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Record 1978/63



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LAWN HILL 1:100 000 SHEET AREA:
CATALOGUE OF 1:25 000 GEOLOGICAL COMPILATION SHEETS

by

I.P. SWEET and L.J. HUTTON

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FOREWORD

This Record has been compiled to made available the 1:25 000 Compilation sheets of the Lawn Hill 1:100 000 Sheet area, and to provide to users the basic field data.

There has been virtually no data processing or interpretation involved - this will come in later Records or Reports; but in releasing this preliminary field data it is hoped that users will comment and provide the compilers with any additional information or changes that should be made to the compilation sheets reproduced here.

INTRODUCTION

This Record contains reproductions, reduced to about 1:100 000 scale, of the 16 geological compilation sheets which constitute the Lawn Hill 1:100 000 Sheet. The sheets have been released to the public and copies of them, at 1:25 000 scale, are available for purchase from the Copy Service, Australian Government Printer (Production), P.O. Box 84, Canberra, ACT 2600 (enquiries to be marked: "Attention Mrs B. Misins").

The data were obtained during field research in LAWN HILL* and adjacent Sheet areas during the 1976 and 1977 field seasons. The work was carried out as part of a joint BMR/GSQ program, begun in 1969, to reassess the Precambrian geology of northwest Queensland.

Figures 1 and 2 are references for Figures 3 to 18, the geological compilation sheets. Figures 3a to 18a show the points at which geological observations were made.

Mapping and photo-interpretation were carried out using 1:25 000 colour airphotos obtainable from the Division of National Mapping, Canberra.

The compilation sheets are not final and are subject to modification after release.

GEOLOGY

The main Precambrian sequence, of Carpentarian age (Plumb & Derrick, 1975), consists of basic volcanics and sandstone intruded by granite, and overlain unconformably by a sequence of sandstone, siltstone, and dolomite. A younger Precambrian sequence, the South Nicholson Group, lies unconformably on these rocks in the west.

Most of the units shown in the compilation sheets were originally delineated as photogeological units. Much of the fieldwork was directed towards determining whether the photogeological units are mappable lithologic units. The notes below are intended to give the user of the compilation sheets some idea of the criteria used in delineating units.

* 1:100 000 Sheet area names shown in upper case

Carpentarian

Pb and Pb

The volcanics (Pb) have a characteristic reddish-brown photopattern, and the interbedded and overlying sandstones (Pb_S) stand out as grey and brown ridges. They were mapped previously by Carter & Opik (1961) as Myally Beds, but are more likely to be part of a younger unit, the Fiery Creek Volcanics, recently mapped by Cavaney (1975) in the Camooweal 1:250 000 Sheet area. They are overlain with angular unconformity by the Ploughed Mountain Beds.

Weberra Granite (Eg)

Scattered outcrops of weathered leucocratic granite were included by Carter & Opik (1961) in the Weberra Granite, whose main outcrop lies 50 km to the southeast - in the Camooweal 1:250 000 Sheet area. The granite is clearly overlain nonconformably by the Ploughed Mountain Beds. Although there are no actual contacts, Eg probably intrudes Eb, as it appears to cut across several flows, and acid dykes and quartz veins do occur in Eb. Several small outcrops of quartz-hematite rock and schist within Eg may be sheared granite.

Ploughed Mountain Beds

These were subdivided, on the basis of photo-interpretation, into 13 units, Em_1 to Em_{13} , some of which will be combined into formations at a later date. An angular unconformity at the base of Em_1 (with Eb and Eb_s) is clearly visible on airphotos.

 $$\operatorname{\mathtt{Em}}$$ is a resistant unit which includes conglomerate and malachitestained sandstone.

 ${
m Em}_2$ is distinguished from ${
m Em}_1$ and ${
m Em}_3$ by its recessive weathering, which reflects its silty nature; a lens or tongue of siltstone below the main ${
m Em}_2$ layer is also included.

