

BALFOUR REHABILITATION PROJECT

COMPLETION REPORT FOR THE REHABILITATION OF MINING LANDS TRUST FUND COMMITTEE MEETING AT ZEEHAN JUNE 2006

By John Pemberton, David Gatehouse and Robert Saltmarsh

INTRODUCTION

Planning for the project started in the summer of 2003. A project proposal was submitted to the Rehabilitation of Mining Lands Trust Fund Committee for approval in June 2003. It was agreed that the project would commence in the summer of 2004 and that the first years work would concentrate on drainage and revegetation on Specimen Hill, the second year on Laans Ridge and, if required, a third year to work on smaller sites in the general vicinity of Balfour (see locality map page 3 and site map page 4).

From the outset the Circular Head community was involved in the project. A local site supervisor, Rob Saltmarsh, was responsible for all site works on a daily basis. MRT provided project management and in this way with local community involvement the project derived maximum support and cost effective use of the budget.

PLANNING

The Balfour area falls within the Arthur-Pieman Conservation Area. Following approval from the Trust Fund Committee for the project to proceed discussions were held with the Circular Head Council planners and the National Parks Senior Ranger for the Arthur-Pieman area. The Council planners met with the Arthur-Pieman Consultative Committee and it was agreed that the scope of the work fell within the guidelines set out in the Arthur-Pieman Management Plan and that a Planning Permit was not required from the Council.

Tony Webster, a qualified archaeologist, completed a preliminary assessment of the areas planned for rehabilitation. He noted that the areas where rehabilitation was planned were artefacts from modern mining and therefore there would be no impact on the mining heritage of the area.

The mining and exploration tenement holders were consulted about the planned works.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

All seven Balfour property owners were consulted about the planned works and their wish that the road not be substantially upgraded was noted. Minor works were done

on the road and the bridge was repaired after a load bearing log was broken by heavy machinery being used to fight a fire.

A number of reports were published on the works in the Circular Head Chronicle.

GOVERNANCE

The annual budget was approved by the Trust Fund Committee and John Pemberton and David Gatehouse managed the project. Each year the project met the approved budget.

Expressions of interest were sought from three earth moving companies with Collins Contracting being successful in the first year and Peter Purdy in the second year.

Rob Saltmarsh and the local crew of workers were employed through Forest Contracting Services.

First Aid, chainsaw and 4-wheel bike training was provided to a number of the employees and all were supplied with Personal Protective Equipment. During the period of the project there was no injury or lost time through accidents.

BUDGET

Total for the three years of the project was \$245 000

2004	\$84 000
2005	\$127 000
2006	\$34 000

Approximate break down in general categories:

