

**Recollections of the  
Redcastle and Heathcote Goldfields**

by

**R. N. Hird**  
Heathcote

**1996**

Edited by

A. Olshina and P. McAsey

Geological Survey of Victoria  
Unpublished Report 1996/8



**Bibliographic reference:**

Hird, R. N., 1996.

Memoirs - Redcastle and Heathcote  
Goldfields.

Edited by A. Olshina and P. McAsey

Geological Survey of Victoria.

Unpublished Report 1996/8



© Crown (State of Victoria) Copyright 1996  
Geological Survey of Victoria

**Keywords:**

gold, mining, history

Redcastle, Heathcote

Victoria

**This report may be purchased from:**

Business Centre,  
Department of Natural Resources and  
Environment,  
Ground Floor, 115 Victoria Parade,  
Fitzroy 3065

**For further technical information  
contact:**

Library,  
Department of Natural Resources and  
Environment  
P O Box 2145  
MDC Fitzroy 3065.



P.O. Box 27.  
Heathcote Vic.

22nd August 1976.

Mines Dept. Melbourne,

As a request from Mr Richard Groggan, I am writing what I know and what I was told by my father, Victor J. Hird, who spent his entire life working in mines at Redcastle, Costerfield, Mt. Wills and Bendigo. He also related the knowledge of his father, who was a miner in the McIvor and Redcastle fields in the 1850's and 1860's, Bendigo and Lambing Flat (now Young, NSW).

This brochure and report will be on the Redcastle field, which was once named Balmoral.

Firstly I will write on main lodes and the deepest worked.

Firstly the "**Niagra**" or "**Clarke**" or "**Redcastle No.1**" just behind Redcastle township, worked to near 400 ft. It went as high as 42 oz per ton, the values left in bottom of last stop (was) 14 dwt per ton. There was a small reef cutting back in foot-wall would go several ounces per ton - was not worked as management did not know about it.

**Redcastle No.2** or **Hit and Miss** was worked to about 150 ft. Reef very broken but was very rich - over 20 oz per ton. New shaft sunk to 250 ft. They struck wall in cross-cut at 200 ft, also they struck wall in bottom of shaft - reef as thin as a knife blade.

The shaft in my opinion was sunk about 200 feet too far south, the reef and shoot of gold would go north as all shoots of gold and antimony go north in Redcastle and district.

This would be a good bet for anyone with a diamond drill; reef near surface very rich, also very broken.

**Lora Mine** - about one mile north was worked to 200 feet, reef left in level at 200 ft., 1 foot wide, 18 dwts per ton, a good reef of antimony ore, hanging wall 3 inches wide, about 50% ore - a long shoot about 1,000 feet.

Also in the same shaft the **Tommy Dodd** or **Balmoral** reef is dipping east and the **Lora** reef is dipping west, both running north and south and were 5 feet apart in bottom of shaft. The **Tommy Dodd** reef is a bit over 1 foot thick and is about 60% anyimony. This mine has a very good potential.

**Mary-Ann** about 150 feet east of **Lora** worked to 250 feet was in my father's opinion, the best mine in Redcastle, reef left in bottom of winze, good reef of antimony and gold and a very good size lode.



June 1863.

Caledonian Quartz Mining Co.

Western Reef No 5. 224 oz 15dwts 39 tons.

£6 per ton for Antimony Costerfield.

Youle Coster Field and Co - 152 tons, 303 ozs 3 dwts.

" " " " " - 11 days 110 ozs gold.

30 Costerfield 200 ozs.

9 day yield 84 ozs **Bombay**.

**Welcome Reef** Redcastle 20 ton for 50 ozs.

**Hit and Miss** Redcastle, 12 ozs per ton.

**Potter and Green** Phoenix, 11 tons 22 ozs.

**Butler's reef**, 180 ozs a few tons stone.

**Coster and Field**, 120 tons 239 ozs 14 dwts.

**Welcome Reef**, 1 1/2 ozs per ton

25 tons **Costerfield** 120ozs.

**Caledonian Gully**, 203 ozs gold.

100 tons **Costerfield**, 99 ozs 2 dwts.

**Coster and Field** 100 tons 235 ozs.

**Phoenix**, 16 tons 5 ozs.

**Hit and Miss** Redcastle, 14 tons 130 ozs.

**Welcome** 12 tons 137 ozs.

" **Staffordshire Flat** 33 tons 125 ozs.

9 tons 13 ozs 13 dwts **Curly Dog**.

**Hit and Miss** Redcastle, 19 tons 152 ozs.



Retaken up in 1863. Worked in the 1850's.

**Thunderbolt** worked to 175 feet, 25 feet into water.

Values 1oz to 12 ozs per ton 30 foot shoot.

