HISTORY OF MINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1906-1914 - Gold Discovery in German New Guinea (NEW GUINEA)

MINING IN PNG - PRE WORLD WAR ONE PERIOD

19th Century - Gold Discovery in British New Guinea (PAPUA)

1952-1914

A Speculation; A lecturer in a Sydney University reported of a man who was ship wrecked in New Guinea. He travelled into the interior and saw gold nuggets the size of potatoes on river bank. That people from Australia rushing up to New Guinea to hunt for these potato sized nuggets.

Quest for gold took the explorers to islands such as the Woodlark Island. They discovered gold there, and mined on Woodlard, till 1914 (start of world war 1). Real mining operations, both surface and underground occurred in the western Sudest. The mine closed in 1899 due to damages caused by a huge cyclone. Hardrock mining also occurred on Misima Island, with a processing plant and a railway. The mine closed in 1921 when the employees, both Western and Papua New Guineans, were laid off. Woodlark Island also has a mine operating in the 1900s.

1893-1914

Flecks of gold was seen inside the clay pots from villages along the Redscar Bay, Central Province By John Macgillvary, a British Naturalist on the ship **HMS Rattlesnake**

1852

(ullet)

British New Guinea (PAPUA) Bristish New Guinea Known as Papua was a colony of Britain, with Headquarters in Port Moresby

First real discovery of gold on Sudest island, Milne Bay, A guy called David Whyte took 142 ounces of gold from Sudest to Cooktown, North Queensland. Real mining preceded on the Western part of the Sudest Island in the later years. Futher prospecting found gold in the Louisiades group of Islands, in what is now Milne Bay Province. 700 Miners from North Queensland moved to these lislands to start mining for gold here.

1887-1888

While gold was being sought out in the Papua islands (Miline Bay Islands) copper prospecting and discovery was in the Laloki river area. The Dobuna Laloki copper mine operated from 1907-1927. One of the earliest copper mines, classed as the largest copper mine in the Austaliasia region. Mined and Tahira Bay by railway for export to Australia.

1907-1927

 (\P)

processed at what is now 17 mile and transported to

Explorers and miners started to push further inland, up the Upper Waria river in search

German New Guinea (NEW GUINEA) German New Guinea was controlled by the German Administration. Headquartered in Rabaul.

Ramu, Markham and the Watut Rivers.

A Australian government sponsored team, led by a Matt

with the Kukukuku around where what is known as

Menyamya now

1906

Crowe, with Frank and Jim Pryke went inland up the Lakekamu

area and to the Tiveri Creek. They had two fierce encounters,

Around this time, whilst this was happening in the British

New Guinea (later known as Papua), the Germans who

were administering the German New Guinea (later known

as New Guinea) did their own expeditions inland, up the

prospecting concession. Their AOI is up around the Waria Creek

Huon Gulf Syndicate was given exclusive gold

Germans found some golds in the Ramu river

Several prospectors ventured inland, up the markham and into the Lower Watut. The discovery of gold in the Watut River and the Koranga Creek led to major discoveries and furthermore mining in the Wau Bulolo areas Note that First World War broke out 04th August 1914

World War 1: 1914-1918

1914-1939 - THE WAU BULOLO GOLD RUSH

1920

On the 17th December 1920, The League of

Territoy f Papua and New Guinea

took control of German New Guinea.

The Territory of Papua and New Guinea was

National Council formally mandated Australia

to take control of New Guinea from the Germans.

The Australians were already governing Papua,

so they now control both Papua and New Guinea

formed after the Germans lost the war. Australians

The first Mining Ordinance was drafted for prospecting activities in Papua New

produced in the last quarter of 1926, mostly from Eddie Creek mine. The Gold Rush started in 1926. The Morobe District Miners Association was formed in September 1926 The Miners wanted to open leases for application because the Administor then was only awarding Licenses to a few, known as the "Big Sixes"; i.e. Frank Pryke, Les Joubert, Charles Erickson, Dave Gillespie, Ned Ryan, Gordon

Mining has blossomed in the Bulolo Valley, with mining

happening in Bulolo, in areas synonymous to mining, i.e.

Koranga, and Eddie Creek. 40,000 ounces of Gold was

aircraft as early as 1930, by Guinea Airwavs.

Heavy duty mining

1923-1926

The application for claims or mining, took effect in 1923. The birth of Morobe Goldfields This is time prospectors went further inland, up to Koranga, Bulolo and Way, led by several Austrailians. Miners were using sluice

boxes to mine gold.

