

2. HISTORY

The Timor area came to prominence in the latter half of the nineteenth century as the site of some large deep lead gold mines. The Grand Duke Company at Timor for example employed one hundred and fifty men, mined to a depth of three hundred and sixty feet and pumped groundwater from the mine at a rate of twelve million litres per day (Mines Department 1937, Deep Leads of Victoria).

A feature of the numerous Deep Lead mines in the district was the amount of heavy machinery used, such as high capacity pumps, boilers, mills, batteries and the vast quantities of firewood consumed and was material removed from the leads. Deep Lead mining began at Timor in the 1860's and after several rallies finally ceased in the 1920's. A reef gold mine at Rathscar closed in 1928 and employed twenty-five people in its heyday, producing 915 ounces of gold (Howitt 1937).

Cereal cropping has long since become the predominant land use in the district, though massive tailing dumps and rusting machinery remain along the leads as reminders of the once rich and bustling mining industry.