

Figure 33. The fireplace at the surveyors' camp.  
*Photo: P. Petchey.*

## 11.2 PROFESSOR BLACK'S ADIT

NZAA Site No. D49/44

G.R. 113 282

The adit driven by Professor Black and his party in 1888 is located a short distance south of Trig D, at the southern end of the Tin Range. The adit is easily found, as it has a large mullock heap in front of the deep cutting to the tunnel mouth (Figs 34, 35). The mine is still open, although it is partially flooded. The underground workings were not explored.

The adit was located in Section 13, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 36), which was originally held by William Smith, Black's partner in the mining venture. H.A. Gordon visited the mine in 1890 (Gordon 1890: 95), and was less than complimentary. He described the adit as then being 280 ft long, situated about 55 ft below the cap of the lode. However, it had been driven parallel with the lode, rather than cutting it, and he commented:

'The lode is not payable for working on the surface, and the means taken to prospect it in this claim are not commendable. Whatever money has been expended may be considered thrown away.'

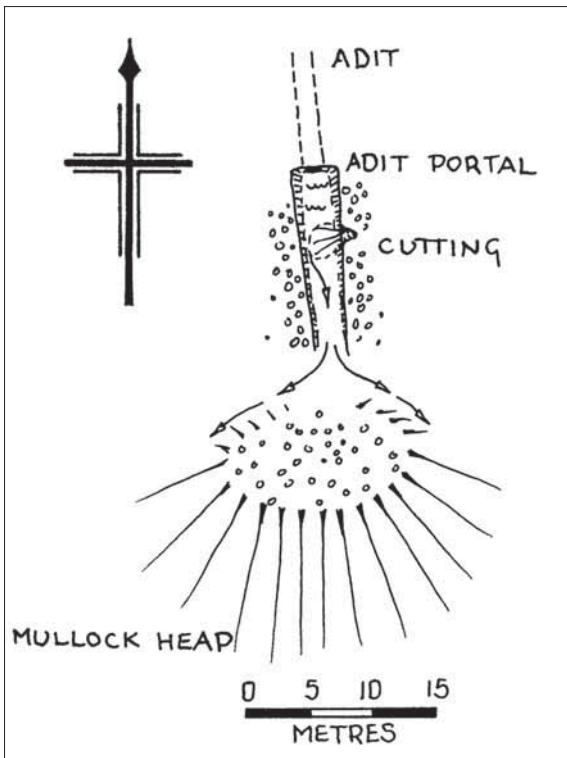


Figure 34. Professor Black's adit (Site D49/44).



Figure 35. The entrance to Professor Black's adit (Site D49/44).  
 Photo: P. Petchey.

At least one further underground mine existed in the Tin Range tops, which Gordon also visited. This was Henderson's claim (Section 8, Block VIII), where a 250-ft-long adit had been constructed about 190 ft under the lode (Gordon 1890: 95). This was not relocated during the archaeological survey.

### 11.3 CUT TERRACES

NZAA Site No. D49/70

G.R. 120 308

This site consists of two small terraces cut into the ground just in the lee of the Tin Range (on the eastern side). The upper terrace measures 3.8 m × 2.5 m, and the lower terrace 6 m × 2.1 m. Their age is unknown, but it is very likely that they represent a camp site. The amount of digging required to excavate the terraces makes it unlikely that they are simply a trampers' camp; it is more likely that they were a tin prospectors' camp. However, the site is extremely exposed, and has no water supply, making it a strange place to choose for a camp site.

The site was located in Section 12, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 51).

A similar set of terraces was found at G.R. 119 307.

## 12. Healeys Creek sites

The Healeys Creek catchment lies between the much larger Pegasus Creek and Robertson River catchments. Two tributaries—McLeods Creek and Spences Creek—were named in the 1890s, although neither name appears on current maps. These streams drain the southern tip of the Tin Range, and mining claims were surveyed along much of their lengths in 1890. The archaeological survey located a number of sites in the bed and banks of Healeys Creek, as well as numerous test pits. Test pits were also found in Spences Creek, which is the main eastern branch of Healeys Creek. Information from Kakapo Project workers suggests that there may also be workings in Spences Creek, but these were not located during the archaeological survey.

Professor Black had an alluvial claim in Healeys Creek, which H.A. Gordon visited in 1890 (Gordon 1890: 95). Unfortunately, it has not been possible to positively identify the site. Section 21, Block III (Application 121) was held by D. Black, which may be an error<sup>9</sup> (Professor Black's initials were J.G.). It is of note that Gordon described hydraulic sluicing operations, although the water pressure available was inadequate. Hydraulic sluicing required a far greater investment in plant than ground sluicing, and was probably unusual in the 1889 tin rush.