 ${
m Em}_3$. The prominent scarp above ${
m Em}_2$ is capped by ${
m Em}_3$. Other lenses or tongues of ferruginous sandstone within ${
m Em}_4$ are included in ${
m Em}_3$.

Em is a recessive unit above Em . It is very altered and deeply weathered in most outcrops, and its original lithology is unidentifiable. It is probably silty, and possible dolomitic, at depth.

 $_{4b}^{\rm Em}$ is a light-coloured photogeological unit which is recognised in only a few outcrops. It lies between $_{4a}^{\rm Em}$ and $_{4}^{\rm Em}$ (elsewhere $_{4a}^{\rm Em}$ overlies $_{4a}^{\rm Em}$).

 ${
m Em}_{4a}$ and ${
m Em}_{4b}$ were photo-interpreted as a part of ${
m Em}_4$, a predominantly dolomitic unit, but were mapped separately when it was released that the dolomites formed only about half of the total content of ${
m Em}_4$. The boundary is difficult to map accurately, as the transition from ${
m Em}_{4a}$ and ${
m Em}_{4b}$ outcrop to ${
m Em}_4$ (dolomite) is often masked by chert rubble. It is assumed that the chert is derived from silicification of dolomite. ${
m Em}_4$ crops out poorly, and in many outcrops is deeply weathered or silicified.

Em₅ is a photogeological unit distinguished from the units above and below by its ridge-forming nature. Its main feature is the presence of sandstone, siltstone, and stromatolitic chert which result in its resistance to weathering. It also contains dolomites very similar to the units above and below, and the boundaries of the photogeological unit may need to be modified after fieldwork is completed.

 ${\rm Em}_6$ is a thick unit of well-banded dolomite whose boundary with ${\rm Em}_5$ is a distinct break in slope marking the change from sandstone and chert to dolomite. At the base of ${\rm Em}_6$ in the southernmost outcrops is a prominent limonite-chert breccia which is presumably a weathering product of another rock type. It has been shown as ${\rm Em}_6$ wherever it can be mapped separately. The breccia in the core of the Ploughed Mountain Anticline (Fig. 4) is not ${\rm Em}_6$, but a tectonic breccia formed by compression in the axial zone of the fold.

 ${\rm Em}_7$ is a resistant unit which forms steep ridges, particularly in the south. It is generally an orthoquartzite containing abundant cross-beds, ripple marks, clay galls, and mud-cracks. The ${\rm Em}_6/{\rm Em}_7$ boundary is placed at the base of the first prominent orthoquartzite bed. In the south this is overlain by recessive flaggy sandstone and siltstone which are mapped as ${\rm Em}_{7a}$.

 ${
m Em}_8$ to ${
m Em}_{12}$. In the southern half of LAWN HILL, five photogeological units, ${
m Em}_8$, ${
m Em}_9$, ${
m Em}_{10}$, ${
m Em}_{11}$, and ${
m Em}_{12}$, can be distinguished. ${
m Em}_8$, ${
m Em}_{10}$, and ${
m Em}_{12}$ are silty units separated by resistant sandstones, ${
m Em}_9$ and ${
m Em}_{11}$. The sandstones lens out northwards and the remaining siltstone is designated ${
m Em}_8$ (it presumably includes ${
m Em}_{10}$ and ${
m Em}_{12}$, but they are indistinguishable from it). ${
m Em}_9$ lenses out both southwards and northwards. It forms a steep ridge with a distinctive, coarse photopattern. ${
m Em}_{11}$ thins northwards and lenses out in the same area as ${
m Em}_9$ does (between Mitton and Archie Creeks - Figs. 8 and 9). ${
m Em}_{8S}$ refers to two other mappable sandstone lenses between ${
m Em}_7$ and ${
m Em}_9$; they were not recognized in the original photo-interpretation of the area. ${
m Em}_{12}$ is a silty unit in the south, but contains many thin sandstone interbeds. It also grades northwards into finer siltstone and shale. Its boundaries with ${
m Em}_1$ and ${
m Em}_1$ are based on changes in slope related to the sandier nature of both other units.

