

## Sites

- *Koolyanobbing Mine*
- *Dowd Hill*
- *Views to Lake Seabrook from look - out*
- *Bungalbin Range - spectacular scenery & views*
- *Cyanide Tanks*
- *Water Cooling Dams*
- *Open Cut*
- *Tailings Dump*
- *Lake*

### Situated

54 kms north east of Southern Cross along the  
Koolyanobbing bitumen road.  
Bungalbin Range a further 40 kms

*Produced & printed by the  
Shire of Yilgarn*



*Aerial view of Koolyanobbing township  
16th May 1973*

## *Koolyanobbing* *Place of large rocks*



# *Koolyanobbing Place of large rocks*

## GOLD

At the turn of the century, it was the thirst for gold that led prospectors to the Koolyanobbing Area. Today it's Iron Ore Mining that continues. It was in 1887 that prospector Henry Dowd became the 1st white man to visit the area. He didn't return until 1891 and thought "the rock was without value".

Dowd placed a transcript of his findings in a bottle and buried it on a hill at the foot of a surveying peg. The bottle was not found until 1963 on what is now known as Dowd Hill. (The transcript can be seen at the Historical Museum). Geological surveys in 1952 showed considerable Iron Ore Deposits. In 1960 BHP obtained a lease for the area. Quarry operations began 1967 on Dowd Hill. This main deposit contained approximately 60 million tons of Ironstone with a grading of 61% Fe. Treated ore was at this time railed to Kwinana, some 430km to the west.

A 'model' mining town was established at Koolyanobbing to cater for 400/500 people with school, club, swimming pool, hall, general store, bowling green etc. Then in 1983 mining ceased due to economical reasons.

During 1993/94 most of the buildings were sold and moved away.

Iron Ore recommenced in 1993/94. By Portland Mining Venture—Koolyanobbing Iron, and the ore is now railed to Esperance 578kms to the south. During 1994/95, 714025 tonnes of Ore for \$14 million was produced.



*Dowd's peg and cairn near the top of Dowd's Hill*

## SALT

Salt is also mined on the eastern side of Lake Deborah by WA Salt. Some 97,468 tonne was mined 1994/95. Most for domestic salt.

The Sandalwooder's harvest north of the Koolyanobbing Range 600,000 tonnes \$4.2 million export dollars.

Follow the Vermin Proof Fence east to Lake Seabrook for the Gypsum Harvest.

The Vermin Fence was erected to prevent large numbers of emus entering the wheat farming area. Both gypsum and salt are railed out of Koolyanobbing and Sandalwood is carted to Perth.

## BUNGALBIN RANGE

Further north of Koolyanobbing (accessible via dirt track) is Bungalbin Range. It has some spectacular rock formations and scenery, surpassed only by the Hammersley Range in Western Australia.



*Salt mining*



*Bungalbin Ranges*

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