The sites that were found are discussed below in sequence down the creek. They consist of a number of areas of alluvial workings and a debris barrier.

### 12.1 DEBRIS BARRIER

NZAA Site No. D49/32

G.R. 108 272

This is located at the outlet of a large flat swampy area of McLeods Creek that contains a vigorous growth of leatherwood. Below the barrier the stream bed becomes much steeper and rocky. The barrier consists of a number of timbers placed vertically across the creek with a stringer (which has rotted away) to support them. It was possibly installed to stop dead wood going downstream towards the tin workings (D49/33). Alternatively, it may be the remains of a timber dam, although its construction appears to be far too light for this purpose.

### 12.2 TIN WORKINGS

NZAA Site No. D49/33

G.R. 110 271

An area of workings located at the confluence of McLeods Creek and Healeys Creek. The site consists of two sluice paddocks separated by a neck of stacked tailings (Fig. 36). The system is 22 m long, and a single tailrace leads out into Healeys Creek. A water race leads into the workings from further up Healeys Creek.

---

<sup>9</sup> This is based on the typewritten list from the Stewart Island Museum as, unfortunately, the survey plan for Healey's Creek did not include applicant details.

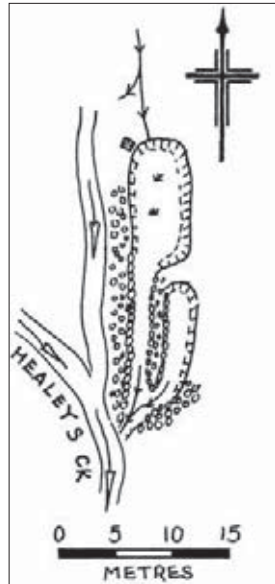


Figure 36. Workings in Healeys Creek , Site D49/33.



Figure 37. Perforated iron sheet at Site D49/33 in Healeys Creek. 0.5 m scale.  
*Photo: P. Petchey.*

An iron sheet (2 ft × 3 ft 6 in) is propped against a stump at the head of the workings (Fig. 37). It is perforated with  $\frac{5}{8}$ -in-diameter holes, and was probably used for the recovery of tin ore in a tailrace (Gordon 1906: fig. 20)

These workings are in Section 15, Block III Pegasus District (Application 98). This claim was held by R. Scollay, almost certainly the same Robert Scollay who took Professor Black to Port Pegasus in 1889, and at whose forge in Halfmoon Bay the first smelting of tin was undertaken.

### 12.3 TIN PROSPECT/WORKING

NZAA Site No. D49/34

G.R. 110 269

A small pit (2 m<sup>2</sup>) on the true right bank of Healeys Creek. A 4.2-m-long tailrace leads from the pit to the creek.

This site was within Section 18, Block III Pegasus District (Application 94). It was originally held by Livingstone.

#### 12.4 TIN WORKINGS

NZAA Site No. D49/35

G.R. 111 268

A small sluice gully (15 m long × 5 m wide) located on the true left of Healeys Creek (Fig. 38), with a 12-m-long tailrace. Hand-stacked tailings are piled up between the workings and the creek.

The site is located in Section 18, Block III Pegasus District (licence application 94). This claim was held by Livingstone.

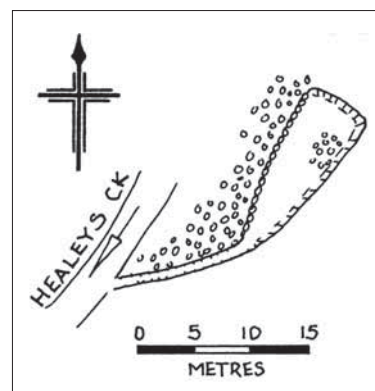


Figure 38. Workings in Healeys Creek, Site D49/35.

#### 12.5 STREAM WORKINGS

NZAA Site No. D49/36

G.R. 107 259

Evidence of in-stream working, with rocks piled up along the centre of the stream bed for 30 m. The banks were not apparently worked, so it seems likely this was the result of a small amount of prospecting/working in the bed alone.

This site was located in Section 22, Block III Pegasus District (Application 89). It was originally held by G. Wills.

