

1934: Renison Associated Tin Mines N.L. took over the various mines and prospects at Renison Bell and began experimenting on ways of treating the primary sulphides to free the cassiterite.

1936: It was discovered that the sulphides could be removed from the cassiterite by flotation, and output increased substantially.

1958: Following extensive diamond drilling which indicated that the deposits were larger than first estimated, the Mount Lyell Mining and Railway Company Limited gained controlling interest in the mines.

1964: Consolidated Gold Fields gained a controlling interest in Renison through its interest in the Mount Lyell Company.

1965: The Bassett-Federal Lode was discovered and an extensive development programme commenced for a mine and concentrating plant.

1966: Mines Exploration Proprietary Limited (a subsidiary of Broken Hill South) tested Fenton's (also called Salmon's) Prospect near the mouth of the Exe River by a diamond drill hole DDH XI. The hole was drilled to 185m on a bearing of 213° MN at a declination of 10° from the Emu Bay Railway line. Tin mineralisation was intersected in dolomitised serpentinite and in quartz fissure veins, but was not considered to be of economic importance.

1967: Comstaff, which became the operating company in 1964, secured Exploration Licence 5/63 and Anglo American became the managing company.

Two points stand out from this brief review of the exploration history:

- a) The prospecting and mining history of the region is dominated by the discoveries of the Renison Bell lodes and the problems in extracting cassiterite from the primary sulphides once the alluvial and gossanous tin was exhausted. Prior to 1936, tin in massive sulphides was not considered to be prospective, so it is likely that a number of other prospects discovered in the region were not mined on account of this association.