10 tons **Clarks** Redcastle 10 tons 150 ozs.

1 oz per ton from sand at **Costerfield**.

Nugget of gold 8 ozs 10 dwts top of **Long Gully**.

1873 January **Redcastle**

**Tice** 4 tons 1 oz 10 dwts.

**Magnus and Co.** 16 tons 38 ozs 8 dwts.

**Johnson** 8 tons 9 ozs 18 dwts.

**Tussich** 2 tons 17 ozs 6 dwts.

**Harrison and Co.** 8 tons 18 ozs 13 dwts.

**Gardiner** 9 tons 17 ozs.



9 - 12 - 1974

P.O. Box 27

Heathcote

To whom it may concern

To the mines Dept "Bendigo".

To start with your set of plans, there is several mistakes, one of the most prominent being **Williams** cross-course and the **Argyle Reef** running parallel. They are at nearly right angles.

Also the names of most of the lodes or reefs have different names on the plans to the local names by the old miners who are all dead.

But I will write this up my own way and I hope you will give and take a little as I left school at 13 years of age and went underground to work.

Firstly I will start in the **One Eye Forest** or **North Heathcote**, going to the north of the Fault split. There is **Woolley Reef**, it was worked to water level, 6 and 7 ozs to the ton. The Woolleys left this mine, they got the wind up as the ground became bad and water and bad rotten ground don't go together if the miners don't know their jobs.

In the **One Eye Forest** there are several reefs including **White Reef** but I don't know their values.



**Cravens Reef** or the **Homelands**, it was up to 8ft wide going 8 dwts to 1/2 oz per ton. The gold was mostly on the one wall and being rough gold a lot of it was stolen, but what closed this mine: a man by the name of Parkinson was blown up, he drilled into a charge that did not go off. The plant was sold to pay compensation to the widow.

The **Cravens Reef** or **Homelands** is in a belt of Granodiorite rock which has working on this belt as far south as Tooborac. Example:

**Surface Hill** worked 8 dwts per ton , **Victoria Hill** 1 oz per ton. It was too hard for hand labour and was left. Near **Peters Gully** worked and was dished going up to 14 dwts to the dish, just in front of R. Curry's house. Again about 8 miles south at the **Sugarloaf Hill** 3 claims worked 2 to 3 ozs per ton.

Also this granodiorite belt is on the foot wall side of the big fault, also the shoots of gold go north.

There is then a big belt of soapstone or serpentine; then a fair belt of Gosan rock, it was worked in a few places, only one place being payable to water, **Hawwood lode** north of Red Hill.



I will write a little of Red Hill. Mostly indicators, these being a division of two rocks, slate burnt by volcanic heat and sandstone or granite.

Different lodes or flat belts worked. These reports were taken out of Vonderlufts Battery reports each fortnight.

**Smith & Co. Ballroom** 7 foot wide 30 oz per ton.

Each 110 ton parcel of stone yielded 300 oz till a wall cut the load about 10 ft from the surface. One stone about the size of a wheel barrow yielding 250 ozs.

Also 57 ozs of stone yielded 46 1/2 ozs gold.

**Whip Shaft Manton & Speed** 5 & 6 ozs to ton.

We won 40 ozs of gold out of a few dishes back in 1952.

Also 10 tons of stone yielded at Golden Square State Battery 10 oz 12 dwts. Water level was there and we were baling with a bucket and windlass, so we left it.

**Christies Mine**, another indicator - best yield. 250 ozs out of 1/2 bucket of stone. Worked to 75 ft.

I cleaned this mine out in 1938 but done no work as all I could find was about 1/4 dwt to the dish.

**Miller's Lode or Goats Mouth**. Crosses **Long Tunnel**. 300 tons, 3 dwts per ton. Then picked out 2400 ozs all around 9 and 10 oz specs.



In short shoot going from the card room, about 40 ft to 96 ft deep. They left this mine as 2 of them had miners thises (pthysis) bad.

The other one Ted worked the **Chinamans** mine also **South Red Hill** with Bill Elms. It went 4 dwts to each 4 gal bucket, about 4 ft of flat floors. Gold cut out, we sunk 50 ft shaft, cut the lode but the best we could get was about 3 grains per dish, so we left it.

**Robinson & O'Neils**, Vonderlufts reports.

Cross-course right on top of **Red Hill** went each fortnight - all crushings 6 & 7 ozs per ton. The best report was 1602 ozs from a few tons. New shaft 180 ft on top of hill still open was sunk by a few locals in a syndicate. Struck load only 4 inches wide, 1 oz per ton. Should have driven north about 50 feet.

**Hermit or Try Again**. We worked this mine in 1936 and 1937, going about 3 grains to 1 oz per dish, nearly all pug and fine crushed quartz. Lost gold or it went poor at 65 ft. About 1/4 dwt per dish.