### 13. Eastern Tin Range sites

The recorded archaeological sites in this area are clustered in two groups. To the south are workings in Scollays Creek and Ellis Creek, while to the north are a large number of sites on Smiths Stream and its tributaries. One of these tributaries runs out of a boggy flat where Ted Carrington had his inland hut (D49/77), and which is now known as 'Carringtons Flat'. Obviously not a tin rush name, it was possibly bestowed by the Kakapo Project workers.

Smiths Stream was identified by McKay as one of the better prospects in the area (Gordon 1889: 79), and several large sets of workings that were recorded along the stream banks would certainly support this. These sites were recorded in some detail, and are illustrated below. On one of them (D49/82) a timber sluice box can be found in a remarkable state of preservation. It is interesting to note that the early maps and plans of the area (e.g. S.O. 2575, dated 1889) make a distinction between Smiths *Stream*, which runs into the Robertson River, and Smiths *Creek*, which is one of the headwater tributaries of Smiths Stream.

Ted Carrington's hut site (D49/77) is located within an area of alluvial workings (D49/78) at the head of a boggy flat. Most of these workings date from the original tin rush period, although it is possible that Carrington did some work on the series of ponds that exist there. He is known to have had an interest in hydraulic engineering, and a water pump is still present in the hut site.

## 13.1 SOUTHERN GROUP, ELLIS CREEK AND SCOLLAYS CREEK

### 13.1.1 Hut site

NZAA Site No. D49/90

G.R. 126 277

The site of two huts set into an old ground sluice excavation in the bank of Ellis Creek (Fig. 39), above the workings in the creek bed (D49/91). A head race fed the original sluicing, leading from further up Ellis Creek. The excavation measures 7.9 m × 4.5 m, with each hut taking about half the space. The main hut had a stone fireplace, and a small cave has been dug into the rear of the hut excavation, presumably for use as a cool store. The second hut is represented by an outline of stones, 2.1 m × 1.2 m. This is very small, even for a miner's hut, and it may have been used for some other purpose such as a store shed.

The site was situated in Section 1, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 34), which was held in 1890 by William Lewis.

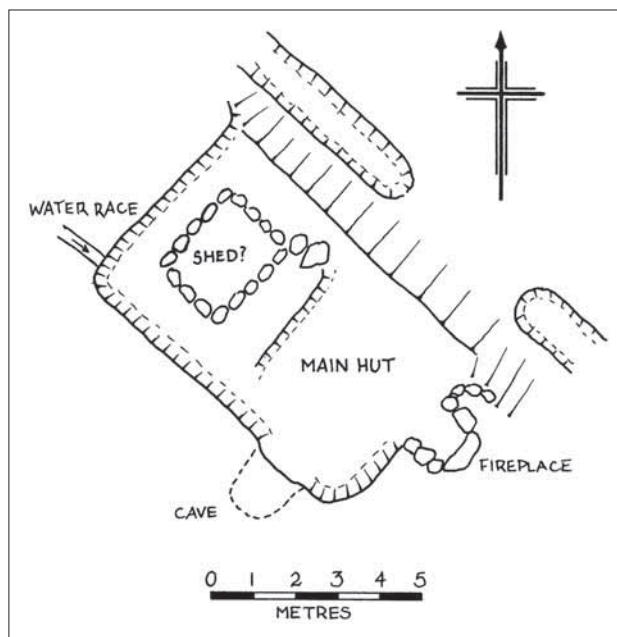


Figure 39. Hut site in old sluice hollow beside Ellis Creek. Site D49/90.

### 13.1.2 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/91

G.R. 126 277

An area of workings associated with the hut site D49/90. The bed of Ellis Creek has been worked for a distance of several hundred metres, both upstream and downstream of the grid reference. A tailrace has been cut down the true right side of the valley floor to drain the workings more effectively. Amorphous piles of tailings are present in front of the hut site, while further upstream, where the valley narrows, there are stacks of rocks on either side of the stream.

The site was situated in Section 1, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 34), which was held in 1890 by William Lewis.

### 13.1.3 Small sluice gully

NZAA Site No. D49/92

G.R. 125 278

This is a small ground-slucing gully (Fig. 40), cut through the water race that fed the old sluicing in which hut site D49/90 is located. It is situated on the top of a low ridge, and a tailrace leads out on either side of the ridge. The excavation measures about 20 m × 7 m.

The site was situated in Section 1, Block VIII Pegasus District (Application 34), which was held in 1890 by William Lewis.

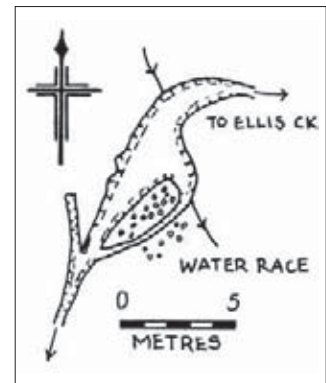


Figure 40. Tin workings beside Ellis Creek, Site D49/92.

