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PROPOSED DRILLING AT UNA MINE

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Introduction

The present investigation follows a request for diamond drilling on the 10 acre section 52M43 held under lease by a syndicate styled Cox and others.

Locality and Access

The section is located in the headwaters of Una Creek, a tributary of Dan Rivulet. The old workings lie approximately half a mile south of the Mt. Victoria road, a private road which runs east-west and joins the Mathinna-Ringarooma road 10 miles from Ringarooma. From the Mt. Victoria road an old cart track leads through thick scrub and down a spur to the west side of Una Creek. Access for a drilling plant would be better on the west side of Una Creek, where it is proposed to drill, as the gradient is easier and the scrub less dense there.

The accompanying map and inset show the locality and access.

History

The first leases were taken out in 1888 and from then until 1932 some part of the Una reef has been held under lease almost continuously. The current lease was applied for in 1943 and issued in May 1962.

Twelvetrees (1904) gave several assay results from the Una mine including some high values (up to 7 oz./ton). He was favourably impressed and recommended further prospecting. He also reported a "sulphide lode": "This is a vein of quartz very highly mineralised with arsenical and iron pyrites, 8 inches to 1 foot in width." Some very high assay results have been obtained from this lode, viz.: 9 ozs. 10 dwts. and 2 ozs. 4 dwts. gold per ton.

In 1945 R.J. Muir, Inspector of Mines, made an inspection and took 4 samples but he was unable to sample effectively because of inaccessible workings and an accumulation of dirt and debris. He undertook to resample the workings after they had been cleaned out and made safe, but nothing further was done.

The Present Investigation

On the 4th May 1962 the workings were inspected in the company of Mr. Cox. Three samples were taken but the assay results were poor. The reef was traced for 1,200 feet but could extend further. It has an average strike of 330°N, a steep westerly dip, and an average width of 2-3 feet. It is now practically impossible to secure a surface sample of economic grade, the high grade material having been selectively mined from shallow diggings. It was probably difficult even in 1904 as Twelvetrees stated that "robbing" of the reefs was general and mining had been carried out with no regard for economy or safety. The Una reef does not appear to have been mined deeper than 20 feet anywhere along its entire length, and in most cases shallow trenches only were used and only the

upper few feet of weathered quartz were mined. Some adits have been driven but mostly they were abandoned before reaching the lode.

Despite the poor assay results, there are several arguments in favour of a drilling programme to test this reef:

- 1. The reef had good appearance and lateral persistence according to Twelvetrees.
- 2. The area has attracted considerable attention in the past and so it is desirable to obtain definite information of the behaviour of the lode at depth.
- 3. The presence of other reefs in the area make it a favourable locality for ore shoots. Reef intersections with the Hinemoa reef and with the sulphide lode are both possible.
- 4. There is a distinct possibility of intersecting parallel reefs which are known to occur in this area (Twelvetrees 1904) and which do not outcrop.
- 5. The lode could be economically developed and stoped by means of adits.

As a result of a survey of the workings, ~~the following~~^{two} bore holes are recommended and are shown on the plan. No.1 is intended to intersect the reef at approximately 60 feet vertically below outcrop, and the length of hole would be approximately 70-80 feet. No.2 is intended to make an intersection at about the 100 feet level for which a 260 feet hole would be required. The programme could be extended if results warrant.