

UNPUBLISHED REPORT 1965/20

Reported oil seepages at Wynyard

by W. L. Matthews

Mrs S. Veenstra of Wynyard reported oil seepages in the vicinity of Fossil Bluff and requested an examination by a geologist.

The rocks occurring in the area consist of gently folded Permian tillite and varves outcropping to about 5' above sea level and forming wave-cut platforms. These beds are overlain unconformably by about 80' of the Table Cape Group, of Tertiary age, and consisting of richly fossiliferous conglomerate, sandstone and limestone. Tertiary basalt overlies the sediments.

The seepages are coming from the side of the hill along the shoreline and are surrounded by deposits of fine orange-brown iron oxide. Small pools of almost stagnant water are present and a thin film of an iridescent substance has formed on the surface. These are not oil films because they break up when disturbed, in a manner characteristic of iron oxide films.

[13 September 1965]