**Big Cutting** - crushed the lot of fines. Picked out coarse lumps of mullock, went 5 dwts per ton, about 100 ft wide, near the cross slide it would only go down to depth in belts 2 and 3 ft wide. 6000 tons only averaged 17 grains to the ton.



Example **Knurch's**, worked to 35 ft. Best recovered was 20 ozs, most of the rest about 8 dwts to the ton for about 35 ft of work.

**Tomato Kings** worked to 10 ft, yielded 15 oz. from the dish. A dish of flat floors would yeild up to 2 oz. each.

**Calwells**. Worked down only a few feet. Yeilded a few oz.

There are dozens of sets of floors worked down about 30 ft to 40 ft and left.

The gold seems to disappear for a few feet and then it puts in again. south.

So much for **Red Hill**. Most of the gold on the hill is coarse, a few penny weights to several ozs in each - color or spec or small nugget.

Surface gold or alluvial, the nuggets were 104 ozs, 96 ozs, 92 ozs, 70 ozs and several smaller ones.

**Black Jack Gully** yielded 600 ozs of alluvial gold by 10 o'clock in the morning. It was sluiced by Hedley.

Now the main lodes.

The best worked was the **Butlers**. It worked to 860 ft. Yield 800 oz was the best fortnight worked for several years. Reef 6 inches to 1 ft width, about 16 ozs per ton, except around 200 ft it went poor for a while. It would not be any good now, cost would be too much to start it.

The second one down from the **Butlers** is the **Alabama**, worked to 500 feet. The reef was about 1 ft wide and about 12 to 16 ozs per ton. It went wide near 500 ft and also the values were poor.



**Long Gully cross course** worked between 350 and 400 ft.

Shoot at surface about 500 ft long, the best being 1000 oz from one ton at 150 ft. Mostly went 3 to 4 oz per ton, but at the bottom, the shoot was only 11 ft long going 1 oz 5 dwt per ton.

Told to me by old man McIntosh father of Fred and Bob.

**Norris or Cosmopolitan cross course** not reef.

Worked a little over 200 ft went 5 to 6 oz. I don't know (what is left in this mine). They lost gold.

**Williams cross course** length of shoot 250 to 300 ft. Left in bottom at 250 ft 8 oz per ton from end to end. Shoot "1" 30 oz per ton. Shoot "2" 18 oz per ton. Shoot "3" 14 oz per ton. Shoot "4" 10 oz per ton. The rest of the stone or reef goes 18 dwt, but the average is 8 oz per ton. This mine is now only a water hole. Shaft is 260 ft. The plat is 245 ft and the lode is 16 inches wide. Underhand stoped either 7 ft or 11 ft. Width of lode 2 to 3 ft. Sixty three men worked this mine at one time (in) 3 shifts. The yeilds from 8 head of stamps was 1800 oz to 2000 oz per fortnight. All work was done by hand labour. The best patches in lode one cibble<sup>1</sup> 386 oz about 1/2 ton 7 sugar bags 375 oz. Biggest piece of gold from workings 75 oz. Numerous 12 oz specs were won from the lode while it worked.

---

<sup>1</sup> kibble - about 70 shovelful



**Peters Gully Reef**

At surface 30 ft wide, went 1 oz per ton, worked to 218 ft. Shaft collapsed, so men sunk new shaft about 500 ft south. Struck lode at 200 ft, drove north but were 18 ft shallow. Left mine. It was started about 1937, worked very short time. It only went about 8 dwt to the ton but they were above the shoot of gold.

This Reef is only part of the big main fault as it is the mother lode of all the other hanging wall lodes which shot up off this main fault. This is one mine which would be worth working in Heathcote if it was worked the right way. It would have to be worked at depth as it is very rotten ground at 200 ft. There is also a very much smaller lode in shaft at around 180 ft.

South of shaft "main" there is an open cutting worked to 90 ft was paying well 'til Mines Dept. Inspector stopped work; he said it was dangerous. Men were making £5 per day each.

I am writing up the main cross course reefs and faults worked 200 ft or deeper as these were the best as they worked the deepest 'til water beat them.



**Scandinavian Reef** it is a cross course. It is also marked wrongly on the Mines Dept. map. It was worked to 200 ft, went 11 dwts per ton and values were left in the mine, it is not far from **Williams** cross course. All reports in Vanderluf's diary were around 11 dwt. Also there would be good patches as Heathcote is renowned for its patches.

**Duke of Edinborough, "Burrells"**, best 26 oz per ton worked to 200 ft. Mine collapsed when miners were at dinner. Left barrel of beer and values at the bottom of 11 dwts per ton. New shaft sunk to 180 ft struck old workings and miners left it. Company closed the mine. Timber with time it was eaten out by white ants before shaft was completed (?).

