

Australia

Londonderry, Coolgardie

Western Australia

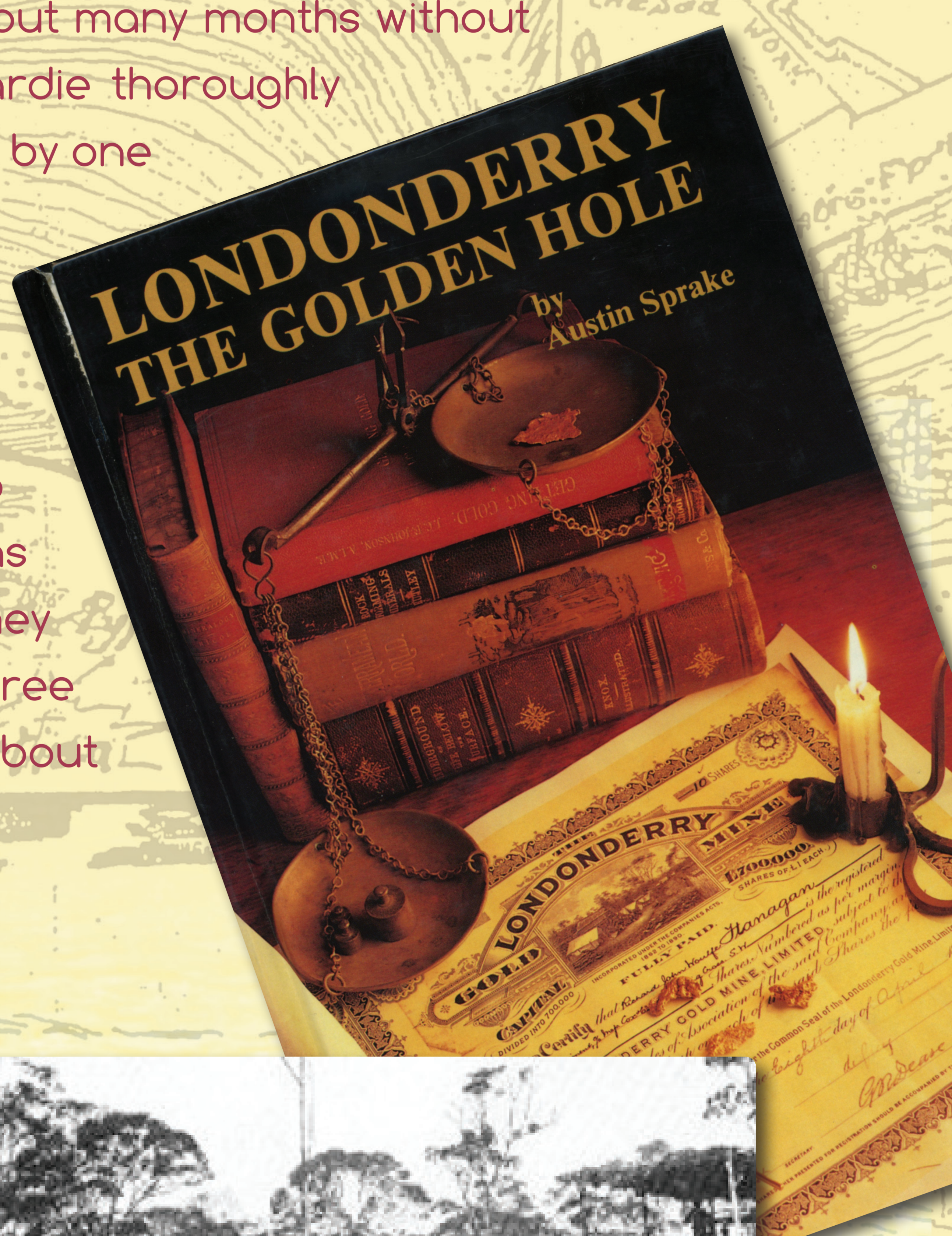


Latitude: 31° 05' S
 Longitude: 121° 07' E
 Distance from Derry, Londonderry, NI. 9277 miles

Londonderry is a ghost town in Western Australia, located 14 km South West of Coolgardie in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia. It is in the eastern goldfields, just west of the Coolgardie-Norseman railway.

Gold was discovered here in early 1894 by a party of six prospectors who named the find after the home town in Northern Ireland of one of the prospectors. It was a rich find which was taken over by Lord Fingall in September 1892, but the gold soon petered out and caused a massive financial scandal. A town site was gazetted in 1895. The town site is now abandoned.

