

Figure 27. Stone dam (Site D49/38) in headwaters of north branch of McArthurs Creek, with end of tramway (Site D49/73) on hillside above, and start of race (Site D49/55) to hydraulic sluicings (Site D49/41).

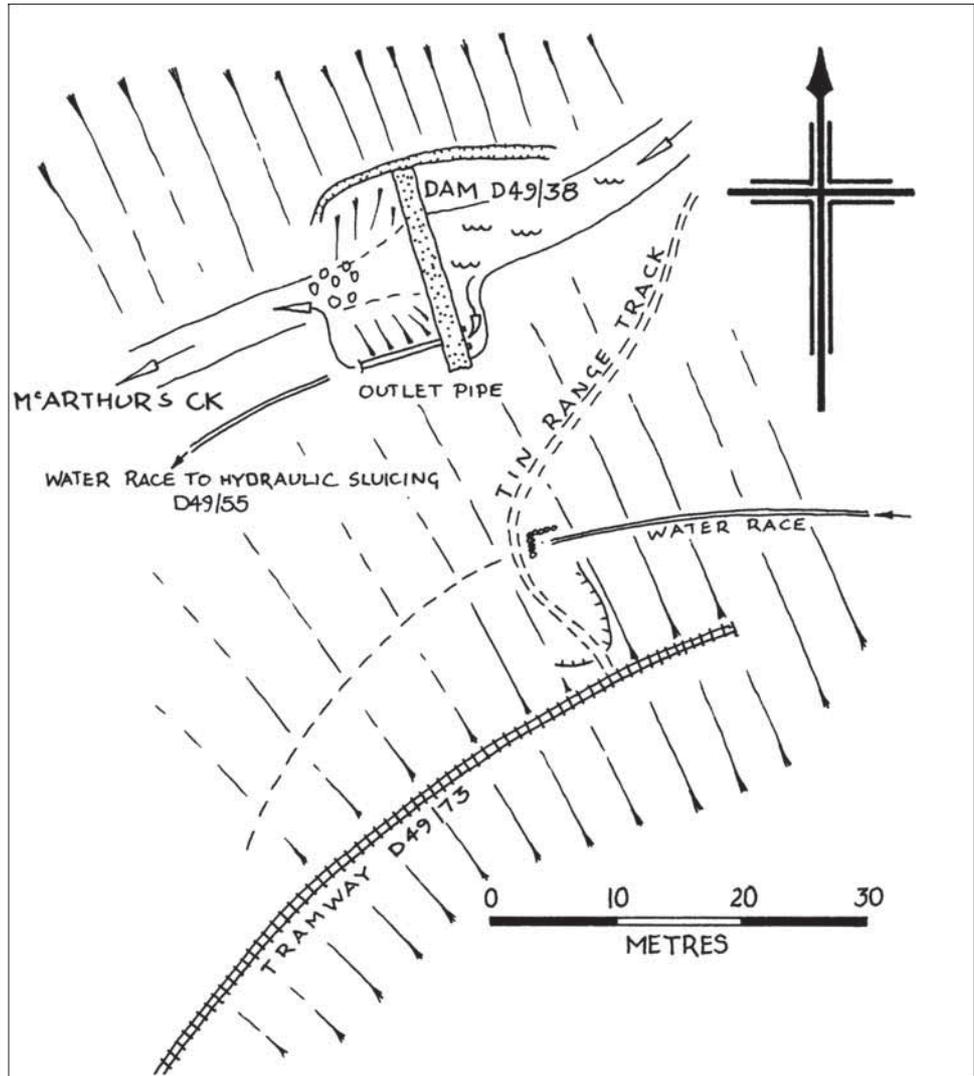


Figure 28. The stone dam (Site D49/38) in the headwaters of McArthurs Creek, built in about 1915 to supply the hydraulic sluicing operation.
Photo: P. Petchey.



and the outflow instead goes back into the creek. The flow from the dam was originally controlled by a vertical iron gate which slid into place on iron guides. The guides are still in place, but the gate is now to be found lying a short distance down the water race.

