

TR5-72-73

ALLEGED TIN DISCOVERY— BRUNI ISLAND

by T. D. Hughes.

Mr. J. V. Mansell of Alonnah, Bruni Island, reported that a sample obtained from him near Sheepwash Bay, Bruni Island, had been assayed at the Mt. Lyell Company's Laboratory and found to contain appreciable rutile and about 1% of tin.

The locality may be reached by following a fair road from the main Alonnah Road three quarters of a mile south of the Simpsons Bay Road. In a mile and a half this road reaches a farm situated in Sheepwash Bay which is the most northerly bay on the west coast of the south part of Bruni. The sample was taken from a small cliff face at the waters edge a few feet above high water mark, some 40 chains north of the farm.

The beds exposed along the shore line belong to the Cygnet Coal Measures of the Permian and consist of fairly coarse sandstones containing narrow pebble bands, interbedded with grey to black shales. No fossils could be seen. The dip of the beds varies but in the locality of the sample was at 5° to the south-east. Minor faulting can be observed in the cliff face and facies is apt to change along the strike, shale beds often lensing out completely in the sandstones. Many years ago shallow pits were sunk in the general locality to prospect for coal but no major development has occurred. Along the shore line some narrow beds of shale are extremely carbonaceous, but no true coal was observed.

The bed from which the sample was taken is a narrow intermittent one, varying in width from a few inches to one foot six inches, in the sandstones and is composed of small waterworn quartz pebbles and black coarse sand. It can be seen in the waters edge cliff face just above and just below high water mark.

A chemical analysis of the sample showed:—

Tin	Nil
TiO ₂	0.35%

Although no tin and little titanium was found in this sample, it is not impossible that small amounts of tin exist in this bed. It probably represents a stream or small lake deposit on the Permian surface and at that time the granite land mass that could have existed to the east of the present Bruni Island may well have supplied small amounts of tin.

However, the sample showed no tin and the bed itself is narrow and intermittent, so that it is not recommended that any future prospecting be done.