

GEOLOGICAL REPORT ON THE
PROPERTY OF G.R.A. TRIFFETT,
NEW NORFOLK.

The prospect is situated in the Back River District north of the township of New Norfolk. Access is gained by road from New Norfolk up the valley of the Back River in a general northerly direction. A cart track leads up a branch tributary for half a mile in an easterly direction and the prospects are situated some 15 chains up a branch gully from the south. By air-line the prospects are some five miles from New Norfolk in a general N.N.E direction.

The rocks in the valley of the Back River and the tributary creek consists of the usual white siliceous mudstones and other interbedded types of the Permo-Carboniferous system. At the higher prospect the grits and sandstones of the Triassic system occur. These represent the basal grits and the Ross sandstones of this system and although the actual junction is not seen, it is evident that the base of the Triassic system overlies the uppermost beds of the Permo-Carboniferous System between the two prospects. The rocks of both systems are horizontally bedded.

It is evident from the fallen blocks that diabase occupies the higher parts of the surrounding hills.

Excavations had been carried out at two localities. The lower excavation was dug in the bottom of the gully and extended westerly. It revealed an irregular vein of calcite with a general east-west strike and a vertical dip. The containing rocks consisted of a dark fine-grained impure sandstone which was probably calcareous.

The other excavation was made several chains to the south and on the western side of the gully about 60 feet above its bottom. A similar vein of calcite was exposed, but did not exceed three inches in width. The enclosing rocks were in this case the normal Ross sandstones.

A sample of calcite from each locality was assayed for gold and silver and gave "Nil" returns in each case.

Deposits of metallic minerals are not known to occur in rocks of the Permo-Carboniferous and Triassic systems except at Cygnet where the mineralising agencies were connected with the Tertiary alkaline rocks. No such rocks are known at Back River and it is probable that the calcite veins have been formed by meteoric waters, the lime being dissolved from the neighbouring masses of diabase. The only alternate explanation is that they may have been formed by solutions set in operation by the intrusion of the diabase.

In either case, it is not to be expected that the calcite veins would carry any metallic minerals (excepting the small amount of pyrite associated with them) of economic importance. The assays prove that even gold and silver are totally absent.

The calcite itself is of no economic importance.

Hobart, 9/7/30.

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