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8. NOTES ON WOLFRAMITE-SCHEELITE DEPOSITS MT HORROR, NORTH EAST TASMANIA

by A. J. Noldart

A system of quartz reefs containing significant concentrations of wolframite and scheelite occurs on the S slopes of Mt Horror, 2½ miles NW of Winnaleah. The deposits were superficially prospected about 40 to 50 years ago but no further work was done until the deposits were recently relocated, partially cleared, and sampled by Messrs T. L. Davis and W. G. Gerke. An 80 acre area covering the deposits is currently held as mineral lease 119M/68.

ACCESS

Vehicular access to the deposits was obtained by reopening an old logging track which joins the Warrentinna-Forester Road, 50 chains NW of Warrentinna. The prospect is on the left of the track approximately 60 to 80 chains from the junction.

Heavy timber and thick undergrowth make track cutting or clearing necessary for local access.

GENERAL GEOLOGY

The area is underlain by quartzite and sandstone members of the Mathinna Beds. Vegetation, soil and scree obscures outcrop, and bedding and structural characteristics cannot be determined. Two small areas cleared around the prospects expose massive sandstone but evidence of bedding attitudes is still inconclusive. A bedding strike of approximately 350° mag. with a dip of 50° to 60° W is inferred. Prominent joint patterns trend 010° mag. with a 70° dip E, and 060° mag. dipping vertically. A minor fault plane is exposed in the main (No. 1) open cut striking 55° mag. and dipping 45° SE.

MINERALIZATION

Mineralization occurs as blebs and patches of wolframite containing subsidiary scheelite in a system of subparallel quartz veins. At least four veins have been exposed in the NE section of the prospect in three trenches, a small open cut, and a vein at surface. Two veins are exposed in two small cuts in the SW section.

Where the veins are exposed they generally trend 055° to 060° mag. and dip N at angles varying from 15° to 30°. They are from 2 to 9 inches thick and appear to be consistent in thickness along strike but insufficient work has been done to allow a reliable assessment to be made of their overall grade and size, their continuity along strike and down dip, or of the areal extent of the mineralization.

Some cross veining, in the form of thin veinlets which follow vertical fractures or joints in the host rocks, is evident in the three small cuts. The intensity or extent of this is not known.

A random sample of approximately 150 lbs of vein material was submitted by the lessees to the Department of Mines Laboratories, Launceston, for assay and ore dressing investigations. The result of the investigation, R.572, is contained in this publication. The sample returned an assay value of 4.8% WO_3, of which 9% occurred as scheelite. Cassiterite was present in trace quantities only and no sulphide mineralization has been detected.

The host rocks have been metamorphosed to hornfels in the immediate vicinity of the contact but are not mineralized.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For open cut mining it will be necessary to prove further veins in the hanging wall-rocks of the known vein system to offset overburden costs. Immediate prospecting recommendations are as follows (see fig. 9):—

1. Extend trench C N to the creek to test for further parallel veins.
2. Extend trench C S for approximately 100 feet to test for further veins.
3. Trench or bulldoze a side cutting into the hill slope above the E bank of the creek to cut any SW continuation of the vein system in the NE section of the prospect.

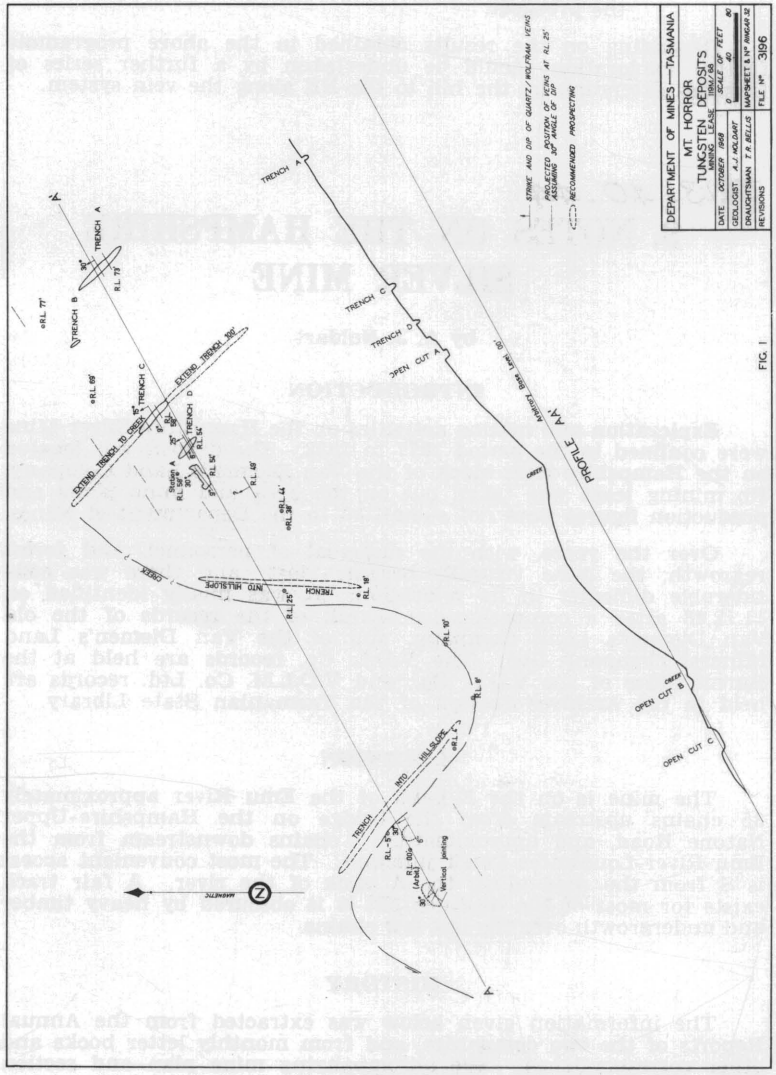

FIG. 1

5 cm

FIGURE 9.

4. Trench or bulldoze a side cutting into the spur slopes above the NE bank of the creek to cut any NE continuation of the vein system in the SW section of the prospect.

Depending on the results obtained in the above programme further exploration should be undertaken by a further series of trenches extending up the hill to the NE along the vein system.