

2nd April, 1942.

MEMORANDUM:Re R.H. WOODS, RINGAROOMA

While at Pioneer on 25th ultimo I received your telegram: "R. WOOD CARE OF A.D. WRIGHT RINGAROOMA MADE APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT HIM AND REPORT."

On Friday, 27th ultimo, I went to Mr. Woods' camp on Mineral Banks Estate, at New River and there met Mr. Woods. He stated that Mr. L. E. Wright, with the permission of himself (R.H. Woods) wrote to the Minister for Mines in reference to the Mineral Banks Pty.Ltd. Permit to Enter area of 400 acres. The contents of Mr. Wright's letter are not known to Mr. Woods. The Minister, in reply, said he was asking the Director of Mines to submit suggestions as to how this can best be dealt with. The Minister's letter was dated 2/2/42. Mr. Woods holds Miner's Right No. 10758, in the name of R.H. Woods, dates 17/2/42.

Mr. Woods made the following statement:-

"In 1936 I got permission from Mr. F. Foster and his manager, Mr. Tom Mountney, to go prospecting on Mineral Banks Estate. After prospecting for about 6 weeks I discovered a show I considered worth securing. I told Mr. Foster so and he came to see what ground I required. I told him about 30 acres. He asked me if that would cover all the ground I had prospected. I said "No". He said "What about me securing the lot of it for us? It won't cost me much where it would cost you a lot". I asked him did he feel that way inclined and he said "Yes" and I agreed for him to secure the ground in our names. Instead of doing that he secured it in the name of Mineral Banks Estate. When asked why my name did not appear on the lease he said the mining clause was for the landowner only. I told him I had nothing to show that I had an interest in the mining show. He said he would have an agreement drawn up stating my interest in the said mining show, which he never did. Some time afterwards he took an option over my interest for 6 months, stating that if he exercised the option I would receive £1000 for my whole interest. When the option expired he did nothing further and when I wrote to him I received no reply. I have written several letters to him re the mine and have got no reply."

(Signed) R.H. Woods, 27/3/42.

Mr. Woods stated that he has put in 6 years on the show and as he has nothing to indicate that he has any interest in the property he considers he has wasted the time and now thinks of going to Victoria and abandoning his work here. He is aged 70.

The workings are on a hill slope on the N.E. side of New River, where a shallow depression up the flat slope of the hill has been tested by shafts and small workings for about a half mile in length and over 2 chains wide. The bottom is slate and sandstone and is from 4 feet to 12 feet deep and the material is detrital hill wash. About half way up the depression the run crosses a deposit of water-worn stones and gravel which appears to be an old river bed. It is covered by the hillwash which has been worked but the depth or value of this lead has not been tested. Coarse tin oxide has been got among the top gravel of it but this may be part of the more recent hill wash.

The old river lead has been proved by shafts to exist for several hundred yards in each direction from where it crosses the depression and is roughly parallel with New River, but, as stated, has not been bottomed.

Mr. Woods stated that all the tin won has contained gold and that one bag returned 17 dwt. of gold by passing it over an amalgamated plate. The average would be half an ounce of gold per bag of tin.

Productive work has only been done during rainy weather when there has been enough water for ground sluicing and there has not been enough water to permit this for several months. It would be possible to work the mine continuously by pumping water for nozzling from New River, which is fairly close to the workings. For a start a power-driven gravel pump would be required on the lower part of the deposit. As work advanced up the hill the tailings would gravitate.

The Permit to Enter is held by Mineral Banks Pty.Ltd. for 10 years from 26/5/36 on -

granted by the
Sec. for Mines
1.7.36 to

201	acres	0	roods	25	perches,	F.W. Krushka,	27/49
99	-	2	-	25	-	R.S. Scott	48/25
99	-	0	-	0	-	R.S. Scott	48/25

Mineral Banks
(1932) P/L

A rough sketch, not to scale, is attached.

(J.F. Shaw)
INSPECTOR OF MINES.

The A/Chief Inspector of Mines,
LAUNCESTON.