

The workings are quite over-grown and covered in moss, suggesting that they date to the earliest period of mining. This is supported by the fact that their head race was cut off by the reservoir (D49/47) which was constructed to store water for a later set of workings (D49/49) (see Fig. 19).

The site is in Section 27, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 73). This was originally held by William Smith, who also held the claim on the crest of the Tin Range (Section 13 Block VII) where he and Professor Black attempted to open an underground tin mine (Site D49/44).

10.1.4 Reservoir

NZAA Site No. D49/47

G.R. 102 282

This reservoir is situated on a wide, gently sloping ridge top, and was formed by building up a low bank on three sides (Fig. 19). The Surveyors Track (D49/71) runs beside its northern wall. It is fed by a water race (D49/52) that runs from the South Branch of McArthurs Creek. This race passes over the tail race of the 1912–17 mining company's workings (D49/41) in a pipe, indicating that at least the most recent of the workings that it supplied (D49/49) were last mined in about 1916 or 1917 (the period that the 1912 company actually started mining operations).

The water race (D49/52) runs into the reservoir from the east, and originally carried on to feed a nearby small set of workings (D49/48). However, the construction of the reservoir cut the race to these workings, and the new outlet instead fed workings immediately to the north (D49/49).

10.1.5 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/49

G.R. 102 282

This site is a very large area of ground sluicing. Two main sets of workings exist; a western gully 110 m long (plus a further 65 m of tail race) and 10 m wide; and an eastern set of workings measuring 130 m × 40 m, with three tailraces leading out into a small stream (Fig. 19). The tailings within the worked area are slowly becoming revegetated with scrub, but at present there are still substantial open areas (Fig. 20). This may be because of the large area to be recolonised, but it is also possible that these workings (at least in part) date to the most recent period of tin mining in c. 1916–17, when the tin mining company was operational.

Both sets of workings are fed by a head race system supplied by the nearby reservoir (D49/47) which is, in turn, fed by water race D49/52. The workings show typical ground-sluicing technology, with head races run over the edge of the unworked ground, low mounds of hand-stacked tailings, and revetted tailraces. There are several stacks of timbers and roots within the area of tailings (Fig. 21), probably left by the miners as they worked the ground.

There is a wooden wheelbarrow in the regenerating manuka scrub on the unworked ground between the two sets of workings (Fig. 22). Its survival in the harsh Stewart Island/Rakiura environment is remarkable; one can only assume that it was constructed of extremely durable timber.

Figure 20. Large expanse of tin working tailings at Site D49/49, looking towards the southeast in the eastern set of workings.
Photo: P. Petchey.



Figure 21. Timber and roots piled up within the tailings at Site D49/49. This pile would have been made by the miners as they worked the ground and cleared away the vegetation and thick root mat that they encountered.
Photo: P. Petchey.



Figure 22. Wheelbarrow resting on unworked ground adjacent to Site D49/49.
Photo: P. Petchey.



The three tail races of the main (eastern) set of workings cut through a water race that fed several small areas of ground sluicings. Given the juxtaposition of the races, these are obviously an earlier set of workings. Their head race was fed by a timber dam, the remnants of which were located a short distance away.

The site lay in Section 27, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 73), that was originally held by William Smith. Despite the possible archaeological evidence that it was mined in the 1912-17 period, the area was not licensed by the tin mining company of that period.

10.1.6 Shallow tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/51

G.R. 105 283

This site consists of series of small pits and three small ground-sluicing gullies (15-23 m × 2-4 m) on a shallow ridge (Fig. 23). One gully is on water race D49/52, while the other two are fed by a side race taken from the same race.

This area lay within Section 27, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 73), originally held by William Smith.

10.1.7 Dam and water race

NZAA Site No. D49/52

G.R. 105 286

This water race fed the workings at D49/51, 48 and 49 (Fig. 23). It was supplied by a stone dam in the South Branch of McArthurs Creek (the grid reference is to the

dam site, the breached remains of which are still identifiable).

As discussed above, it appears possible that this race was originally built to supply the workings at D49/48, but was later refurbished to supply a new reservoir for the workings at D49/49. That at least some use of the race dates to c. 1916 is indicated by the race being piped over the tailrace for the tin mining company's 1916 sluicings at D49/41.

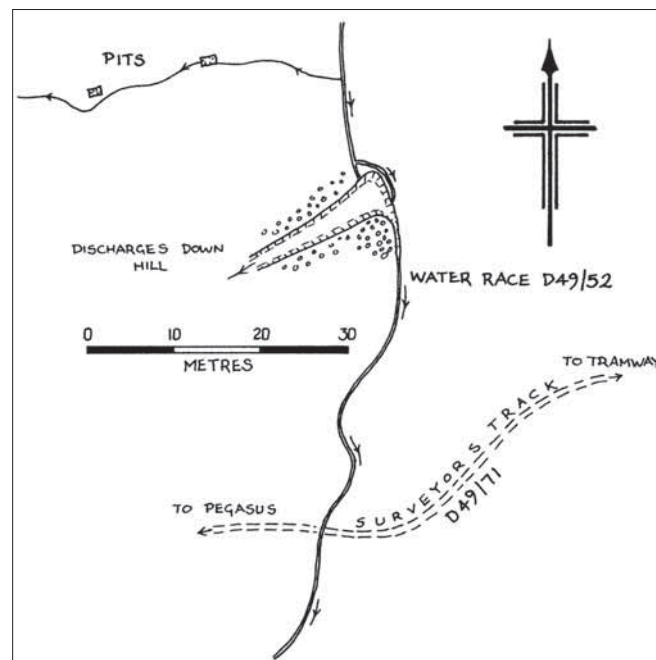


Figure 23. Workings—Site D49/51; water race—Site D49/52.