10.2.2 Water race

NZAA Site No. D49/55

G.R. 111 295 (near start of race)

This water race led from the dam (D49/38) to the main workings (D49/41) of the 1912-17 tin mining company (see Fig. 4). From the dam the race was open for a distance, then it ran in an iron flume set into the ground (the corroded remains of the iron can still be seen), lost height in a pipeline (one pipe remains), and finally ran alongside the tramway in an open iron flume to the top of the penstock to the workings. The penstock is still in place (although quite corroded), but little sign remains of the iron flume that ran beside the tramway. It is possible that it was removed for scrap or reuse, but there are numerous concentrations of rust flakes along its line that suggest it may simply have corroded away.

10.2.3 Dam and water race

NZAA Site No. D49/45

G.R. 113 292

This is a low rock-faced earth dam, located high in the headwaters of one of the tributaries of the north branch of McArthurs Creek. It is 13 m long, and a water race runs along the true right side of the creek away from it. This fed some of the workings at D49/53.

10.2.4 Tin workings

NZAA Site No. D49/53

G.R. 113 296

A very large area of tin workings becoming revegetated with sub-alpine scrub. It consists of numerous areas of hand-stacked tailings, tail races etc. The area was not surveyed in detail because of the vegetation cover, and aerial photographs from a helicopter failed to provide any extra detail. The workings all appear to be the result of ground sluicing, almost certainly of the earliest (tin rush) period of mining.

The site lay within Section 23, Block VII Pegasus District (Application 61), but also probably continues onto the neighbouring Sections 21 and 22 (Applications 54 and 85). These three areas were held respectively by J. Edwards, T. Gilroy and E.A. Hagan.

10.2.5 Hut site

NZAA Site No. D49/54

G.R. 113 295

A hut site on the south side of the workings at D49/53. It consists of a flattened area and the remains of a stone fireplace in an area of unworked ground.

10.2.6 Hut site

NZAA No. D49/68

G.R. 113 302.

A hut site (Fig. 29) set amongst the alluvial tin workings at D49/69 (Fig. 30). The hut was quite large (6 m × 2.7 m), and its stone chimney extremely substantial. The remaining part of the chimney is 1.9 m tall, 1.8 m deep and 2.5 m wide. The cut terrace that the hut is located on was almost certainly sluiced out (it is not uncommon to find old sluice excavations used as sites for huts).

It is of note that this site was on Crown Land, which was not held as a mining claim in 1890.



Figure 29. Stone chimney at hut site (Site D49/68), looking towards the south. *Photo: P. Petchey.*

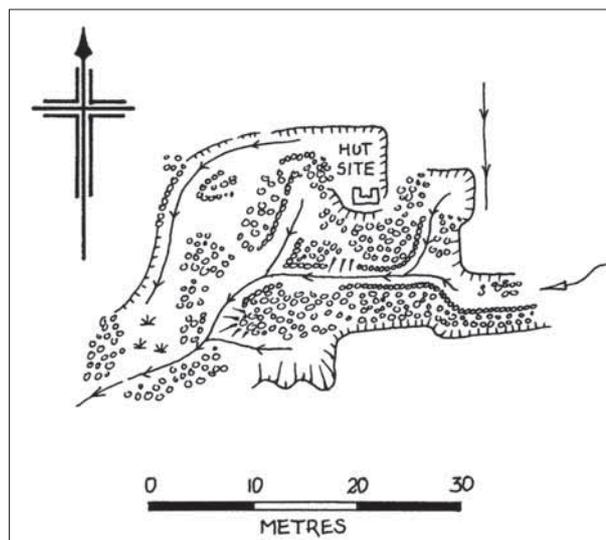


Figure 30. Tin workings (Site D49/69) and hut site (Site D49/68) on western flank of Tin Range.

10.2.7 Tin workings

NZAA No. D49/69

G.R. 113 302

A set of ground sluicing workings, covering an area of 40 m × 25 m (Figs 30, 31). The hut site D49/68 is set on one side of the workings. There are numerous piles of hand-stacked tailings within the workings, and several of the tailrace branches are revetted.

