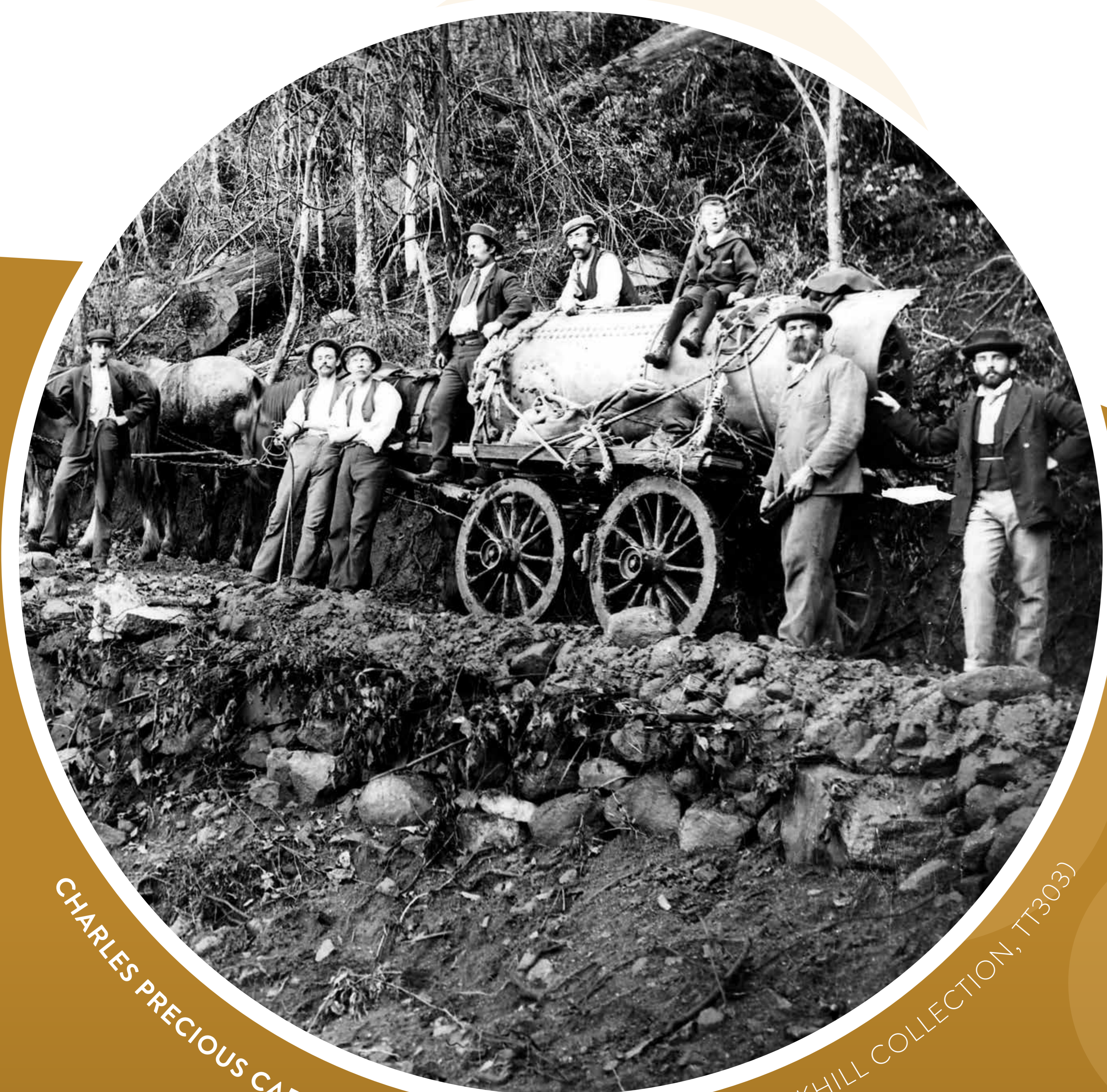


Ore extracted from mine shafts was originally transported to stamper batteries down timber chutes (flumes).

By the late 1800s flumes were being replaced by aerial cableways which carried ore buckets up and down the mountain.

In 1893 a steam powered boiler was hauled up the mountain to improve the operation of ore stampers. It was a major exercise requiring the widening of bridle tracks and harnessing two teams of horses to negotiate tight bends in the track.

AERIAL CABLEWAY CARRYING ORE BUCKET 1890s (WILLIAM CORKHILL COLLECTION TT25)



CHARLES PRECIOUS CARTING BOILER UP TRACK (WILLIAM CORKHILL COLLECTION TT809)

This image features Walter Wintle, Charles Precious, John Bate and, sitting on top of the boiler, the photographer's son, Norman Corkhill.

