

TR 7-22
4. MILLER'S PROSPECT, MT. SADDLE-
BACK (S.P.L. 374)

by V. M. Threader

At the request of Mr. A. Miller, a visit to his gold prospect on the slopes of Mt Saddleback, Mathinna area, was made on the 23rd January, 1962. Access is by good motor road from Mathinna westwards to Upper Esk and then northwards into mountainous terrain by logging roads to the site of a sawmill on the SE slope of Mt Saddleback.

The prospect consists of several mineralized quartz veins striking parallel to the regional cleavage: NNW-SSE. The main vein is parallel to a creek and is exposed at several places in the creek bank. It appears to have a maximum width of 3 feet and to extend for several hundred yards. This vein had been partially opened up in two places with the aid of a portable jackhammer, and pyrite and arsenopyrite mineralization is visible in the freshly broken ground.

Mr. Miller was advised to expose the vein completely in several places to enable samples to be taken on the next visit. A grab sample had previously been assayed by the Department with poor results (6 grains/ton); it is likely that good looking stone was submitted on this occasion, so it is unlikely that a representative sample across the width of the vein would yield better results, but the vein should not be condemned until it has been systematically sampled.

It is of interest to note that the prospecting area is further west than any previous find of gold. Although the country rocks belong to the Mathinna Group, they are mostly metamorphosed to schist and quartzite indicating close proximity to the granite contact.

A further inspection was made on the 5th May. The purpose of this second visit was to sample the quartz vein which had been exposed by trenching.

On inspection of these exposures, it was decided not to sample; there was little or no mineralization in the quartz veins in the trenches and for the most part the reef was a network of quartz stringers in quartzite and schist. Some better ground was noticed in the creek bed and the trenches are to be continued to expose it for sampling. A sample of it was taken for assay. It is proposed to visit the workings again when this has been done. The assay result of the above-mentioned sample was:—

gold—nil
silver—trace.

A sample which was cut from a quartz vein in a branch creek further downstream than the above assayed:—

gold—nil
silver—nil.