10.1.8 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/66

G.R. 100 280

This is a reasonably large area of ground sluicings, measuring approximately 50 m × 20 m (Fig. 24). It contains several distinct paddocks, and at least four tail races leading out into a small stream. The workings are becoming very overgrown with moss and young kamahi trees.

The site lay in Section 26, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 72), which was originally held by J. Hunter.

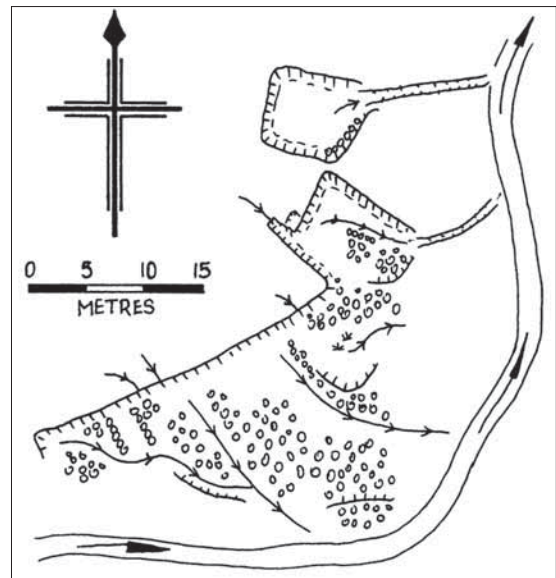


Figure 24. Tin workings (Site D49/66) beside tributary of McFadyens Creek.

10.1.9 Hut site

NZAA Site No. D49/67

G.R. 101 280

This hut site is located on a ridge immediately above the workings at D49/66. The water race leading to these workings passes directly beneath the hut site, before turning down the hillside.

The hut site is marked by a level area with the remains of a fireplace and a scatter of artefactual material. The most obvious item is a round cast-iron camp oven (Fig. 25), but there are also several bottles and a boot.

The proximity of the hut site to the workings immediately below (D49/66) suggests that this was the residence of one of the miners involved.

The site lay in Section 26, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 72), which was originally held by J. Hunter.

Figure 25. Camp oven on ground beside hut site (Site D49/67).

Photo: P. Petchey.



10.1.10 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/72

G.R. 101 280

This set of workings is located a short distance upstream from sites D49/65 and 66. It is a medium-sized set of ground sluicings, measuring 35 m × 20 m (Fig. 26). It is becoming quite overgrown. Tailings are piled on both sides of a small creek, with a sluice face exposed on the south side. An old tailrace leading to the west had been made redundant by the workings going below the level of its upper end, and subsequent tail water had been fed straight to the stream.

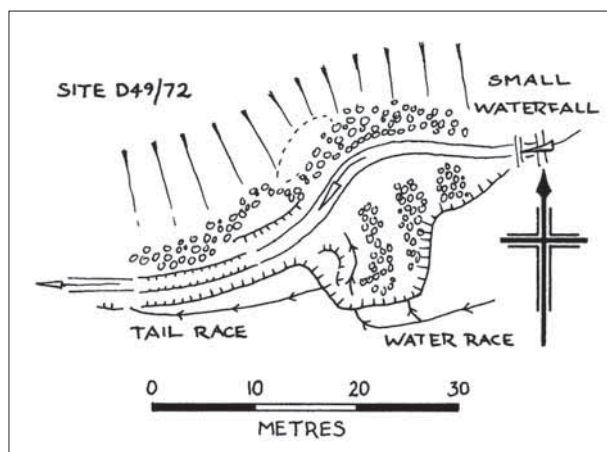


Figure 26. Tin workings (Site D49/72) beside a tributary of McFadyens Creek.

The site lay in Section 26, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 72), which was originally held by J. Hunter.

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10.2 WESTERN TIN RANGE, NORTHERN GROUP

This area of sites is located on the western flank of the Tin Range, at and to the north of the end of the tramway and identified (in Williams 1965: Fig. 13-7) as an area of recent alluvium (Figs 2, 4). The tramway (D49/73) and dam (D49/38) were associated with the 1912-17 tin mining company.

The other sites in this area are all related to the alluvial tin mining of the tin rush period. Their location in regenerating sub-alpine scrub has made them hard to record, and one large area (D49/53) was recorded, but not surveyed in detail. It is of note that one set of workings (D49/69) is in an area that was designated as Crown Lands in 1890, with no mining claim surveyed.

10.2.1 Dam

NZAA Site No. D49/38

G.R. 112 296

This is a concrete and stone dam (Figs 27, 28) built in the headwaters of the North Branch of McArthurs Creek by Stewart Island Tin and Wolfram Lodes Limited in 1915-16, although it is possible that there had been an existing dam there, as the company had acquired a dam licence for the site that was dated 1904 (The Stewart Island Tin and Wolfram Lodes Limited 1912). There had been a dam reserve surveyed slightly further down the creek in 1890 for G.E. Tucker (Field Book 194).

The dam is 55 ft (16.8 m) long, 5 ft 6 in (1.7 m) wide and 8 ft (2.4 m) high, and is built straight across the creek gully. It is still intact and holds water, which flows out through the original outlet, an 18-in (455-mm) diameter iron pipe. This originally led into an open water race (D49/55), but a section of pipe is missing

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