A second, much smaller, set of workings are to be found a short distance away to the north and uphill through the scrub.

These sites were situated on Crown Land, that was not held as a mining claim in 1890.

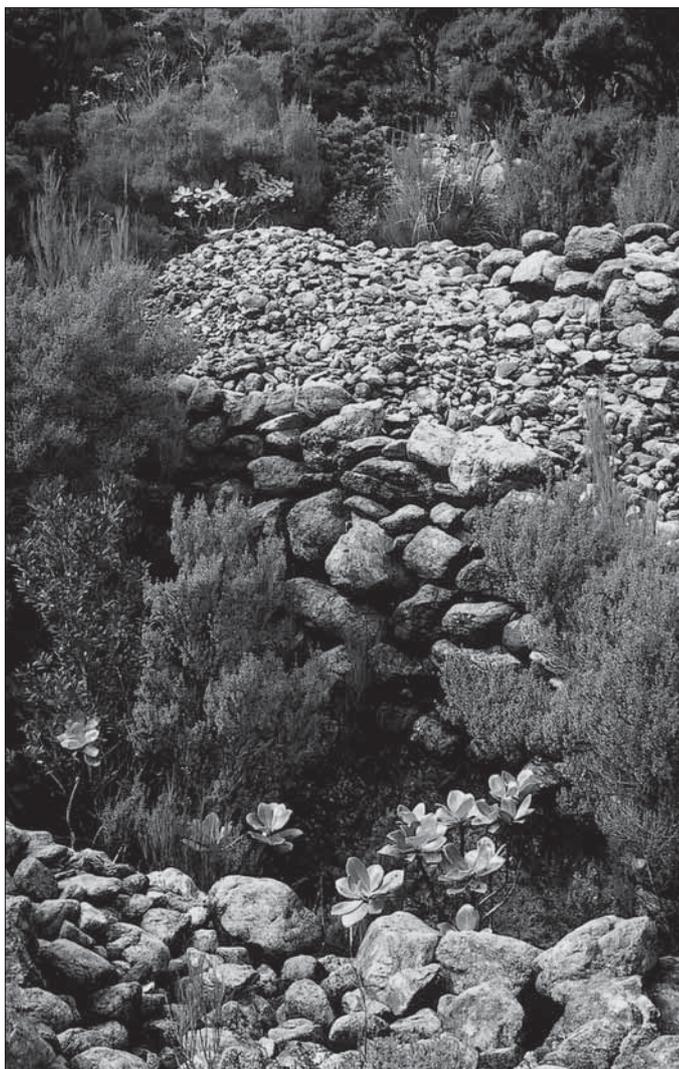


Figure 31. Stacked tailings at Site D49/69. *Photo: P. Petchey.*

11. High altitude Tin Range sites

This group of sites is located on the upper flanks and crest of the Tin Range, above the level of the tramway. The area was surveyed and held as claims during the tin rush, and several mine drives were constructed. In 1912, The Stewart Island Tin and Wolfram Lodes Limited took up a block of the old claims at the southern end of the range, but it appears unlikely that they ever did any work there, as their lower-altitude alluvial mining operation failed soon after start-up.

In addition to the sites given individual site record numbers, there are also a number of prospect trenches on the crest of the Tin Range (Fig. 32). Typically, these trenches are shallow (≤ 0.5 m deep, 1-1.5 m wide) and several metres long.

Figure 32. Typical prospect on the summit of the Tin Range. A shallow excavation, with rocks thrown to one side. Looking towards the south.

Photo: P. Petchey.



11.1 SURVEYORS' CAMP SITE

NZAA Site No. D49/40

G.R. 108 283

This is reputed to be the site of one of the surveyors' camps used during the 1889 survey of the tin mining claims. It is located on the old Surveyors Track to the crest of the Tin Range, several hundred metres above the tramway. This section of the track was closed when kakapo were found in the area in the 1970s, and trampers were redirected along the tramway to the north.

The site consists of a relatively level area in the forest a short distance below the start of the sub-alpine scrub. The fireplace is marked by a pile of large stones (Fig. 33).

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