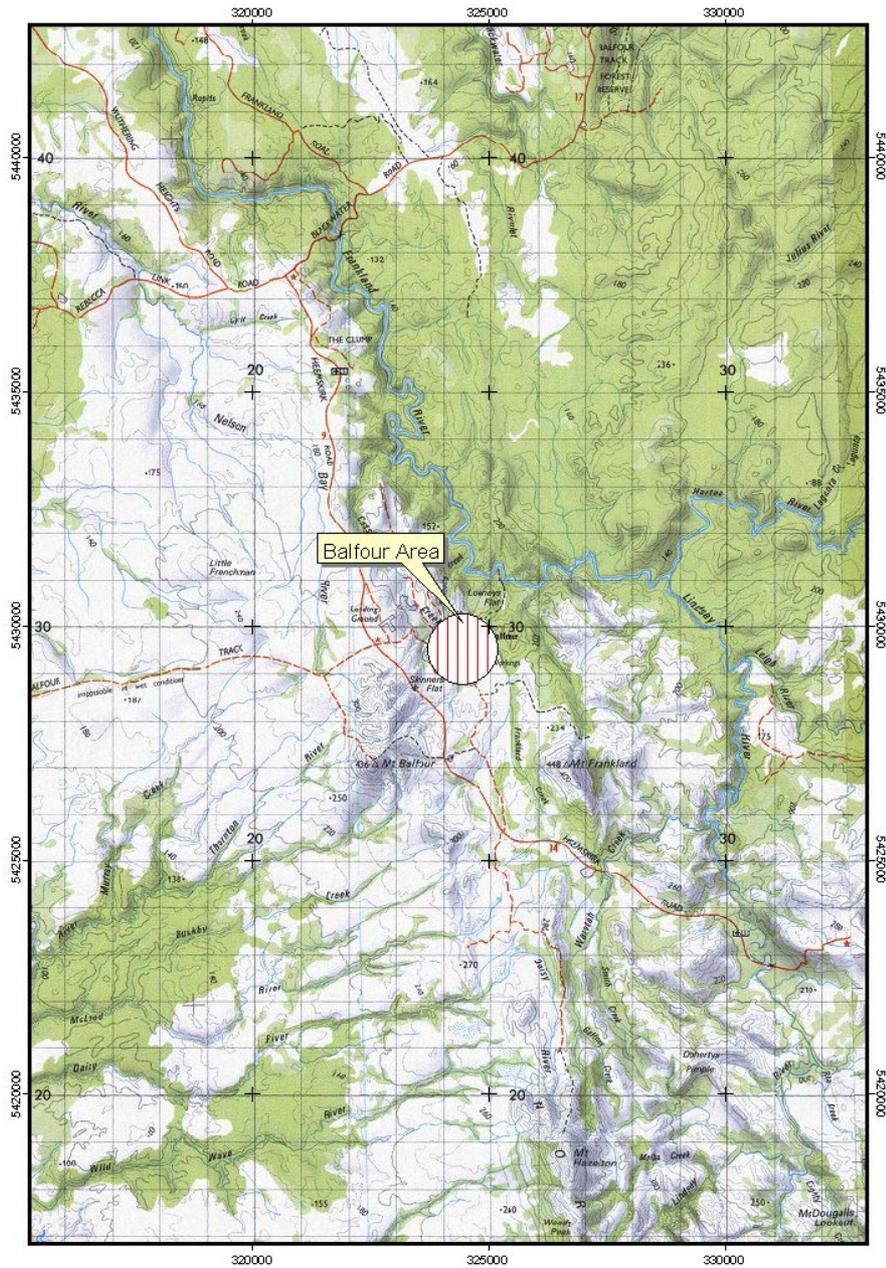
Earthmoving	\$34 000	13.9%
Wages	\$128 000	52%
Jute, seed and fertilizer	\$52 000	21%
Vehicles	\$19 000	7.8%
Miscellaneous	\$12 000	4.9%

That is approximately \$12 250 per hectare.

