

## 11. Notes on antimony deposits, Joe Page Bay, Port Davey

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Mineral leases 8M/70 and 37M/70, each of 32 ha (80 acres) have been pegged in the Port Davey area by C.D. King and C.G. Clayton. The writer examined the lease area on 12-13 May 1970. No survey was carried out and the accompanying sketch plan was prepared from an enlargement of an aerial photograph. (fig. 10).

## HISTORY

Mineral leases 2111/93M and 2112/93M each of 32 ha (80 acres), and situated on the eastern shore of Joe Page Bay (formerly known as Long Bay) were pegged in 1905 by James Heather and George Lambie respectively. Reward claims for antimony were subsequently granted in August 1907. These leases lapsed in August 1912 and no further activity is recorded in the area until the leases were recently re-pegged as mineral leases 8M/70 and 37M/70 respectively.

The first reference to antimony in the Port Davey district was a brief mention by Twelvetreves (1907) '...the copper and antimony ores which have been found in the Port Davey district ...'. A brief description of portion of the workings is given by Nye (1941) and the mineragraphy of the ore is given by Baker (1957). Geological reports by Jennings (1961) and Spry and Baker (1965) cover the general geology of the district.

A small parcel of low grade ore (3 tons?) is reputed to have been obtained from these deposits but no records of such production can be found.

## GEOLOGY

The host rocks of the area comprise micaceous phyllites, micaceous quartzites and quartzites of the Lindsay Quartzite sequence of Baker (1957) which underlie the Long Bay Shale sequence of Baker (1957) and Jennings (1961).

The sequence is locally weathered to a soft creamy-fawn micaceous rock where exposed on the foreshores and immediate onshore localities on the eastern shores of Joe Page Bay, but where it crops out further inland on the upper slopes and ridges it is characteristically hard and indurated.

Scree slopes occur on the flanks of the ridges with evidence of localised soil/scree slips. Minor gravel/alluvial deposits cover much of the lower areas.

## MINERALISATION

Mineralisation occurs in both weathered and unweathered members of the phyllite/quartzite sequence.

On the eastern shore of Joe Page Bay (fig.10, locality A) mineralisation occurs in the form of blebs and aggregates of acicular crystals of stibnite disseminated randomly throughout weathered phyllitic members of the sequence. The mineralisation is in close proximity to the contact of the host rocks with members of the overlying Long Bay Shale sequence: the contact is partially exposed in pits and trenches at high water mark.

A band of pyritic material up to 15 cm in width occurs at the base of the shale sequence and locally the shale is markedly graphitic but there does not appear to be any relationship between these rocks and the mineral-