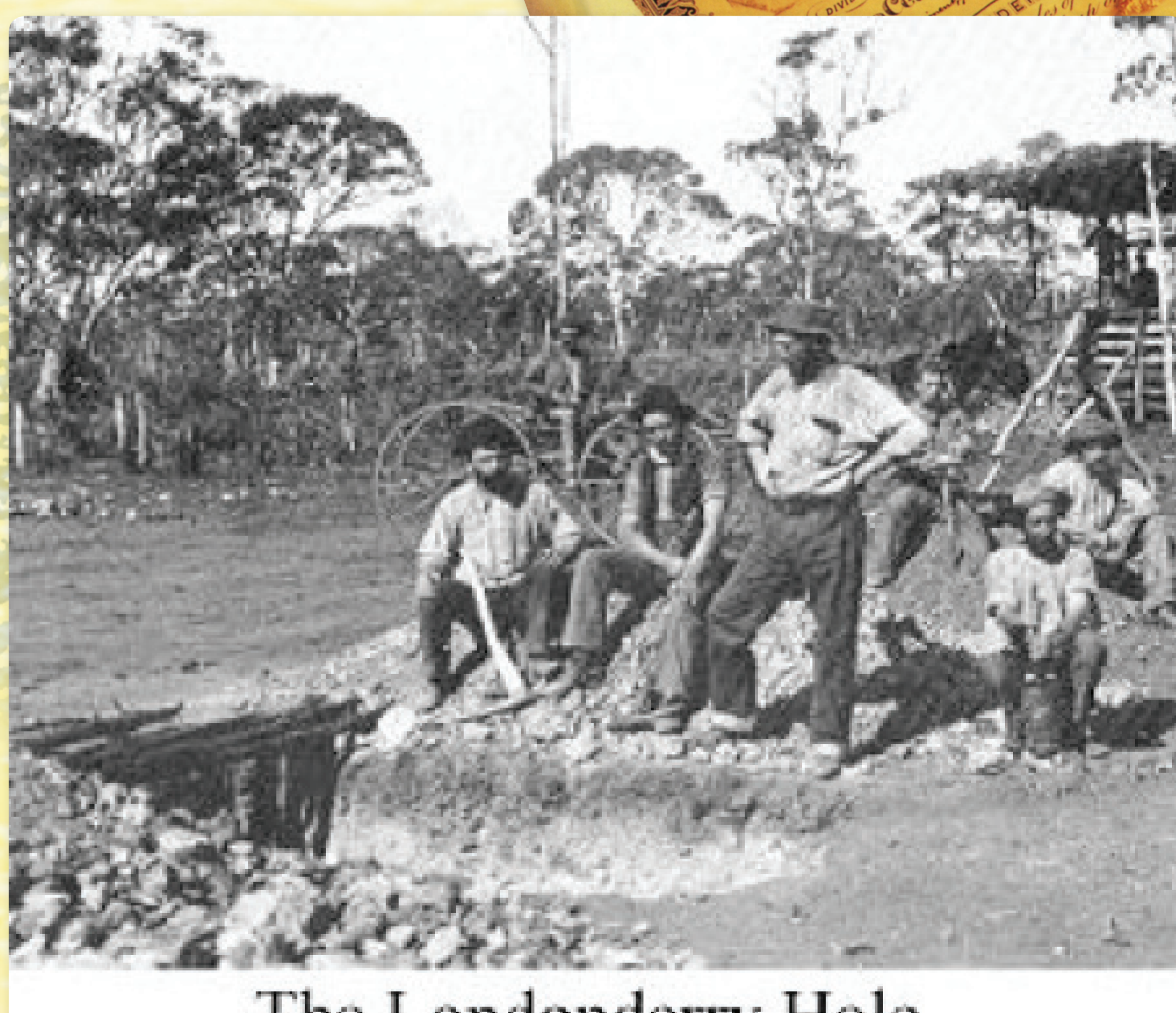
The Londonderry find was made on 7th May by a prospecting party consisting of Messrs. Carter, Dawson, Mills, Gardiner, Elliot and Huxley, who had been out many months without finding a colour, and were on their way back to Coolgardie thoroughly disillusioned. Quite by accident, rich quartz was picked up by one of the party, John Mills. He returned to the camp carrying several good specimens and next morning they moved to the site of his discovery, losing no time to peg the ground. The tenement was named Londonderry after Mills' home town in Ireland for it was the custom to give a name to every lease. After a brief search the outcrop of a reef was exposed, from which during the first three or four days they took between 4000 and 5000 ounces. Over the course of three months what became known as the Golden Hole yielded about 8000 ounces, worth about £30,000. Today it is a ghost town.



