

Visit to the Lisle goldfield.

D.J. Jennings

On Tuesday 20 June, senior geologist D.J. Jennings accompanied Mr R.J. Maraldo and Mr E.J. Curle on an inspection of their leases and surrounding ground in the Lisle goldfield. They wish to apply for Aid to Mining.

LEASES

Messrs Maraldo and Curle hold four leases in the name of the Lisle Gold Mining Company. Two leases (115M/68 of 5 acres and 25M/64 of 5 acres) are situated in the gorge area and are joined by a third lease (92M/69 of 5 acres) consisting of a 2.5 chain strip centred on Lisle Creek. A 10 acre tailings easement (2W/72) is held downstream. In addition Maraldo, Curle and Chapman each hold a 50 acre prospector's claim in the area.

PLANS

The partners' plans consist of two parts.

- (1) To work a small gravel flat in the gorge area with a tracked dozer/front-end loader vehicle purchased with an Aid to Mining loan. This project is hoped to recoup sufficient cash to repay the loan and with some surplus.
- (2) To move upstream, out of the gorge into areas now covered by their prospectors' claims, renovate an old high level water race, introduce heavy machinery (gravel pumps etc.), and work the extensive terraces on the flats to the south.

PRESENT WORKINGS

On lease 115M/68 two shallow scars, 20 ft across and 4-6 ft deep, drain into a well from which gravel can be raised by a small hydraulic lift into a set of boxes. The water supply is carried by race from the junction of Lisle and Bessel Creeks along the western bank.

PROSPECTING

The area intended for immediate exploitation consists of an ovoid flat some 200 ft long and 75 ft wide, through which runs Lisle Creek. The area is covered by ferns and carries myrtle, blackwood, wattle and gum trees up to 18 inches in diameter. It is claimed that beds of gravel and shingle extend to depths of 15 ft in places, but evidence is not forthcoming. No sign of recent prospecting was visible and all information quoted was from work of months or years ago. No auger hole sites were located and the only pit observed was ancient, collapsed and infilled.

Evidence from present workings and sporadic outcrop in the creek bed, suggests a bedrock level commonly no deeper than 4-6 ft, covered by a variable sequence of stream sediments. Some eight dishes of shingle and gravels from different sites around the present workings invariably gave 'colours' of gold when washed but no rich samples were obtained.

AID TO MINING

Before Aid to Mining can be recommended:

- (1) Four, or preferably six prospect pits should be sunk to bedrock to assess sediment depth and gold values. (H.A. Graham of

Lockwood & Graham, has recently sunk two prospect pits of the required type on his lease near the Lisle main road).

- (2) An assessment must be made of how feasible it is for a small dozer to work among heavy timber on the locally steep and sometimes water-logged terrain.
- (3) Some solution must be found to the risk of flooding, as Lisle Creek will run through the workings and some gravel reserve lies below creek level.

CONCLUSION

If the flat only contains some 3500 yd³ and the partners raise a loan in the order of \$3500 for equipment, the gold values required to repay overheads, loans and provide subsistence are well above those demonstrated so far.

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