

REPORT ON GREAT FINGAL WORKINGS - FINGAL DISTRICT

The workings are located on a 20 acre lease (16M/39) in the name of J. French and E.L. Clapp, situated on a small creek joining Little Hospital Creek on the north side.

Minor prospecting operations have recently been carried out in old surface workings. The original work was commenced in early part of 1901 by Fingal Reefs Prospecting Association when two shafts were sunk on a wide quartz formation. It was reported in the "Mineral Industry" (March 1901 to June 1902) that a cross-cut driven north from bottom of No. 1 shaft passed through the lode for 21 feet and in that distance the latter contained gold at the rate of 8 dwt. per ton. In No. 1 Shaft a cross-cut was driven through the lode for 8 feet. By the end of 1901 a considerable amount of sinking and driving had been carried out in an endeavour to prove the value of the lode, which was stated to be of low grade. Work ceased early in 1902 when it was reported that the gold was found to be too erratically distributed to warrant further development. A small vein, 4 to 6 inches in width, adjacent to the large lode was stoped from surface to a maximum depth of 23 feet. From this vein five tons of mineralised quartz was forwarded to Victoria for treatment and 32 oz. of smelted gold recovered, being equal to 6 oz. 7 dwt. 21 grs. per ton. Although the stone was still gold bearing, work was discontinued in 1902, as the vein proved too narrow for profitable mining.

A survey of the workings discloses a wide quartz reef along a general strike slightly south of east. It is exposed in three shafts spaced over a distance of 180 feet. Quartz on the dumps of caved trenches, up to 110 feet farther to the east, indicates a possible extension in that direction (see plan herewith).

The western shaft (No. 3), sunk vertically on the reef to a depth of 17 feet, represents the recent work undertaken by the present lessees. With the exception of a little included slaty material, the reef in this shaft consists of quartz discoloured along numerous joint planes by oxides of iron, and in places shows included flecks of pyrite, arsenopyrite and zinc blends. Slates dipping to the south-west on north side of shaft probably represent footwall side of reef, but the hanging wall on south side is not exposed. A sample of quartz taken across a width of 8 ft. 6 in. at three feet above the bottom of shaft gave the following result:-

Gold	-	6 dwt.	6 grs.	per ton.
Silver	-,	1 "	13 "	" "

The middle shaft, 45 feet east of No. 3 shaft, corresponds with No. 1 Shaft of the original workings and is now waterlogged and inaccessible for examination of the reported underground workings. The reef at this point is exposed over a width of 10 feet near shaft collar, but no walls are visible.

The old No. 2 shaft was sunk on the reef at 125 feet to the east of No. 1 Shaft and appears to be approximately 30 feet deep, but is caved near the bottom and inaccessible.

The reef is showing across greater portion of shaft, but no facilities are available for sampling. A dump containing 40 - 50 tons of quartz about collar of shaft was sampled in a comprehensive manner and after assaying showed traces of gold and silver.

Two lines of caved trenches, to the east of No. 2 Shaft, show broken quartz on the dumps and the plan of survey suggests that the lode has split in that direction into two branches.

At 15 feet north-east of No. 1 Shaft a line of surface stopes, underlying at a steep angle to the south and extending on a strike of 90°, indicates the presence of the small rich vein from which a crushing was obtained in the year 1901. The stopes are now waded at a maximum depth of 13 feet and the vein is not exposed for inspection.

A quartz reef, between two and three feet in width, is exposed for several feet along the face of an open cut at 10 feet west of No. 3 Shaft. It has a strike of N 30° E and dips to the west at about 80°. A sample taken across the reef over a width of 2'½" near south end of cut was assayed and the result showed:-

Gold - 2 dwt. 2 grs. per ton.

Silver - 0 dwt. 12 grs. per ton.

This reef would appear to limit any western extension of the large lode exposed in the shafts.

In a shallow trench, 25 feet north of No. 2 shaft, closely spaced quartz veins with included slate bands are visible over a width of 18 inches. A sample taken across the lode showed traces of gold and silver on assay.

Throughout the workings the facilities for examination and sampling are unsatisfactory. The samples taken are not encouraging, but the results are inconclusive since it was only possible to take one correct sample from each of three reefs, while the small reportedly rich vein was not exposed for sampling.

Before considering any further development of this mine it is recommended that Nos. 1 and 2 Shafts be unwatered and cleared of debris to enable further sampling of large lode to be undertaken.

If satisfactory results are achieved from this proposed sampling campaign, consideration should then be given to proving the lode at greater depth. This could be accomplished by driving an adit cross-cut from the small creek channel on south side, to give approximately 100 feet of backs at lode intersection.

Until the lode has been tested and a shoot of ore proved payable to at least 100 feet below surface, no attention should be given to the erection of a battery to treat the ore.

F. BLAKE  
A/ GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

Mines Department,  
HOBART.

23rd February, 1940.



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DEPARTMENT OF MINES,

LAUNCESTON.

21st May, 1940

MEMORANDUM:

Supplementary Sampling of the Great Fingal  
Gold Mine, Fingal, to the Report by  
Mr. Blake, Acting Government Geologist.

The holders of the lease unwatered the shaft, the depth of which from surface to bottom is 30' and 34' to the brace. There is no well and work was commenced at a depth of 30' from the surface. At the bottom of the shaft the reef was crosscut, but the hanging wall portion has been filled in and was not open to sample.

The reef exposed at the bottom of the shaft was 10' in width, which was sampled in two five ft. sections. Sample 6 was from the foot wall side, and Sample 7 for the next 5' to the hanging wall side.

The reef has been driven on for a distance of 74' in a north-westerly direction; along the footwall and in the face the reef persists and is unbroken or disturbed.

At a distance of 55' from the shaft a crosscut was driven across the reef for a distance of 20'. At 8' to 12' there is a horse of mullock, but otherwise the reef is a solid quartz mass. This crosscut was sampled in four ft. sections, commencing from the footwall, and are shown in the assay return as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

At the shaft a crosscut has been driven in a northerly direction to intersect the small rich vein which was worked from this surface. This was not open to inspection having been filled with loose dirt.

The ore body is a large massive quartz deposit with well defined walls of slate. The assay results are very disappointing and they indicate that the proposition where developed is unpayable.

Plan is attached showing the extent of workings.

J. G. HUDSON  
A/CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MINES.

The Director of Mines,  
HOBART.

LABORATORY,  
LAUNCESTON.

3rd May, 1940.

GERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

Acting Chief Insepctor of Mines,  
LAUNCESTON.

The samples of quartz etc., received from the  
above on the 26th April and stated to be from ----  
have been examined, with the following results:-

Regd. No.	Constituents	Per Cent	Per ton Ozs. dwt. grs.		
471	No. 1 Fingal Mine	Gold .. Trace -			
		Silver Trace -			
472	No. 2 Fingal Mine	Gold .. ... -	0	0	9
		Silver ... -	0	0	9
473	No. 3 Fingal Mine	Gold .. Nil -			
		Silver Nil -			
474	No. 4 Fingal Mine	Gold .. Nil -			
		Silver Nil -			
475	No. 5 Fingal Mine	Gold .. Nil -			
		Silver Nil -			
476	No. 6 Fingal Mine	Gold .. ... -	0	0	9
		Silver .... -	0	0	6
477	No. 7 Fingal Mine	Gold .. Nil -			
		Silver Nil -			

(Sgd.) W. St. G. Manson,  
Chief Government Chemist &  
Assayer.

per C.J.P.