SITE RECORD

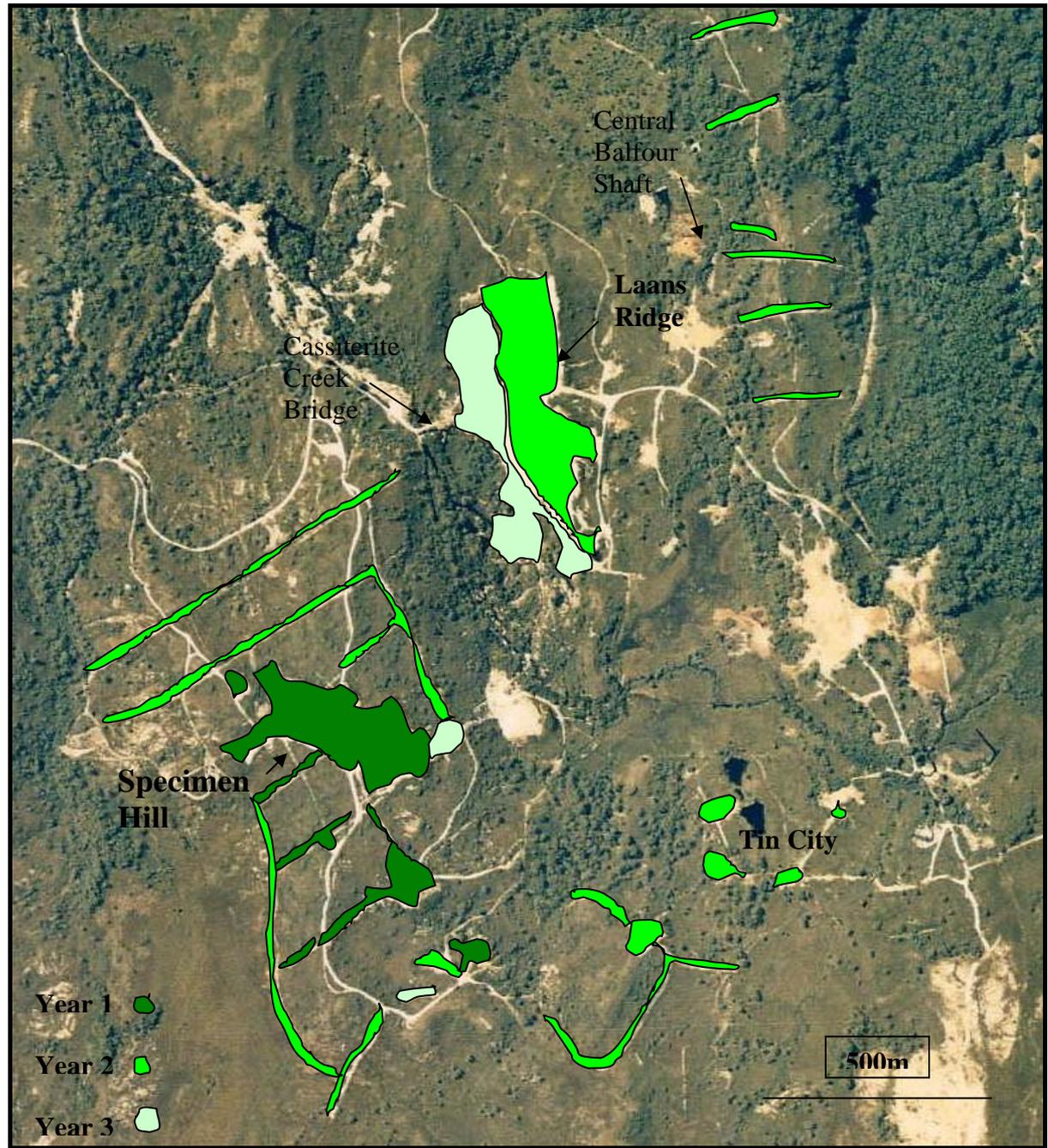
Balfour is approximately 70 km south of Smithton in the far North West of Tasmania. The original mine and township was established in the late 1800s and the area has seen continuous mining and exploration activity since then. The areas that were rehabilitated during this project resulted from mining during the 1980s.

Locality map



Areas and years worked

This aerial photo illustrates the areas worked on during the project. In total approximately 20 hectares was rehabilitated.



Specimen Hill

Work included peat replacement, rock lined drains, jute spreading, fertilizing and seeding. The general use of two tonnes of kelp granules and well composted chook manure, although experimental, appear to have worked well. The use of these clean organic additives avoided the importation of weeds and disease. Seeds were local provenance and tea tree slash was used over all sites.

Western side

Prior to work



After Jute placement 2004



May 2006



Eastern side

Prior to work



During work 2004



May 2006



Laans Ridge

Works included “egg carton” drainage control, jute, slash, fertilizing and seeding.



Prior to work



2006 from Specimen Hill



View down “egg cartons”



Base of Laans Ridge



Rob inspecting “chook poo”



May 2006

Photo Album



*Trust Fund Committee deliberating!
Central Balfour shaft*



Result of deliberation!



Cassiterite Creek Bridge



Mayor Laan's Council Chamber



Jute and trailer



*Chris and Quentin pulling jute at
Specimen Hill*

CONCLUSION

The direct management of this project by MRT with the employment of a local site supervisor and staff has resulted in a cost effective rehabilitation project with maximum support from the Circular Head Community. A large part of the budget was spent locally. The training and experience provided to the workers has already resulted in some of them obtaining further employment in associated fields.

It is anticipated that maintenance into the future will mainly involve fertilizer applications at three yearly intervals and weeding if the foxgloves and thistles invade from Balfour Township.

Many thanks to the Marrawah crew:

Rob Saltmarsh

Harvey Grey

Chris Nunn

Phil Brown

Quentin Bye

Justin Tapson

Brad Cox

Simon Jacques

And the legendary Mayor of Balfour, Marty Laan, whose hospitality and history lectures were much appreciated by all workers.