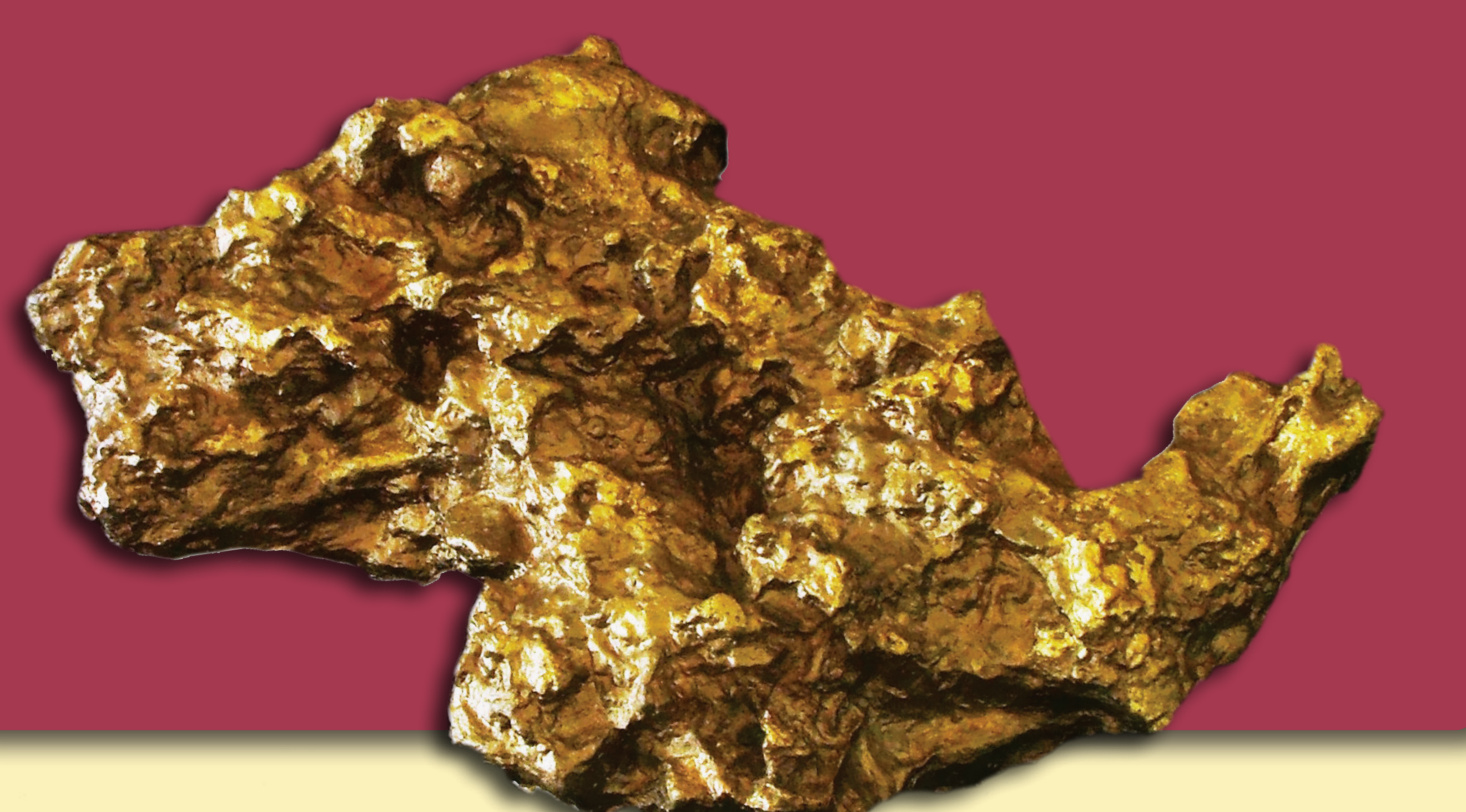
Did you know ?

The party had been storing the treasure in their tent, taking it in turns to stay up all night, suitably armed in case of robbery. By the end of the third week of June 1894, they decided the risk was becoming too great, and arranged to take the treasure into town, covered with a load of firewood. On Sat June 23rd, the Union Bank in Coolgardie weighed 4280 ounces of gold from the mine and some of the finest specimens were put on display. The quantity of gold would now be worth in excess of \$10,000,000. Imagine keeping that in a tent ! It was the kind of discovery which is the dream of every prospector, but the reward of very few.

The financial scandal that arose from this find resulted in the publication of a book called "Londonderry the Golden Hole"



The Londonderry Hole



Facts and figures

- Area: 72,908 sq km (28,150 sq miles)
- Population: 751,151
- Capital: Fredericton
- Currency: Australian Dollar
- Language: Local dialects, English, French