Near **British Queen** there is the **Thunder Bolt**. The name marked on plans is **Thompsons**.

Worked to about 175 ft. Mine went around 10 oz per ton. Reef split and values went poor. Gold would be in reef to the south east. Reef about 1 ft wide.

Also in **Possum Gully** not far from these mines was **German Charlie's** - worked to water. Reef was going 4 to 5 oz but reef was only about 4" to 6" wide. Named in Mines Dept. as **Shakespeare Reef**. It is a (?) reef runs with the strata of the country.



Also not marked in plan.

**No Flys** mine or reef right over the crown of **Little Possum Gully** mine. Worked to 200 ft, 1/2 oz to ton, 10 ft wide, went to 20 ft wide. Values slipped to 5 dwt. Shoot of gold very flat pitch. All lodes well away from the fault line have very flat pitch of gold in these reefs. Some would only gain about 40 ft depth to 100 ft length of lode, and some less than this.

**Rosy Gully** reef. Very good reef - rose quartz worked well into water. One patch 600 oz left by the old miners. New Syndicate worked new shaft in **Rosy Gully**. Struck gold. Miners picked out 17 oz of gold when they knocked down the reef and crushing only yielded 17 1/2 oz so Syndicate left mine. Reef very hard, also flat pitch. Same reef in **Little Rosy Gully** was also worked to water. Best patch 200 oz. Also flat shoot. (we cleaned out **Rosy** 3 years ago).

We cleaned out **Rosey Reef** - nothing left there.

**Spaniards reef**. Very black in appearance - mostly manganese and quartz. Went 5 to 9 oz per ton. Very flat pitch. Gold had gone poor. "Sampled mine myself. Nothing in face". Reef only about 18" wide. Not worth a damn in my opinion. Gold would be there in the south.



**Victoria reef , Morning Star** marked on map. I know very little of these but could look up reports of McInnes but haven't the time just at present.

**Chivillers (?) and Lawson(?)** in **Big Possum Gully** not marked on map. Went 5 to 6 oz per ton. Also **Bradleyss** 2 to 3 oz. **Paddy O'Rourke's** 1 oz per ton. None of these lodes are marked in the Mines Dept. map.

Reports in Vanderluf's Battery reports of these mines.

**North Butler's** near Kyneton Rd. went 14 dwt per ton. Worked into water level. Stopped by Mines Dept. Shaft too small.

**Argyle Reef** worked by company to 150 ft. Went from 30 oz down to 3 oz per ton. New shaft sunk by Hedleys 210 ft crosscut 40 ft cut lode. Lode very rotten and poor only went 8 to 11 dwts. Dewater by new company in 1934. Values 8 1/2 dwts. reef only about 1 ft wide. No good at all, but it could be at depth when ground became solid. At the bottom of a 40 ft winze values had improved up to about 3 oz per ton.

Now on to **Mundy Gully** about 5 miles south of Heathcote.



**Mundy Gully Reef.** Worked 1800 ft long of shoot. 300 ft of this shoot is 2 ft to 3 ft wide going 2 to 3 oz. The other (1500) ft would go (18 dwts per ton).

Mine worked to 260 ft. Stopped out. Mines Dept. wanted 4 compartment shaft. Company closed mine as shoot would be away south. New shaft would then have to be sunk. Shoot a flat pitcher. 300 ft in over 1/4 mile of distance.

Now this mine in my opinion would be a prospect or could be alright to work.

There is also another lode south known as **Hagan's**. Was a several oz show. Worked to water. These lodes are south of your extremity of your plans.

There are dozens of lodes worked not shown on the plans. Most of them had several shoots of gold and most were not worked much over 40 ft in depth.



To conclude this write up of the Heathcote mines.

There are 4 lodes worked in Heathcote which in my opinion would be worth working as propositions.

Firstly **Williams** (not in my opinion now) 8 ozs per ton over length of 300 ft 2 ft to 3 ft wide, with pumps what they are today water would be no problem. Only worked to 250 ft. (could not be worked now).

Second, **Mundy Gully** must be alright. Only 260 ft deep with shoot of 300 ft 2 ft to 3 ft wide. Could not fail with the right company.

Third, **Homelands** - several feet wide, 1/2 oz per ton. Only worked to 200 ft. Fairly long shoot.

Fourth, **Peters Gully**, 218 ft, 40 ft wide, 1 oz per ton. How could it not (?) fail if shaft was sunk to 300 ft to 400 ft and stoped out? This mine where ground was solid.

If you require further information I would and could write up about several other lodes. Also I could mark reefs not marked on plans.