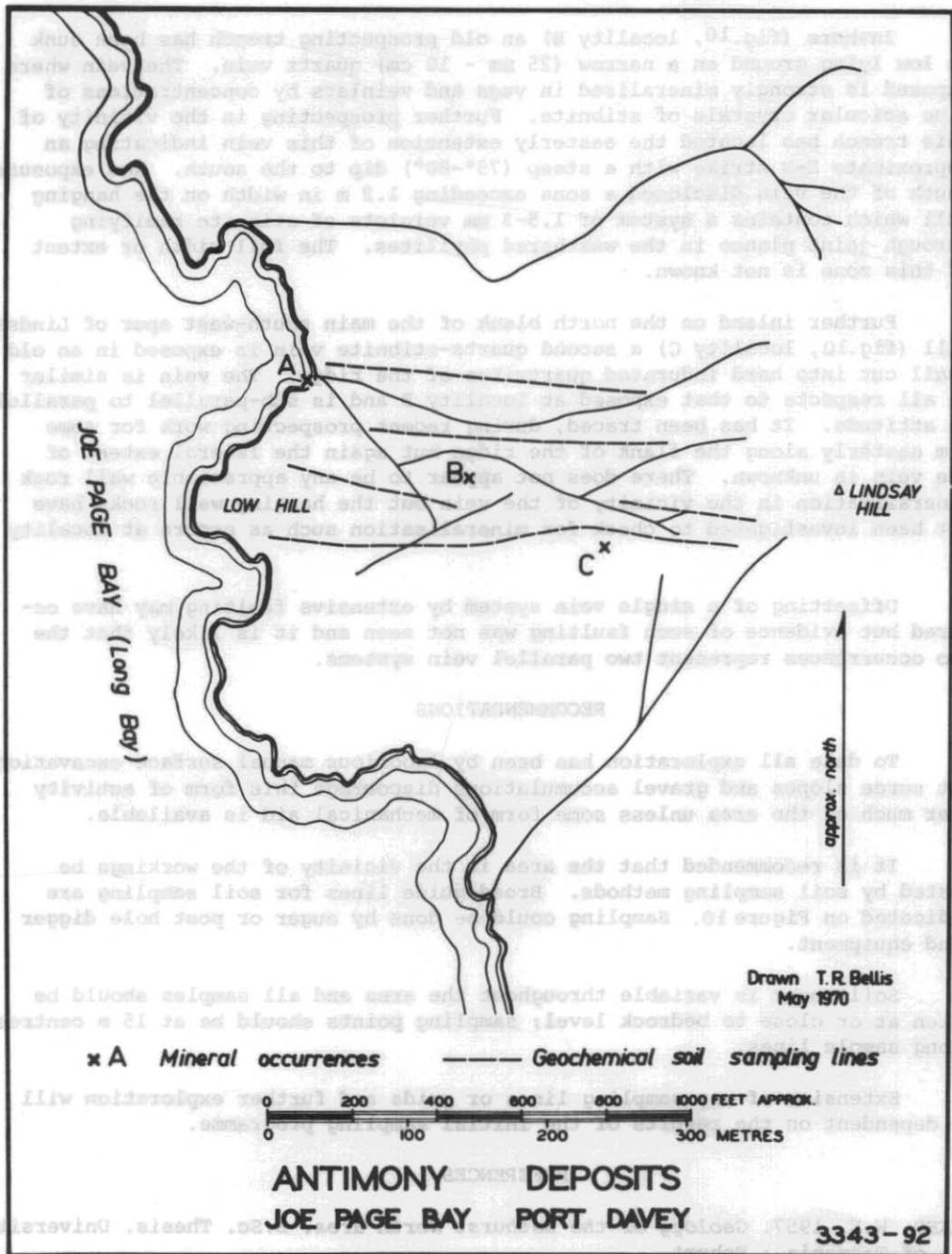
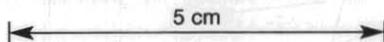


Figure 10.



isation in the underlying rocks.

Inshore (fig.10, locality B) an old prospecting trench has been sunk in low lying ground on a narrow (25 mm - 10 cm) quartz vein. The vein where exposed is strongly mineralised in vugs and veinlets by concentrations of fine acicular crystals of stibnite. Further prospecting in the vicinity of this trench has located the easterly extension of this vein indicating an approximate E-W strike with a steep (75°-80°) dip to the south. New exposures south of the vein disclosed a zone exceeding 1.2 m in width on the hanging wall which contains a system of 1.5-3 mm veinlets of stibnite ramifying through joint planes in the weathered phyllites. The full width or extent of this zone is not known.

Further inland on the north flank of the main south-west spur of Lindsay Hill (fig.10, locality C) a second quartz-stibnite vein is exposed in an old small cut into hard indurated quartzites of the ridge. The vein is similar in all respects to that exposed at locality B and is sub-parallel to parallel in attitude. It has been traced, during recent prospecting work for some 8 m easterly along the flank of the ridge but again the lateral extent of the vein is unknown. There does not appear to be any appreciable wall rock mineralisation in the vicinity of the vein but the hanging wall rocks have not been investigated to check for mineralisation such as occurs at locality B.

Offsetting of a single vein system by extensive faulting may have occurred but evidence of such faulting was not seen and it is likely that the two occurrences represent two parallel vein systems.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

To date all exploration has been by laborious manual surface excavations but scree slopes and gravel accumulations discourage this form of activity over much of the area unless some form of mechanical aid is available.

It is recommended that the area in the vicinity of the workings be tested by soil sampling methods. Broad guide lines for soil sampling are indicated on Figure 10. Sampling could be done by auger or post hole digger hand equipment.

Soil cover is variable throughout the area and all samples should be taken at or close to bedrock level; sampling points should be at 15 m centres along sample lines.

Extension of any sampling lines or grids and further exploration will be dependent on the results of the initial sampling programme.

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