

Zeehan Mining Field – Historic Mine / Geology Traverse

Revised 26Oct23

Date: Friday 01Dec23

Proposed start time: 0900, Stellar Resources core yard, Zeehan.

End: Approx. 12.30-1pm at the pie van (West Coast Museum).

Tour Focus: the mining heritage and geology around, and to the north of Queen Hill. This is the most historically productive part of the field. It should include stops at the Montana No 2, Montana (next to Trial Harbour Rd), Western, and Montana Silver Lead mine ruins. There isn't a tremendous amount to see at any of these sites (except the Western) and the high point would be the final Montana Silver Lead Mine site.

We might try and get up to the Oonah mill ruins if the new bike tracks make the access easier than it used to be.

I'd also like to stop at the spilite contacts on the Trial Harbour Road and the Permian tillite fault contact with the Oonah Formation on the Heemskirk Road (the latter stop is on the way to the Montana Silver Lead mine ruins).

Transport. The tour would be in private vehicles – as a convoy – but to reduce vehicles, we could carpool after we rendezvous at the core yard in Zeehan at the start of the traverse.

START POINT: Meet at the Stellar Resources Core yard, 145A Main Street Zeehan. 9am.

1. Queen Hill drill core viewing – Stellar core yard. To get a feel for the geology of the tin/silver lead deposits, Bec Lockley (Exploration Manager) and Adam Frankcombe (Geologist) have offered to show us some drill core from Queen Hill and to go through the

geology and the (long) history of Queen Hill, and how it ties in with the greater Zeehan Ag Pb field.

Before setting off, a brief overview of Main Street and Tramways.

A tramway along Main Street linked the western mines of Queen Hill and Argent Flat to the main rail yards at the eastern end of town. The railyard was the central rail interchange for the extensive network of mine tramways and linked them to the government railway to Strahan (now the Henty Road), and the now abandoned NE Dundas Tram (which linked to the Emy Bay Railway). It was once possible to travel by train from Strahan to Burnie. The railyards were redeveloped in the 1960's as the Renison housing estate.

Proceed west along Main Street to,

2 Montana No 2 & Road Cutting 1.

- Following course of mine tramway
- Outcrop of carbonaceous shales and pyritic lode in adit.

Not much to see but a lot going on beneath the surface in terms of tin resources.

2A Road Cutting 2. A short distance down the Trial Harbour Rd (we may walk) - road cutting exposures of spilitic volcanics and Oonah Formation (?).

3 Oonah Hill Stannite Mill Site (MTB carpark) – (TBC). With all the new bike tracks, Oonah Hill and the mill site might be more accessible. It used to involve wading through a swamp.

Head north along the Heemskirk Road to the

4 Montana mine site (roadside).

5 Western Mine Site (off the road to the east), and then

6 Road cutting 3. Permian tillite fault contact with the Oonah Formation on the Heemskirk Road

And then to the

7 Montana Ag Pb mine and mill ruins.

Significant ruins of the 1950s-60s treatment plant, main shaft, adit and finger dumps.

Return to the Zeehan Museum for coffee and pies at the van.