Hoping this can help you,

Yours Faithfully,

R. N. Hird, "Bob"



**Recollections of the  
Redcastle and Heathcote Goldfields**

by

**R. N. Hird  
Heathcote**

**1996**

Edited by

**A. Olshina and P. McAsey**

**Geological Survey of Victoria  
Unpublished Report 1996/8**





**Bibliographic reference:**

Hird, R. N., 1996.  
Memoirs - Redcastle and Heathcote  
Goldfields.  
Edited by A. Olshina and P. McAssey  
Geological Survey of Victoria.  
Unpublished Report 1996/8



© Crown (State of Victoria) Copyright 1996  
Geological Survey of Victoria

**Keywords:**

gold, mining, history  
Redcastle, Heathcote  
Victoria

**This report may be purchased from:**  
Business Centre,  
Department of Natural Resources and  
Environment,  
Ground Floor, 115 Victoria Parade,  
Fitzroy 3065

**For further technical information  
contact:**  
Library,  
Department of Natural Resources and  
Environment  
P O Box 2145  
MDC Fitzroy 3065.



P.O. Box 27.  
Heathcote Vic.

22nd August 1976.

Mines Dept. Melbourne,

As a request from Mr Richard Groggan, I am writing what I know and what I was told by my father, Victor J. Hird, who spent his entire life working in mines at Redcastle, Costerfield, Mt. Wills and Bendigo. He also related the knowledge of his father, who was a miner in the McIvor and Redcastle fields in the 1850's and 1860's, Bendigo and Lambing Flat (now Young, NSW).

This brochure and report will be on the Redcastle field, which was once named Balmoral.

Firstly I will write on main lodes and the deepest worked.

Firstly the "Niagra" or "Clarke" or "Redcastle No.1" just behind Redcastle township, worked to near 400 ft. It went as high as 42 oz per ton, the values left in bottom of last stop (was) 14 dwt per ton. There was a small reef cutting back in foot-wall would go several ounces per ton - was not worked as management did not know about it.

**Redcastle No.2 or Hit and Miss** was worked to about 150 ft. Reef very broken but was very rich - over 20 oz per ton. New shaft sunk to 250 ft. They struck wall in cross-cut at 200 ft, also they struck wall in bottom of shaft - reef as thin as a knife blade.

The shaft in my opinion was sunk about 200 feet too far south, the reef and shoot of gold would go north as all shoots of gold and antimony go north in Redcastle and district.

This would be a good bet for anyone with a diamond drill; reef near surface very rich, also very broken.

**Lora Mine** - about one mile north was worked to 200 feet, reef left in level at 200 ft., 1 foot wide, 18 dwts per ton, a good reef of antimony ore, hanging wall 3 inches wide, about 50% ore - a long shoot about 1,000 feet.

Also in the same shaft the **Tommy Dodd** or **Balmoral** reef is dipping east and the **Lora** reef is dipping west, both running north and south and were 5 feet apart in bottom of shaft. The **Tommy Dodd** reef is a bit over 1 foot thick and is about 60% antimony. This mine has a very good potential.

**Mary-Ann** about 150 feet east of **Lora** worked to 250 feet was in my father's opinion, the best mine in Redcastle, reef left in bottom of winze, good reef of antimony and gold and a very good size lode.



June 1863.

Caledonian Quartz Mining Co.

Western Reef No 5. 224 oz 15dwts 39 tons.

£6 per ton for Antimony Costerfield.

Youle Coster Field and Co - 152 tons, 303 ozs 3 dwts.

" " " " " - 11 days 110 ozs gold.

30 Costerfield 200 ozs.

9 day yield 84 ozs **Bombay**.

Welcome Reef Redcastle 20 ton for 50 ozs.

Hit and Miss Redcastle, 12 ozs per ton.

Potter and Green Phoenix, 11 tons 22 ozs.

Butler's reef, 180 ozs a few tons stone.

Coster and Field, 120 tons 239 ozs 14 dwts.

Welcome Reef, 1 1/2 ozs per ton

25 tons Costerfield 120ozs.

Caledonian Gully, 203 ozs gold.

100 tons Costerfield, 99 ozs 2 dwts.

Coster and Field 100 tons 235 ozs.

Phoenix, 16 tons 5 ozs.

Hit and Miss Redcastle, 14 tons 130 ozs.

Welcome 12 tons 137 ozs.

" **Staffordshire Flat** 33 tons 125 ozs.

9 tons 13 ozs 13 dwts **Curly Dog**.

Hit and Miss Redcastle, 19 tons 152 ozs.



Retaken up in 1863. Worked in the 1850's.

**Thunderbolt** worked to 175 feet, 25 feet into water.

Values 1oz to 12 ozs per ton 30 foot shoot.

10 tons **Clarks Redcastle** 10 tons 150 ozs.