 $_{13}^{\rm Em}$ forms distinctively banded ridges between the recessive-weathering $_{12}^{\rm Em}$ and plains underlain by the very soft carbonaceous shales of $_{12}^{\rm Em}$. A series of beds of quartz greywacke form a lenticular mappable unit, $_{13}^{\rm Em}$, in about the middle of $_{13}^{\rm Em}$. It can be distinguished from $_{13}^{\rm Em}$ on airphotos by its lighter colour and slightly recessive weathering.

The units of the Ploughed Mountain Beds shown on the compilation sheets will probably be combined to form at least 6 formations:

 $\frac{\text{Em}_{1}}{1}, \frac{\text{Em}_{2}}{2}, \frac{\text{Em}_{3}}{3}$ $\frac{\text{Em}_{4a}}{4a}, \frac{\text{Em}_{4b}}{5}, \frac{\text{Em}_{6}}{6}$

: sandstone unit

: siltstone(?) unit

: carbonate unit (possibly divisible

into three formations)

Pm 7

Pm₈₋₁₂, Pm_{8s}, Pm₉

: sandstone unit

: siltstone unit containing sandstone

lenses

Em₁₁, Em₁₂, Em₁₃, Em_{13g}

: sandstone unit containing siltstone

and greywacke lenses

Lawn Hill Formation

The Lawn Hill Formation is a sequence of siltstone, shale, tuff, and sandstone which conformably overlies ${\rm Em}_{13}$. The photogeological subdivision of the unit is based on the presence of two resistant members in an otherwise easily weathered sequence. Areas underlain by the Lawn Hill Formation are therefore relatively flat, with the exception of two roughly parallel, sinuous ridges up to 80 m high formed of the resistant members. The six members of the formation are :

 ${
m El}_0$ is a poorly outcropping black shale with a sharp lower contact with ${
m Em}_{13}$, and a gradational upper one with ${
m El}_1$. Where ${
m El}_0$ crops out it forms dark grey banded areas on airphotos.

 ${
m El}_1$. Since ${
m El}_0$ shales grade upwards to ${
m El}_1$ siltstones, the lower boundary of ${
m El}_1$ is approximate. ${
m El}_1$ is generally overlain by resistant sandstone, but other lenses of siltstone within ${
m El}_0$, regardless of stratigraphic position, are mapped as ${
m El}_1$.

 ${
m El}_2$ is one of the two resistant, ridge-forming members in the Lawn Hill Formation, and generally forms the capping and dip-slope of the ridge. It is a sandstone unit which lenses out eastwards.

 El_3 . Like El_0 , El_3 is a recessive unit which forms plains with poor outcrop. It is largely composed of tuff and siltstone which, when silicified, form ridges. A series of tuffaceous beds near the base of El_3 are virtually always silicified, and form the other ridge mentioned above. Like El_0 , El_3 has a sharp lower contact and a gradational upper one.

 $^{\mathrm{El}}$ is a reddish-brown-weathering medium-grained friable sandstone.

 \mathbf{P}_{5} is a flaggy siltstone.

Adelaidean or Carpentarian

South Nicholson Group

Esa. Quartz sandstone and siltstone which overlie the Lawn Hill Formation and Ploughed Mountain Beds unconformably west and northwest of LAWN HILL crop out in two areas in western LAWN HILL. The basal unit of the group, the Constance Sandstone (Esa), overlies the Lawn Hill Formation disconformably, although a marked angular unconformity can be observed in MUSSELBROOK and BOWTHORN.

Cambrian

Two units have been shown in the compilation sheets - Thorntonia Limestone (Emt) and Border Waterhole Formation (Emo).

Emt is easily interpreted on airphotos because of its distinctive photopattern, mainly small-scale joint-controlled pinnacle karst. De Keyser (1969) mapped Emo in outcrops near Lawn Hill homestead, and we have reinterpreted these outcrops, with some modifications, on our compilation sheets. In the southwestern part of LAWN HILL, areas of poor outcrop and chert rubble probably indicate the presence of Emo marginal to Emt, and these areas have been delineated.

