

TR8-23

2. BLUE PEAK GOLD MINES, PROSPECTING AREA AND LEASE, ARTHUR RIVER

by R. Jack.

Special Prospecting Licence No. 373 of 4,200 acres and lease 68/61M of 80 acres are situated at Folly Hill, a low ridge approximately a quarter of a mile west of the Lyons River which is a tributary of the Arthur River. The nearest town is Preolenna, 9 miles to the NE, and access is from there by a good gravelled timber road.

The alluvial sands at Folly Hill are auriferous and are probably of Late Tertiary or Pleistocene age. They overlie the Neasey Beds which in this area are mainly white saccharoidal quartzite and phyllite, striking at 10° and dipping at 60° to the west. Occasional bands of angular to sub-angular pebbles occur in the alluvial sands and the deposit has probably originated from the weathering of the Neasey Beds in the vicinity of the alluvium. The gold recovered by panning is a mixture of sub-angular to semi-rounded grains and does not appear to have been transported very far from its source which is probably in the Neasey Beds.

Prospecting shafts were sunk by E. Geale and Party in 1937 and later two small areas were sluiced for gold. The area was abandoned in 1943 probably due to the deposits being uneconomic. There is no recorded production of gold from the area.

The depth of alluvium exposed in the shafts is approximately 30 feet and in the sluicing 16 feet. The present lessees have washed samples from these old workings and the surrounding area and report that the gold recovered varied from traces to six to eight good colours per dish. They intend doing further bulk sampling using a bulldozer and trucks to transport the material to the Lyons River for sluicing. To achieve this they have built an access road for approximately 50 chains to the old workings.

The bulk sampling of the alluvium should show conclusively if gold is present in economic amount, but there is little chance of their finding a source reef for the gold beneath the alluvium. From the amount of gold seen from washing dishes of the alluvium it is thought that the grade will be too low to be economic.