### 13.1.4 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/93

G.R. 129 276

This is a very long set of sluicings, measuring 200 m east to west (with another 50 m of tailrace), but only 30 m wide (Fig. 41). The sluicings are situated at the point where Scollays Creek meets Scollays Flat, very close to the old Kakapo Project base hut site.

The stream has been diverted into an artificial channel for a distance of 130 m, and it is still running in this channel (Fig. 42). A small side stream has also been channelled, and runs parallel to the main stream for 60 m, before the two are brought together.

There are numerous areas of workings and extensive piles of tailings. Four distinct sluiced paddocks can still be identified, but it is obvious that throughout the life of the workings the later work obscured the evidence of the earlier activities. A very long tailrace leads out from several of the paddocks, and runs through the middle of one 45-m-long sluice gully, to finally run back into Scollays Creek. The total length of this tail race is 160 m, if measured from the highest paddock.

The old Packhorse Track (the Buttocks Track) runs along the southern edge of these workings, and the track to Carringtons Flat from Scollays Flat crosses Scollays Creek at the end of the main tailrace.

These workings were not located within a mining claim, based on the evidence of the 1890 plans of the area (both published and unpublished). This is intriguing, as these workings represent a great deal of work carried out without the legal protection of a formal mining claim. It is possible that there was a mining claim, for which the evidence has been lost.

### 13.1.5 Tin workings and hut site

NZAA Site No. D49/94

G.R. 125 281

This set of workings is located in the upper reaches of Scollays Creek (Fig. 43). The workings run along the creek where it drops out of the steep flank of the Tin Range into a high basin. A deep tailrace (3.7 m deep, 1.8 m wide at the top,

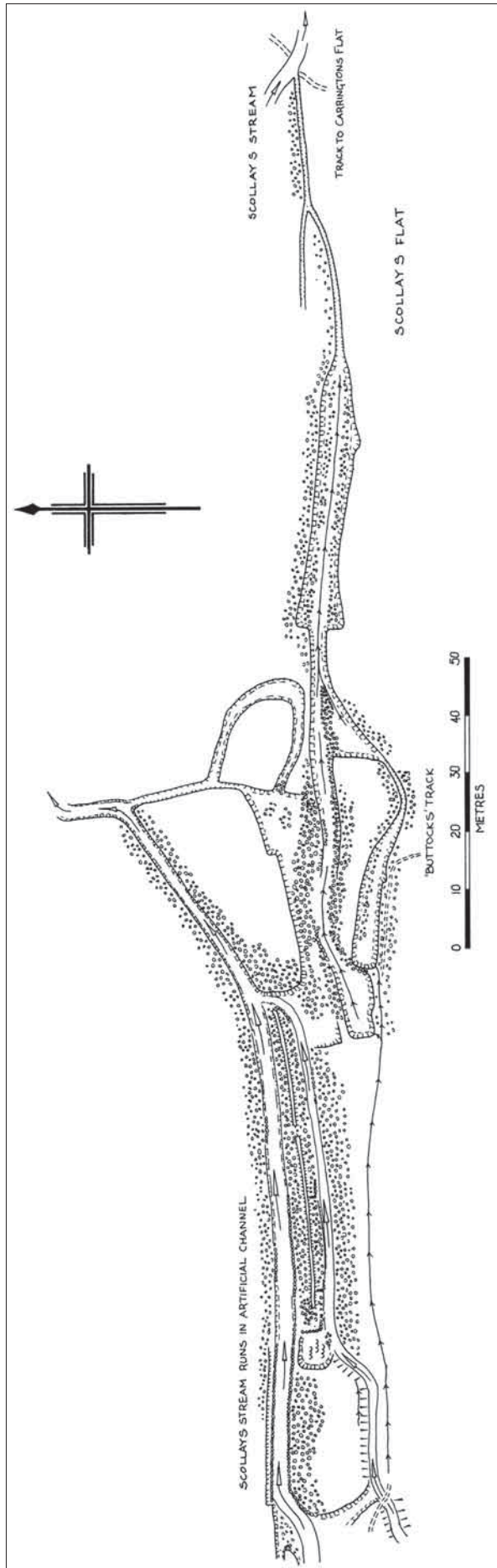


Figure 41. Large set of tin workings on Scollays Flat, Site D49/93.