Mesozoic

Gilbert River Formation (JKg) and Mullaman Beds (JKm) have been delineated. JKg is the basal sandstone in the Mesozoic sequence in the Carpentaria Basin (Grimes, 1974) and all isolated mesas of friable ferruginous sandstone in valleys cut in the Precambrian rocks in northeastern and eastern LAWN HILL are assigned to it.

Similar sandstone and claystone capping hills formed of Precambrian rocks in western and southwestern LAWN HILL are assigned to JKm. Both units are of Late Jurassic and/or Early Cretaceous age.

Cainozoic

- <u>Tpf.</u> Plains with ferruginous soil in the northeast may represent laterite surfaces, and are shown as <u>Tpf</u> (Symbol used by Grimes (1974) for laterite in Westmoreland 1:250 000 Sheet area).
- Tc. Small mesas of crystalline limestone near the southern margin of LAWN HILL are part of the Carl Creek Limestone, of late Oligocene or early Miocene age (Tedford, 1967). Where the Carl Creek Limestone overlies the Thorntonia Limestone it is virtually impossible to interpret a boundary accurately. Accordingly, any Tc/Emt boundaries shown (eg, in Fig 16), should be regarded as approximate.
- $\underline{\text{Tr?}}$. Isolated outcrops of flat-lying limestone in the northeast may be part of the Gregory Limestone, thought by Grimes (1974) to be of similar age to Tc.

TQn (Armraynald Beds; Grimes 1974). Although defined by Smart, Grimes & Doutch (1972) as a lithological unit, the presence of TQn in LAWN HILL has been inferred mainly on geomorphological grounds. The surface of TQn in MOUNT OSCAR consists of black-soil plains with few stream channels, and the southern continuation of these into LAWN HILL has been the main criterion for deducing the presence of TQn. Patches of travertine, apparently within TQn, and sandy soil, are common near Little Archie Creek. Both of these appear to belong to the same phase of deposition as TQn, and are included in them. TQn is slightly above present stream level in most of LAWN HILL, and gullying is occurring in outcrops along creek banks. A terrace of extensively gullied silt and clay with a black-soil surface occurs about 5-8 m above the present level of the Gregory River, and has been included in TQn.

Czg. These are gravels cemented by iron oxides. They may represent the same episode as that resulting in Tpf, but it seems more likely that Czg is younger. The gravels form terraces slightly above present stream level, and appear to be piedmont deposits related to an earlier Quaternary or late Tertiary erosion cycle.

 $\underline{\text{Czt.}}$ Several outcrops of travertine have been mapped, some within TQn, others as Czt.

Czs includes a variety of residual soils, colluvium, and possibly also some largely alluvial material, and areas which could be assigned to Czg with more detailed mapping. It probably includes late Tertiary and Quaternary sediments.

Qa Alluvium which is difficult to distinguish from TQn, particularly in the northeast, where boundaries should be regarded as tentative.

Qha. Active stream alluvium in large stream-beds - e.g., Gregory River.