1 oz per ton from sand at **Costerfield**.

Nugget of gold 8 ozs 10 dwts top of **Long Gully**.

1873 January **Redcastle**

**Tice** 4 tons 1 oz 10 dwts.

**Magnus and Co.** 16 tons 38 ozs 8 dwts.

**Johnson** 8 tons 9 ozs 18 dwts.

**Tussich** 2 tons 17 ozs 6 dwts.

**Harrison and Co.** 8 tons 18 ozs 13 dwts.

**Gardiner** 9 tons 17 ozs.



9 - 12 - 1974

P.O. Box 27

Heathcote

To whom it may concern

To the mines Dept "Bendigo".

To start with your set of plans, there is several mistakes, one of the most prominent being **Williams** cross-course and the **Argyle Reef** running parallel. They are at nearly right angles.

Also the names of most of the lodes or reefs have different names on the plans to the local names by the old miners who are all dead.

But I will write this up my own way and I hope you will give and take a little as I left school at 13 years of age and went underground to work.

Firstly I will start in the **One Eye Forest** or **North Heathcote**, going to the north of the Fault split. There is **Woolley Reef**, it was worked to water level, 6 and 7 ozs to the ton. The Woolleys left this mine, they got the wind up as the ground became bad and water and bad rotten ground don't go together if the miners don't know their jobs.

In the **One Eye Forest** there are several reefs including **White Reef** but I don't know their values.



**Cravens Reef** or the **Homelands**, it was up to 8ft wide going 8 dwts to 1/2 oz per ton. The gold was mostly on the one wall and being rough gold a lot of it was stolen, but what closed this mine: a man by the name of Parkinson was blown up, he drilled into a charge that did not go off. The plant was sold to pay compensation to the widow.

The **Cravens Reef** or **Homelands** is in a belt of Granodiorite rock which has working on this belt as far south as Tooborac. Example:

**Surface Hill** worked 8 dwts per ton, **Victoria Hill** 1 oz per ton. It was too hard for hand labour and was left. Near **Peters Gully** worked and was dished going up to 14 dwts to the dish, just in front of R. Curry's house. Again about 8 miles south at the **Sugarloaf Hill** 3 claims worked 2 to 3 ozs per ton.

Also this granodiorite belt is on the foot wall side of the big fault, also the shoots of gold go north.

There is then a big belt of soapstone or serpentine; then a fair belt of Gosan rock, it was worked in a few places, only one place being payable to water, **Hawwood lode** north of Red Hill.



I will write a little of Red Hill. Mostly indicators, these being a division of two rocks, slate burnt by volcanic heat and sandstone or granite.

Different lodes or flat belts worked. These reports were taken out of Vonderlufts Battery reports each fortnight.

**Smith & Co. Ballroom** 7 foot wide 30 oz per ton.

Each 110 ton parcel of stone yielded 300 oz till a wall cut the load about 10 ft from the surface. One stone about the size of a wheel barrow yielding 250 ozs.

Also 57 ozs of stone yielded 46 1/2 ozs gold.

**Whip Shaft Manton & Speed** 5 & 6 ozs to ton.

We won 40 ozs of gold out of a few dishes back in 1952.

Also 10 tons of stone yielded at Golden Square State Battery 10 oz 12 dwts. Water level was there and we were baling with a bucket and windlass, so we left it.

**Christies Mine**, another indicator - best yield. 250 ozs out of 1/2 bucket of stone. Worked to 75 ft.

I cleaned this mine out in 1938 but done no work as all I could find was about 1/4 dwt to the dish.

**Miller's Lode or Goats Mouth.** Crosses Long Tunnel. 300 tons, 3 dwts per ton. Then picked out 2400 ozs all around 9 and 10 oz specs.



In short shoot going from the card room, about 40 ft to 96 ft deep. They left this mine as 2 of them had miners thises (pthisis) bad.

The other one Ted worked the **Chinamans** mine also **South Red Hill** with Bill Elms. It went 4 dwts to each 4 gal bucket, about 4 ft of flat floors. Gold cut out, we sunk 50 ft shaft, cut the lode but the best we could get was about 3 grains per dish, so we left it.

**Robinson & O'Neils**, Vonderlufts reports.

Cross-course right on top of **Red Hill** went each fortnight - all crushings 6 & 7 ozs per ton. The best report was 1602 ozs from a few tons. New shaft 180 ft on top of hill still open was sunk by a few locals in a syndicate. Struck load only 4 inches wide, 1 oz per ton. Should have driven north about 50 feet.

**Hermit or Try Again**. We worked this mine in 1936 and 1937, going about 3 grains to 1 oz per dish, nearly all pug and fine crushed quartz. Lost gold or it went poor at 65 ft. About 1/4 dwt per dish.

