



JUPITERS LUCKY STRIKE

Charters Towers, Queensland, only a short 90 minutes drive from the coastal town of Townsville (located 1,000 kilometres north of Brisbane City), is renowned today as one of the state's few 'alive' historic gold mining towns with original 1890's style heritage.

While gold mining was first introduced to Australia in the early years of settlement, during the second half of the nineteenth century on an expedition to locate some missing horses, a young 12-year-old First Nations boy named Jupiter Mosman made history. Jupiter, a stockman, was traveling with the prospecting team of Hugh Mosman, George Clark and James Fraser. While Jupiter located the horses sheltering at the base of what has come to be known as Towers Hill, he accidentally stumbled across a bright glimmer of gold nestled in a nearby stream. It was 24 December 1871, a pivotal year that marked the beginning of a new era of gold discovery in the greater Charters Towers area. This find not only quickly placed Charters Towers firmly on the map in terms of lucrative gold mining prospects, but in the process established it as a world-class district and as Australia's richest major goldfield.

In approximately 1886, samples of ore bodies were extracted straight from the rich Charters Towers goldfields and shipped across the other side of the world to the Colonial and Indian Exhibition in London. Daily demonstrations of ore crushings showcased the Queensland metal as a solid and lucrative investment. This was accelerated with the publishing of a prospectus in The Times newspaper in London dated 30 October of the same year, inviting investors to purchase up to 60,000 shares at one pound per share (about \$6 million today).