Placer Development company was formed in Canada, with an Australian Addison Freeman as President and New Zealander Charles Banks as the Managing Director. It took over all of Guinea Gold's Leases in Wau Bulolo.



HISTORY OF MINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1939-1945 - WORLD WAR 2

First Junker G31 plane landed on the Bulolo Aerdrone on the 31st March 1931.

Dredge Mining started in 1931. First three months production was 14,192 ounces of bullion from 733, cubic yards of alluvial gravel. Large scale mining started with the arrivalof the first of two Dredges in Bulolo



World War 2 started in September of 1939. This of course impacted on the mining operations, with people leaving to enlist into the Australian Army, and for security reasons, personals whose countries are at war were siphoned off and kept in other placers.

1939

After the war. New Guinea Gold rehabilitated their operations, but more in Bulolo than Wau. Beginning of Bulolo becoming the significant center. Bulolo is the main town now, than Wau.

NGG continued mining in Eddie Creek. Locals continue to mine their leases as well.

1931-1932

1931-1938 (lacksquare)

1941-1942

on the 1st February 1942.

1957-1975

The Administration started giving miners permits to Papua New Guineans. Start of mass migration and squatter settlements in and around Bulolo. The Mineral Reasources Authority currently has an ongoing project where Holders of these permits given under the mining ordinances can apply to convert these permits to mining leases (ML).

TO INDEPENDENCE

1975-2024 - MINING IN PNG - POST INDEPENDENCES

20th Century

Panguna Mine

Panguna mine started in 1969, and first production in 1972. Panguna shut down in 1989. In the 17 years of Panguna mine's operation, it produced 3 million tonnes of copper, 306 tonnes of gold and 784 tonnes of silver.

Panguna accounted for 44% of PNG's total exports.

Rio Tinto discovered gold in Bougainville in 1966.

Papua New Guinea

The name Territory of Papua and New Guinea was change to just Papua New Guinea as it is now currently, just before the 16th September 1975, during the "Self Government" period. 1972-1973

Misima Mine

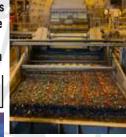
Modern Misima mine. Gold was discovered on Misima Island in 1989. Placer Dome Inc. commenced exploration, started the mine in 1989. Mining ended in 2004. The mine produced 3.7 million ounces of gold and 18 million ounces of silver.

1981-Current

OK Tedi Min

1989-2004

OK Tedi mine started in 1981. It was discovered in 1963, exploration drilling was done in the 1970s and secured a Mining Lease in 1980. Constructions started in 1981 by Bechtel. BHP exited in 2002. The mine currently is nationally owned mine. From 1984 to 2023, the mine produced over 5.25 million tonnes of copper, over 16.2 million ounces of gold and over 37.2 million ounces of silver.







The capital was Rabaul. There were 1000 Europeans in Wau, more than that living in Rabaul. Around 200 Chinese. Wau was a thriving town with modern facilities and amenities, including a CHURCH building

War came to the Pacific with bombing of the Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. on the 7th of December 1941, by the Japanese, and bombing of Rabaul by the Japanese on the 4th of January 1942. Then the Japanese bombed Lae and Salamaua on the 5th January 1942. Wau was bombed

HISTORY OF MINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1975-2024 - MINING IN PNG - POST INDEPENDENCES

20th Century

Porgera Mine

New Porgera Mine project.

New Porgera Mine

New SML granted to New Porgera Mine Ltd in 2023. Operations restarted in 2023, and first gold pour from this new arrangement in 2024. New owners are Kumul Minerals Limited (holdings agency for the State of PNG), Barrick and Mineral Resources Enga.



Lihir Mine

Gold was dicovered on Lihir Island in 1982 by Niugini Mining and Kennecott. Lihir mine obtained its SML in 1995 and started producing gold and silver in 1997. Rio Tinto was the operator from the start to 2005, when Newcrest took over. The current owner is Newmount, who took over from Newcrest in 2023. It is still producing gold and silver to this date (2025). By 2023, the mine has produced over 10 million ounces of gold since its first production in 1997.



Hidden Valley Mine

Hidden Valley mine, Construction started in 2007 and completed in 2009. When it was operational, with commercial production in 2010. To date. 2024, the mine has produced almost 2 million (1,876,045) ounces of gold. The operator of | Hidden Valley mine is Harmony Gold.