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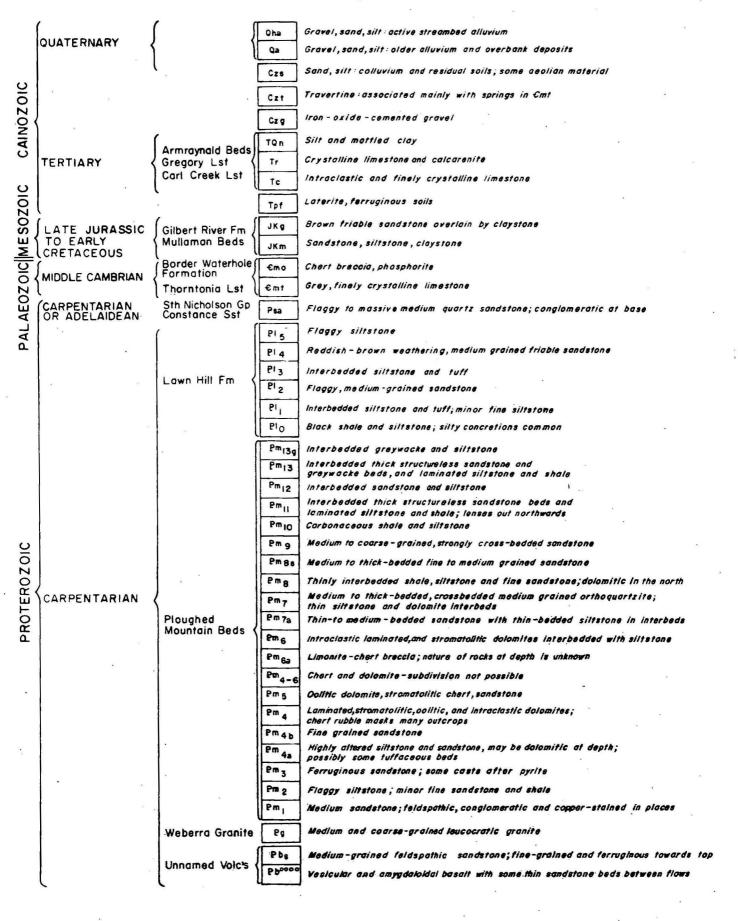


Fig. 1 Geological reference to accompany compilation sheets (Figs. 3-18)

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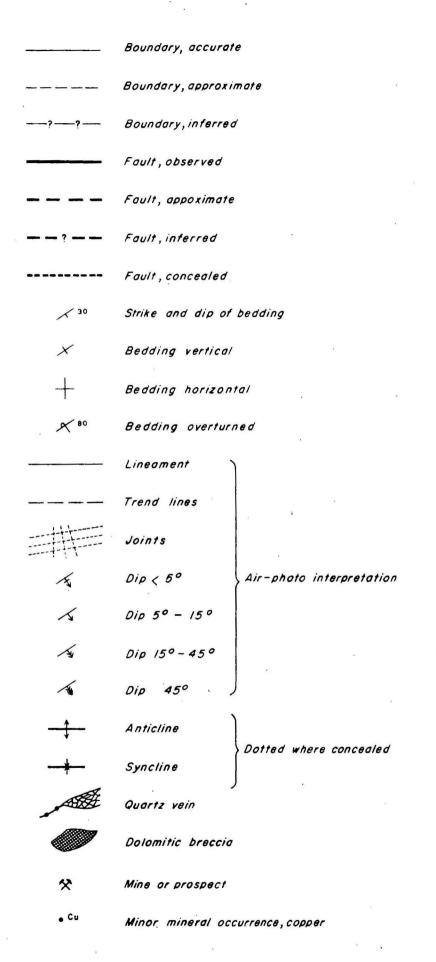
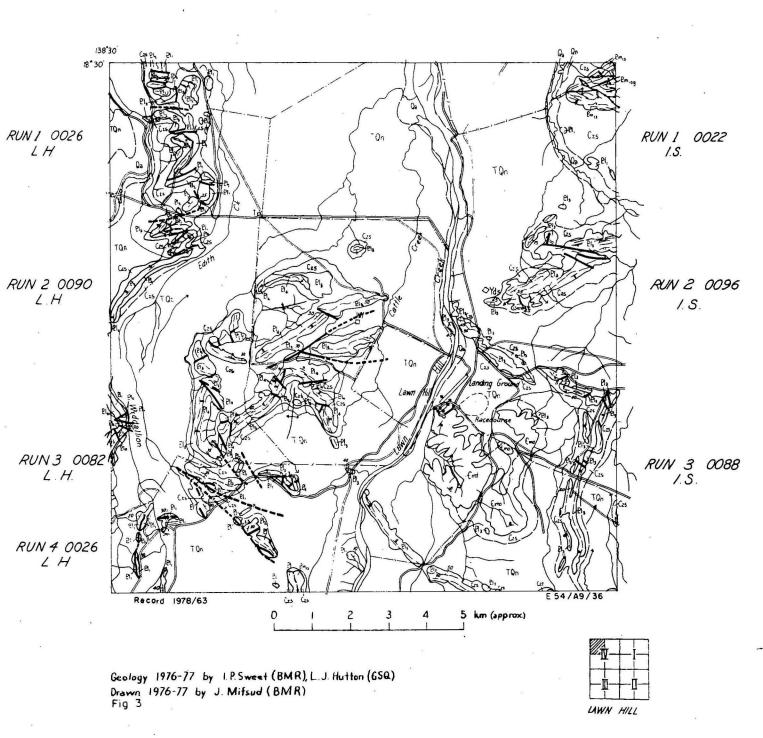


