

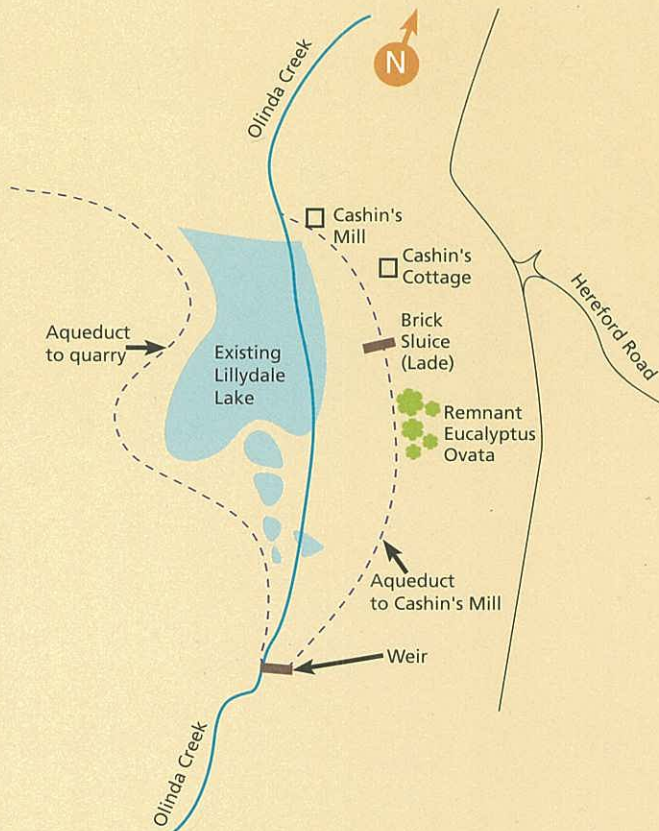
Cashin's Flour Mill









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KEY

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Vegetation |  Weirs |
|  Water |  Roads |
|  Existing Lake |  Aqueduct |

Cashin's Flour Mill

The most prominent sign of early European history at Lillydale Lake is certainly the remains of two stone walls at the east end of the dam wall. This was a two storey stone flour mill built in the early 1850s by Hugh Kneen of Fitzroy.

Owned and operated by James Cashin and his family, the mill was established before the town became known as Lilydale.

A large water wheel on the west side of the mill was driven by water fed from the Olinda Creek along an aqueduct, the remains of which can be seen in the park.

The flour mill was an attractive alternative to the long haul to Melbourne to have grain milled.

Local production of wheat and oats was essential. Records show that by 1857 up to 18,000 bushels (540 tonnes) were produced annually.

The mill also ground wheat for the Corrandérk Aboriginal Station at Healesville. Cashin kept half the flour as payment and returned the remainder to the station. As there was no bridge across the Yarra River, wheat was carried across a fallen tree to the Cashins' bullock dray on the other side.

However, by 1864 harvests dropped to 5,000 bushels due to floods, drought, soil exhaustion, insect attack and finally after a particularly wet season, rust set in and this industry drew to its end.

Fungal diseases spread rapidly in wet conditions, a problem not so critical in north-west Victoria where wheat production was far more viable and was supported by the railways arriving in Ballarat and Bendigo by 1862.

The Cashin family had quite an impact on the area as early settlers, with the mill the first industry in the area. Their cottage was built on the hillside above the mill.

James Cashin was listed in the Council rate books as leasing the flour mill and 30 acres from S.B. Twentyman when the Shire of Lillydale was proclaimed in 1872.



After James Cashin Snr died in 1873, the mill was operated by sons James and William and diversified, cutting timber to maintain family income.

The Cashin boys and their widowed mother moved to Tarwin in South Gippsland in about 1880.

Chinese market gardeners worked the Olinda Creek flats after the Cashins surrendered their lease.

Reference: Flourmillers and Farmers.
The Cashin Family. Aly Kroon 1991.