**Big Cutting** - crushed the lot of fines. Picked out coarse lumps of mullock, went 5 dwts per ton, about 100 ft wide, near the cross slide it would only go down to depth in belts 2 and 3 ft wide. 6000 tons only averaged 17 grains to the ton.



Example **Knurch's**, worked to 35 ft. Best recovered was 20 ozs, most of the rest about 8 dwts to the ton for about 35 ft of work.

**Tomato Kings** worked to 10 ft, yielded 15 oz. from the dish. A dish of flat floors would yeild up to 2 oz. each.

**Calwells**. Worked down only a few feet. Yeilded a few oz.

There are dozens of sets of floors worked down about 30 ft to 40 ft and left. The gold seems to disappear for a few feet and then it puts in again. south. So much for **Red Hill**. Most of the gold on the hill is coarse, a few penny weights to several ozs in each - color or spec or small nugget.

Surface gold or alluvial, the nuggets were 104 ozs, 96 ozs, 92 ozs, 70 ozs and several smaller ones.

**Black Jack Gully** yielded 600 ozs of alluvial gold by 10 o'clock in the morning. It was sluiced by Hedley.

Now the main lodes.

The best worked was the **Butlers**. It worked to 860 ft. Yield 800 oz was the best fortnight worked for several years. Reef 6 inches to 1 ft width, about 16 ozs per ton, except around 200 ft it went poor for a while. It would not be any good now, cost would be too much to start it.

The second one down from the **Butlers** is the **Alabama**, worked to 500 feet. The reef was about 1 ft wide and about 12 to 16 ozs per ton. It went wide near 500 ft and also the values were poor.



**Long Gully cross course** worked between 350 and 400 ft.

Shoot at surface about 500 ft long, the best being 1000 oz from one ton at 150 ft. Mostly went 3 to 4 oz per ton, but at the bottom, the shoot was only 11 ft long going 1 oz 5 dwt per ton.

Told to me by old man McIntosh father of Fred and Bob.

**Norris or Cosmopolitan cross course** not reef.

Worked a little over 200 ft went 5 to 6 oz. I don't know (what is left in this mine). They lost gold.

**Williams cross course** length of shoot 250 to 300 ft. Left in bottom at 250 ft 8 oz per ton from end to end. Shoot "1" 30 oz per ton. Shoot "2" 18 oz per ton. Shoot "3" 14 oz per ton. Shoot "4" 10 oz per ton. The rest of the stone or reef goes 18 dwt, but the average is 8 oz per ton. This mine is now only a water hole. Shaft is 260 ft. The plat is 245 ft and the lode is 16 inches wide. Underhand stoped either 7 ft or 11 ft. Width of lode 2 to 3 ft. Sixty three men worked this mine at one time (in) 3 shifts. The yeilds from 8 head of stamps was 1800 oz to 2000 oz per fortnight. All work was done by hand labour. The best patches in lode one cibble<sup>1</sup> 386 oz about 1/2 ton 7 sugar bags 375 oz. Biggest piece of gold from workings 75 oz. Numerous 12 oz specs were won from the lode while it worked.

---

<sup>1</sup> kibble - about 70 shovelful



**Peters Gully Reef**

At surface 30 ft wide, went 1 oz per ton, worked to 218 ft. Shaft collapsed, so men sunk new shaft about 500 ft south. Struck lode at 200 ft, drove north but were 18 ft shallow. Left mine. It was started about 1937, worked very short time. It only went about 8 dwt to the ton but they were above the shoot of gold.

This Reef is only part of the big main fault as it is the mother lode of all the other hanging wall lodes which shot up off this main fault. This is one mine which would be worth working in Heathcote if it was worked the right way. It would have to be worked at depth as it is very rotten ground at 200 ft. There is also a very much smaller lode in shaft at around 180 ft.

South of shaft "main" there is an open cutting worked to 90 ft was paying well 'til Mines Dept. Inspector stopped work; he said it was dangerous. Men were making £5 per day each.

I am writing up the main cross course reefs and faults worked 200 ft or deeper as these were the best as they worked the deepest 'til water beat them.



**Scandinavian Reef** it is a cross course. It is also marked wrongly on the Mines Dept. map. It was worked to 200 ft, went 11 dwts per ton and values were left in the mine, it is not far from **Williams** cross course. All reports in Vanderluf's diary were around 11 dwt. Also there would be good patches as Heathcote is renowned for its patches.

**Duke of Edinburgh, "Burrells"**, best 26 oz per ton worked to 200 ft. Mine collapsed when miners were at dinner. Left barrel of beer and values at the bottom of 11 dwts per ton. New shaft sunk to 180 ft struck old workings and miners left it. Company closed the mine. Timber with time it was eaten out by white ants before shaft was completed (?).