Fig. 2 Symbols used on accompanying compilation sheets (Figs. 3-18)
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E54/A9/53



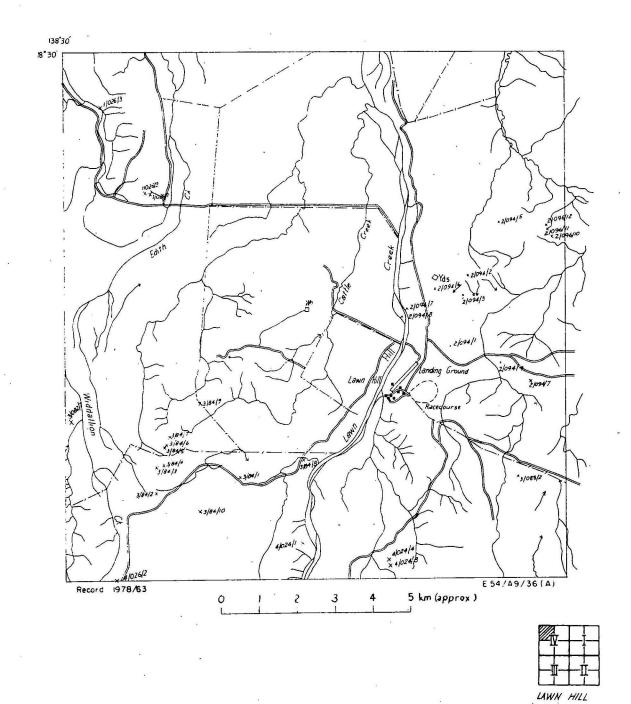
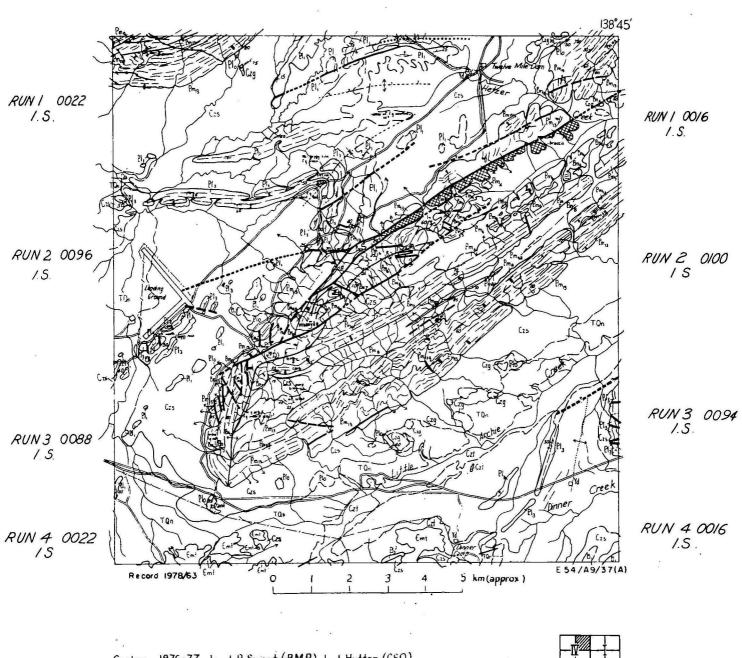


