

HISTORY OF MINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

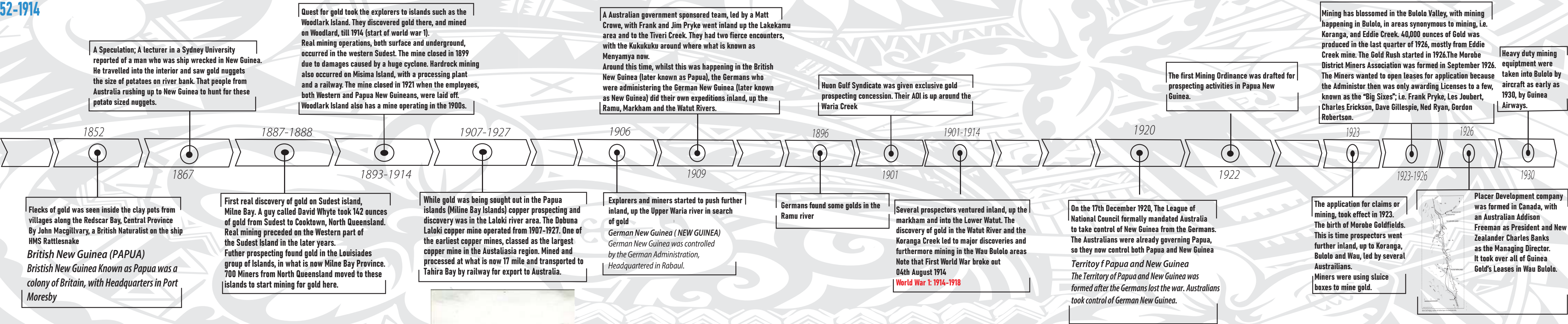
MINING IN PNG - PRE WORLD WAR ONE PERIOD

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

1952-1914

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

1914-1939 - THE WAU BULOLO GOLD RUSH



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 arrival of the first of two Dredges in Bulolo Valley.



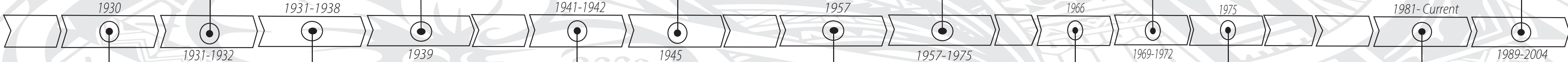
World War 2 started in September of 1939. This of course impacted on the mining operations, with people leaving to enlist into the Australian Army, and for security reasons, personals whose countries are at war were siphoned off and kept in other placers.

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.

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.

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.



Heavy duty mining equipment were taken into Bulolo by aircraft as early as 1930, by Guinea Airways.
Full large scale mining operations started with these heavy equipment for dredge mining; started in 1931 and ended when world war 2 started, and restarted after WW2 till the early 1960s. Bulolo Gold Dredging company was formed. 476,000 shares were offered for public subscription.

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 on the 1st February 1942.



NO. 5 dredge after capsizing during the war Machine shop, Bulolo, after demoliton

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).

Rio Tinto discovered gold in Bougainville in 1966.

PNG gained Independence - September 16 1975
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

OK Tedi Mine
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.



HISTORY OF MINING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

1975-2024 - MINING IN PNG - POST INDEPENDENCES

20th Century

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.



Ramu NiCo Mine

Ramu Nickel was discovered in 1962. A SML was given in 2000 to Ramu Nickel Limited, which was transferred to MCC in 2005, when MCC took over the mine and operations. Construction started in 2008 and the mine commissioned in 2012, with productions in 2013. To date, the mine has produced 358, 609 tonnes of nickle and 32,453 tonnes of cobalt. The mine exports chromite ore as well.



Kainantu Mine

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.



1990-2020

1995-2015

2007-2012

2008 - Current

2007 - 2017

Porgera Mine

Porgera mine started producing gold and silver in 1990, operated by Placer Dome. Barrick took the operations in 2006. The mine produced over 16 million ounces of gold and 3 million ounces of silver in the period from 1990 to 2020. The SML expired in 2020, and was not renewed, paving way for the New Porgera Mine project. Operations under the New Porgera Mine started in 2024.



2023-Current

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.



1997- Current

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 - Current

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 2024.

2008 - Current

Eddie Creek

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.

2014 - Current



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 Resources Authority to regulate all mining activities. The Mineral Resources 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.

PRE INDEPENDENCE

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

All mining regulations were carried out by the Territory 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.

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.

2005 Mineral Resources Authority (MRA) was enacted
MRA became operational from its home, “The Sir Paul Lapun 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.