

Prospecting Operations by H.A. Bleazard at Section 35M/49
Beaconsfield

For some time Mr. Bleazard has been sporadically prospecting on this section which is situated on the western side of Cabbage Tree Hill to the west of the town of Beaconsfield. Prospecting has been confined to surface material, from which a little gold, in small angular "colours", is sometimes washed.

This area is riddled with old shafts and prospects and old mine plans show considerable underground workings down to 800 feet from the surface. The companies operating in the past included the Moonlight, Little Wonder and Olive Branch and some good gold values were obtained in upper levels. Several lodes coursing in a north-westerly direction were either worked or prospected although the majority appeared to be crush zones rather than true lodes. Reports have been written on these workings by Thureau 1883, Montgomery 1891, and Twelvetreves 1902. In the mid thirties interest was revived and two shafts of 180 feet and 130 feet were sunk and several hundred feet of cross cutting was done without finding anything of value. Henderson, who visited the workings in 1936 reported..... "the prospects of discovering payable reefs are distinctly unfavourable; moreover the area has been prospected with such intensity by former companies that it can be regarded as thoroughly tested".

Mr. Bleazard has been encouraged to prospect by the finding of iron oxide near the surface, which he believes to be the capping of a lode. In effect, the "gossan" is reprecipitated iron oxide cementing sand together and is of fairly recent origin, probably post-mining. In fact all the ground where he has been digging is probably secondary material from the old mining operations of nearly a century ago, and colours of gold may be expected anywhere. I have discouraged him from further prospecting operations because

1. The lodes have been thoroughly tested down to 800 feet from the surface.
2. The detrital material on the surface would not be sufficiently rich to warrant any attempt at gold recovery.

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