Fig 3a



Geology 1976-77 by I.P. Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J Mitsud (BMR). Fig. 4



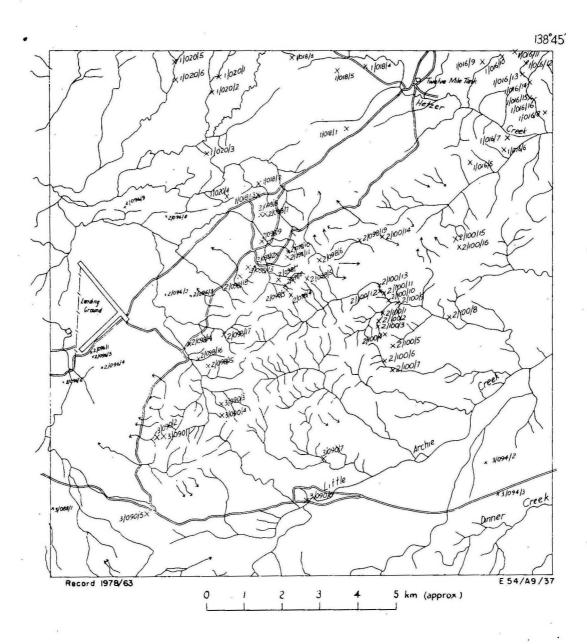
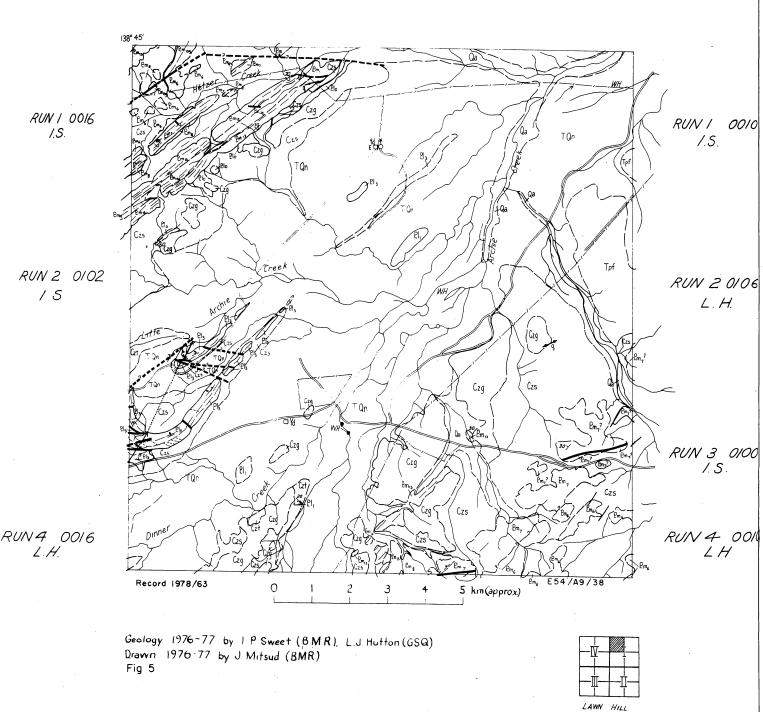




