

TRA-61-62

RECENT DEVELOPMENT AT DAYLIGHT GOLD MINE, FINGAL

by J. Baird.

Lease 39M48, held by F. H. Graham and T. L. Bean, was visited on 10th September, 1959. This is a 20 acre lease, and includes the ten acres once held by A. Tucker and T. E. Bantick which were the subject of an unpublished report by P. B. Nye in 1933.

Access to the lease is by bush track for about one and a half miles from the road to Mathinna, the turn-off being two and a half miles from the town of Fingal.

The old workings on the lease were known as the Daylight Mine. They are on the south side of Little Hospital Creek, and consist of two old shafts, neither in useable condition, an adit from the side of the hill, and drives and crosscuts on the adit level. There may be other developments leading off from either of the old shafts at a lower elevation. The present lessees have cleaned out the adit level, and a new winze has been sunk 18 feet from this level.

The adit strikes one of the old shafts at 100 feet north-west of the portal. The new winze was started some 15 feet south-west of this shaft, in the floor of the main N.E.-S.W. drive, which extends a further 90 feet to the south-west with three crosscuts leading off it to the north-west. The most northerly of these crosscuts intersects the second old shaft, which is open and consequently allows rain water to enter the workings, which are normally dry.

Though the old development has not been examined in detail, it is obvious that quartz veins with a N.E.-S.W. strike were those mainly favoured by the original miners. The new winze has been sunk on one such vein dipping 80° S.E. It is of variable thickness, and where sampled at 14 feet below the floor of the adit, is nine inches wide (Sample No. 1). A narrower vein, four feet to the north-west and parallel to the former, was also sampled (Sample No. 4).

One of the cross veins, with a N.W.-S.E. strike, is also present in the winze. It dips at 80° S.W. and where sampled has a width of 18 inches (Sample No. 2). A leader five inches wide, on the eastern side of this vein, was also sampled (Sample No. 3). This leader, which appears to join the larger cross vein in the floor of the winze, showed gold values when dollyed and panned.

The results of the sampling are as follows:—

Sample No.	Assay No. Dept. of Mines, Launceston	True Width (inches)	Gold Content per Ton.		
			Ozs.	Dwts.	Grains
1	740	9	2	11	5
2	741	18	0	2	21
3	742	5	1	6	22
4	743	6	0	2	15

Sample No. 1, from the main vein, gives a most satisfactory result. It confirms the assay of 2 ozs. 17 dwts. 12 grains of a sample cut from the same vein by R. J. Muir on 5th June, 1959. The leader, in the opposite corner of the winze, is also encouraging.

A battery has been hired from the Mines Department and brought to the lease. When this has been set up it is suggested the quartz from the winze should be subjected to a trial crushing to indicate the overall payability.

The quartz veins, which vary considerably in width, cut through a variant of the Mathinna Group, locally a soft shale. Though these shales bore easily and break well on blasting, they also stand well without timbering; the old drives and crosscuts are in a remarkably safe condition, considering the absence of timber support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There appears to be no reason to stop sinking at the present time. Lateral development could be started when the winze is another ten to thirty feet deeper, depending on the continuity of the gold values.

It is suggested that the country is not suitable for diamond drilling. The contrast between the soft so called 'slates' and the rather brittle quartz veins would make good core recovery difficult, and the variability in width of the veins would make assessment of the value of the mine from such cores prone to gross error.