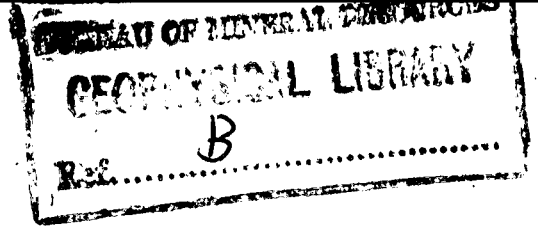


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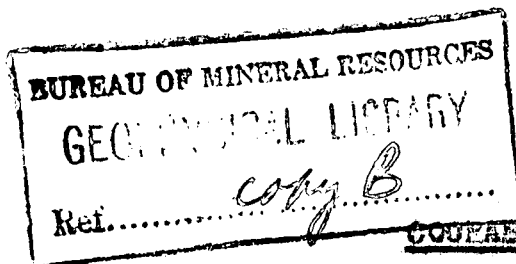


Coorabin Coalfield
Historical Data
L.A. Richardson

COPY

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT



CANDEREA. F.C.T.

3rd June, 1942.

COORABIN COALFIELD

Historical Data

While boring for water in 1915, on Portion 16, Parish of Gunambil, Mr. T. J. Lane encountered coal at a depth of 220 feet. In 1916 a trial shaft was put down by Mr. Lane to test the coal.

During 1917 or 1918 the Coorabin Colliery started, notification of opening being received by the Department of Mines on 5th June, 1918.

No. 2 Shaft was sunk near Coorabin Railway Siding, to a depth of 212 feet and continued as a winze to 269 feet. Water was struck at 168 feet making up to 2,500 gallons an hour. A second aquifer was encountered at 269 feet.

To test deeper for a supposed lower seam it was decided to sink No. 1 Bore at a site about 1 chain south of No. 2 Shaft. This bore was sunk to 456 feet and no second seam was found. Coal was found at 190 feet and revealed a total thickness of 37 feet of coal and coaly matter (Driller's log gives depth 194 feet and thickness 68').

The bore was stopped in material shown in driller's log as mudstone with pebbles.

No. 2 Bore was then put down close to Lane's Shaft. Coal was found at 217 feet, of thickness 28 feet 2 inches. (Depth 217 feet and thickness 40 feet by Driller's log). The bore was stopped in mudstone at 304 feet.

No. 3 Bore was put down in Portion 72, Parish of Gunambil. Coal was found at 182 feet of thickness 8 feet 3 inches. (Depth 184 feet and thickness 10 feet by Driller's log). The bore was stopped at 326 feet in material shown in Driller's log as sandy clay with pebbles.

No.4 Bore was put down in Portion 31, Parish of Gunambil. Coal was found at a depth of 265 feet, of thickness 56 feet. (Driller's log gives depth 260 feet and thickness 58 feet 2 inches). The bore was stopped at 333 feet 2 inches in material shown in Driller's log as sandy clay.

No.5 Bore was put down in Portion 13, Parish of Clear Hill. Coal was found at a depth of 531 feet 6 inches and the drill was stopped in coal at 556 feet 10 inches, thus proving a thickness of greater than 25 feet 4 inches. (Depth 553 feet 6 inches and thickness 25 feet by Driller's log).

These drill holes were apparently put down during 1920.

In 1921 the Coorabin Coal Company after completing No.2 Shaft and drill holes Nos.1 to 5, refloated as Riverina Collieries and commenced operations presumably in Portion 133, Parish of Clear Hill.

At a depth of 160 feet in the shaft (Carberry Shaft) a water flow of 16,000 gallons per hour was encountered. Later at a point 4 feet above the coal the flow became 53,000 gallons per hour.

The Riverina Coy. ceased operations in 1925 and re-commenced early in 1926 but stopped again in May 1926.

Another attempt was made in 1927 with electrical pumping plant but without success.

During 1928 some work was done on the Coorabin Colliery.

The Clear Hills Colliery was started in 1929, a shaft being sunk in the south-eastern corner of Portion 112, Parish of Clear Hill. Coal of thickness 7 feet was struck at a depth of 200 feet. Work was discontinued towards the end of the year. Work was commenced again in 1930 and stopped again the same year. Water was not excessive. The Gunambil Colliery was started in 1934 and worked intermittently up to 1937. The shaft is located in Portion 14, Parish of Gunambil. Coal was found at a depth of 165 feet and was present to 180 feet 2 inches in seams of following thicknesses - 1 foot 3 inches, 2 feet 6 inches, 11½ inches, 3 feet 4 inches. Thus of a total thickness of 15 feet 2 inches between roof and floor, only 8 feet was coal. The workings were practically dry

but water was met with in the mudstone about 6 feet below the floor of the seam, i.e., at a depth of 186 feet.

The Oaklands Colliery opened and shut again in 1935. The Oaklands No.2 Colliery opened in 1937. Presumably these two collieries operated at Lane's Shaft.

(L.A. Richardson)
Geophysicist.