Kainantu l

Gold was discovered in the Kainantu area in 1928, modern exploration and discoveries were made in the 1980s. Barrick started mining Kainantu in 2006. Then went into "Care & Maintenance" till K92 acquired it from Barrick in 2014, restarted mining in 2014, with commercial production in 2018, and since then has produced over 719 thousand ounces of gold and over 45 thousand tonnesof copper.



2023-Current

1997- Current

2007 - Current



2008 - Current

mine exports chromite ore as well.

2008 - Current

2014 - Current

Ramu Nickel was discovered in 1962. A SML was given in

in 2005, when MCC took over the mine and operations.

2000 to Ramu Nickel Limited, which was transferred to MCC

Construction started in 2008 and the mine commissioned in

358, 609 tonnes of nickle and 32,453 tonnes of cobalt. The

2012, with productions in 2013. To date, the mine has produced

Eddie Creek has a rich history in mining. It was one of the first fully blown mines during the "gold rush"

period in the Wau and Bulolo region. Gold was discovered in 1926, and mined till its collapse just

after the war.

Modern day mining started as a alluvial mine in 2007, by Niuminco, then got into full mining from 2011 to 2017.

Tolukuma Mine

Discovery was made in 1986 by Newmount. It developed into a operating mine in 1995, and operated till 2015. In this period it produced 1 million ounces of gold. The Operator went into Liquidation in 2018. Then Tolu | Minarals acquired the ML in 2022.



Sinivit Mine

Gold was discovered in Sinivit in 1983. Started production in 2008 and ended in 2012. Sinivit was operated by New Guinea Gold Ltd.

2007-2012

Simberi Mine

Simberi Mine started operation in 2008 by Allied Gold Mining. The current owners, St Barbara Ltd took over in 2012. The mine produced just over 1 million (1,031,470) ounces of gold from 2008 to





Eddie Creek

2007 - 2017



1990-2020

Porgera mine started producing gold and silver in

million ounces of gold and 3 million ounces of silver

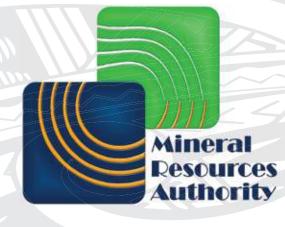
in the period from 1990 to 2020. The SML expired in

Operations under the New Porgera Mine started in I

1990, operated by Placer Dome. Barrick took the

operations in 2006. The mine produced over 16

2020, and was not renewed, paving way for the



EVOLUTION OF THE MINING REGULATORY AUTHORITY

SUMMARY

Prior to Independence, since the mining days in Sudest, Misima, Wau Bulolo and elsewhere, all mining activities were administrated by the Territory of Papua New Guinea Administration.

All mining activities were regulated by the Mining Ordinances, based on the 1872 Queensland Mining Legislations. In the years leading to Independence, and with Panguna Mine blooming, the Administration started discussions on the Territory having its own Mining Act. The basis for this Act is to enable the benefits from Panguna to benefit the Territory or a Independent Papua New Guinea, hence the enactment of the Mining Act 1992.

The Mining Act 1992 is the legislation, currently administered by the Mineral Reasources Authority to regulate all mining activities. The Mineral Reasources Authority is sprouted from the Department of Mining.

Before that was the Department of Mining, Petroleum and Energy, which came from the old Department of Natural Resources.

TIMELINE

PRE INDEPENDENCE

Department of Natural Resources

This department included Mining, Petroleum, Energy, Environment & Convervation, and Water Resources.

MINING LEGISLATIONS

All mining regulations were carried out by the Territoy Administration through a series of Mining Ordinances; based on the 1872 Queensland Mining Legislations.

Formulation of New Mining Act specific for mining in PNG started in 1972, and serious discussions occurred on 1986.

POST INDEPENDENCE

1975 - 1983 Department of Minerals and Energy This department consisted the Mining, Petroleum, and Energy

sectors
1975 - 1983 Department of Mining
Separation of the Mining
sector from the Petroleum
and Energy sectors
Department of Mining only
regulated the mining
industry.

Department of Mining (DoM) also contained the PNG Geological Survey.

Authority (MRA) was enacted MRA became operational from its home, "The Sir Paul Lapun 2007 Haus" (aka - The Mining Haus)

The 1986 discussions and works led to the formulation of the New Mining Act, called Mining Act 1992

Mining Act 1992: The Act currently being used to regulate, administer, and manage the Mining Industry in Papua New Guinea.