

**ALLUVIAL TIN DEPOSITS – CAPE BARREN ISLAND,
TASMANIA**

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ALLUVIAL TIN DEPOSITS - CAPE BARREN ISLAND, TASMANIA

Cape Barren Is an Island just south of Flinders Island in Bass Strait, measuring about 20 miles (east to west) by 8 miles. It is about 20 miles north of North-Eastern Tasmania.

Alluvial tin deposits, some tin bearing are scattered widely throughout the Island, the two best known and the only ones worked in the past are the Rooks River deposits in the central north and the Modder River deposits in the south. Both are not far from the sea. These two deposits have been the subject of many reports by the Tasmanian Department of Mines and there has been some production of tin from time to time by small operators.

During 1965-1966, these deposits were investigated by Utah Pty.Ltd. and a drilling programme was undertaken at Rooks River. This showed deep alluvial ground up to 150' (?) deep, consisting of fine to medium grained clayey quartz sands with small quartz pebbles in the upper part and coarse grained marcarsite quartz sands and brown clay with some lignite and little wash at the bottom.

Three lines of bores, 1500 feet between lines and 200 feet between bores, were put down; 34 holes in all. The result was an estimate of possible reserves of about 8,000,000 yards averaging about 1/4 lb. of tin oxide to the cubic yard. Unfortunately it was the policy of the Company to cease drilling at about 100 feet and the deepest part of the lead on each line was not bottomed. As, in these Tertiary deep leads, the greatest tin concentration always occurs in the bottom few feet, it is reasonable to suppose that the tin average over the whole depth is greater than the 1/4lb. to the yard estimated by the Company. The lead runs in a north-easterly direction from near some old workings ("Watsons") sub-parallel to Rooks River and further drilling could doubtless extend the yardage.

Not true!
occasional
exceptions →
as Thomson's
lead or perhaps
here!

This is a deep ground of great potential but would require a limited drilling programme to estimate reserves. Drilling can only take place, at reasonable cost, during the summer months.

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No drilling was undertaken at Modder River, where there are two small old alluvial workings of depths of 18 feet and 12 feet. Drilling near these workings by earlier operators is said to have indicated ground of the order of 2 lbs. per cubic yard. The workings are near the headwaters of Modder River and below these is a large plain reaching to the coast, which has never been tested by drilling and may well contain deep alluvial tin-bearing ground. To test this would require an extensive drilling campaign.

Material from here contains v. limited amounts of tin

The report by Utah Pty. Ltd. is available for perusal at the Tasmanian Department of Mines, together with many reports by Departmental officers.

I would regard these two areas on Cape Barron^s Island as of great promise and well worth of a drilling programme. This could be divided into two sections.

1. A limited drilling programme at Rooks River. To supplement the drilling carried out by Utah, 12 bores of about 150' each could be put down. Bores should be put down at 100' either side of the Utah bores that were met bottomed and a further line put down ahead of their north-east line.
2. A more extensive boring campaign, again in two parts -
 - a) If the initial bores at Rooks River showed promise a close grid should be drilled there
 - b) The flats below the Modder River workings should be tested.

Stage 1 of the programme should not cost more than \$20,000 and drilling should be carried out between December and May.

H. Stacpole of Scottsdale, an experienced operator, may be able to quote for this drilling.

30th May, 1969.

Terence D. Hughes,
Geologist.