

## 2. PREVIOUS EXPLORATION

### 2.1. Early (c.1840-1920)

Among the earliest discoveries of coal in Tasmania were the York Plains and Colebrook deposits, as reported by Strzelecki (1845), Milligan (1849), Gould (1869) and Johnston (1888).

The Tasma Coal Mine at Colebrook was opened after a government funded drill hole, in 1891, indicated the presence of several coal seams in the area; main production from this mine was between 1910 and 1919 for a total of 2781 tonnes.

The Jerusalem Coal Mine, 3.5km north of Colebrook produced coal during two intervals, 1843-49, and 1879-90.

The York Plains Coal Mine, 6 km north east of Oatlands produced 9641 tonnes of coal between 1902 and 1919.

Coal was reported beneath Mike Howes Marsh by Twelvetrees (c1900), but investigations did not proceed beyond the sinking of test pits.

Coal was also reported in the Kempton area by Hills et al (1922), but the thin seams exposed precluded further investigations.

### 2.2. Intermediate (1920-1980)

This interval was virtually a dormant phase of coal exploration; the Geological Survey of Tasmania compiled a report on the coal resources of the state, representing the first serious attempt to document (and in places correlate), Triassic age coal seams in the Midlands etc.

Inadvertant exploration took place in the form of water bores sunk by farmers, the logs of which are stored in the Geological Survey (W.L. Matthews, Pers Comm.), and in part reproduced by Leaman (1971), who prefixed the bores around Colebrook with "CO".

Summaries of these logs are included as Appendix 2.

### 2.3. Recent (1980-)

The current phase of activity began in 1980 when Capricorn Mining Ltd. (Capricorn) commenced work in EL 28/79, covering 1561 sq. km. between York Plains, Mike