Near **British Queen** there is the **Thunder Bolt**. The name marked on plans is **Thompsons**.

Worked to about 175 ft. Mine went around 10 oz per ton. Reef split and values went poor. Gold would be in reef to the south east. Reef about 1 ft wide.

Also in **Possum Gully** not far from these mines was **German Charlie's** - worked to water. Reef was going 4 to 5 oz but reef was only about 4" to 6" wide. Named in Mines Dept. as **Shakespeare Reef**. It is a (?) reef runs with the strata of the country.



Also not marked in plan.

**No Flys** mine or reef right over the crown of **Little Possum Gully** mine. Worked to 200 ft, 1/2 oz to ton, 10 ft wide, went to 20 ft wide. Values slipped to 5 dwt. Shoot of gold very flat pitch. All lodes well away from the fault line have very flat pitch of gold in these reefs. Some would only gain about 40 ft depth to 100 ft length of lode, and some less than this.

**Rosy Gully** reef. Very good reef - rose quartz worked well into water. One patch 600 oz left by the old miners. New Syndicate worked new shaft in **Rosy Gully**. Struck gold. Miners picked out 17 oz of gold when they knocked down the reef and crushing only yielded 17 1/2 oz so Syndicate left mine. Reef very hard, also flat pitch. Same reef in **Little Rosy Gully** was also worked to water. Best patch 200 oz. Also flat shoot. (we cleaned out **Rosy** 3 years ago).

We cleaned out **Rosey Reef** - nothing left there.

**Spaniards reef**. Very black in appearance - mostly manganese and quartz. Went 5 to 9 oz per ton. Very flat pitch. Gold had gone poor. "Sampled mine myself. Nothing in face". Reef only about 18" wide. Not worth a damn in my opinion. Gold would be there in the south.

**Victoria reef , Morning Star** marked on map. I know very little of these but could look up reports of McInnes but haven't the time just at present.

**Chivillers (?) and Lawson(?)** in **Big Possum Gully** not marked on map. Went 5 to 6 oz per ton. Also **Bradleyss** 2 to 3 oz. **Paddy O'Rourke's** 1 oz per ton. None of these lodes are marked in the Mines Dept. map.

Reports in Vanderluf's Battery reports of these mines.

**North Butler's** near Kyneton Rd. went 14 dwt per ton. Worked into water level. Stopped by Mines Dept. Shaft too small.

**Argyle Reef** worked by company to 150 ft. Went from 30 oz down to 3 oz per ton. New shaft sunk by Hedleys 210 ft crosscut 40 ft cut lode. Lode very rotten and poor only went 8 to 11 dwts. Dewater by new company in 1934. Values 8 1/2 dwts. reef only about 1 ft wide. No good at all, but it could be at depth when ground became solid. At the bottom of a 40 ft winze values had improved up to about 3 oz per ton.

Now on to **Mundy Gully** about 5 miles south of Heathcote.



**Mundy Gully Reef.** Worked 1800 ft long of shoot. 300 ft of this shoot is 2 ft to 3 ft wide going 2 to 3 oz. The other (1500) ft would go (18 dwts per ton).

Mine worked to 260 ft. Stopped out. Mines Dept. wanted 4 compartment shaft. Company closed mine as shoot would be away south. New shaft would then have to be sunk. Shoot a flat pitcher. 300 ft in over 1/4 mile of distance.

Now this mine in my opinion would be a prospect or could be alright to work.

There is also another lode south known as Hagan's. Was a several oz show. Worked to water. These lodes are south of your extremity of your plans.

There are dozens of lodes worked not shown on the plans. Most of them had several shoots of gold and most were not worked much over 40 ft in depth.

To conclude this write up of the Heathcote mines.

There are 4 lodes worked in Heathcote which in my opinion would be worth working as propositions.

Firstly **Williams** (not in my opinion now) 8 ozs per ton over length of 300 ft 2 ft to 3 ft wide, with pumps what they are today water would be no problem. Only worked to 250 ft. (could not be worked now).

Second, **Mundy Gully** must be alright. Only 260 ft deep with shoot of 300 ft 2 ft to 3 ft wide. Could not fail with the right company.

Third, **Homelands** - several feet wide, 1/2 oz per ton. Only worked to 200 ft. Fairly long shoot.

Fourth, **Peters Gully**, 218 ft, 40 ft wide, 1 oz per ton. How could it not (?) fail if shaft was sunk to 300 ft to 400 ft and stoped out? This mine where ground was solid.

If you require further information I would and could write up about several other lodes. Also I could mark reefs not marked on plans.

Hoping this can help you,

Yours Faithfully,

R. N. Hird, "Bob"