Fig 4d



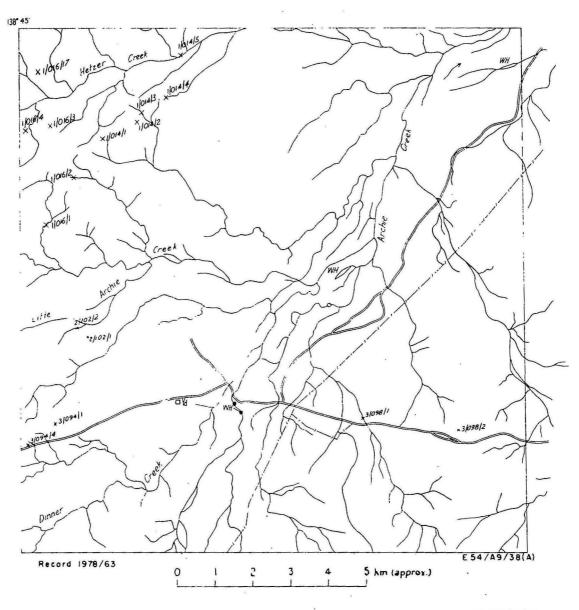
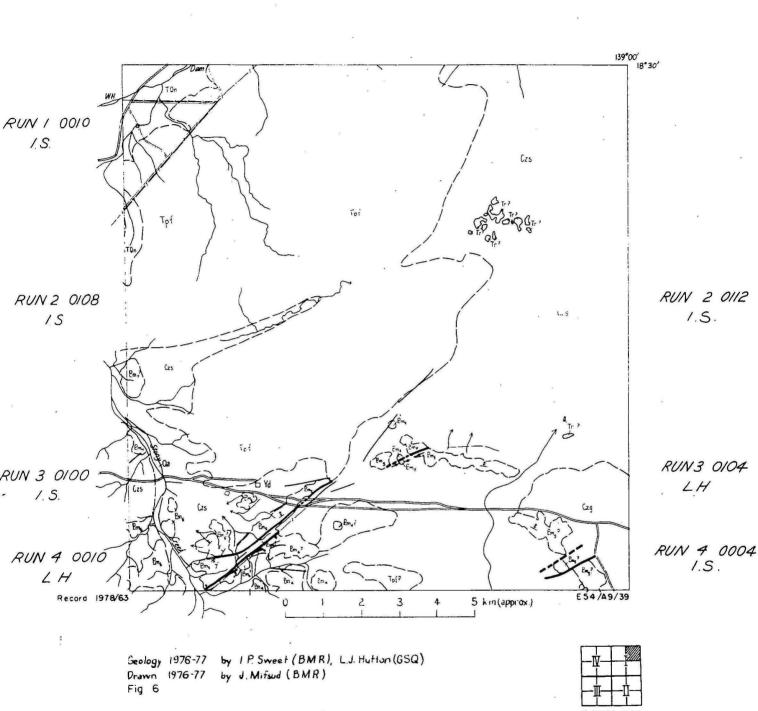


Fig 5a



LAWN HILL



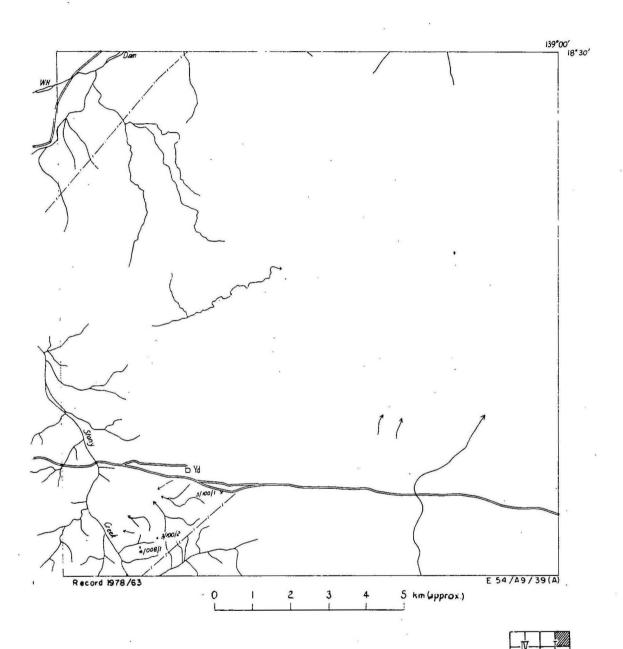
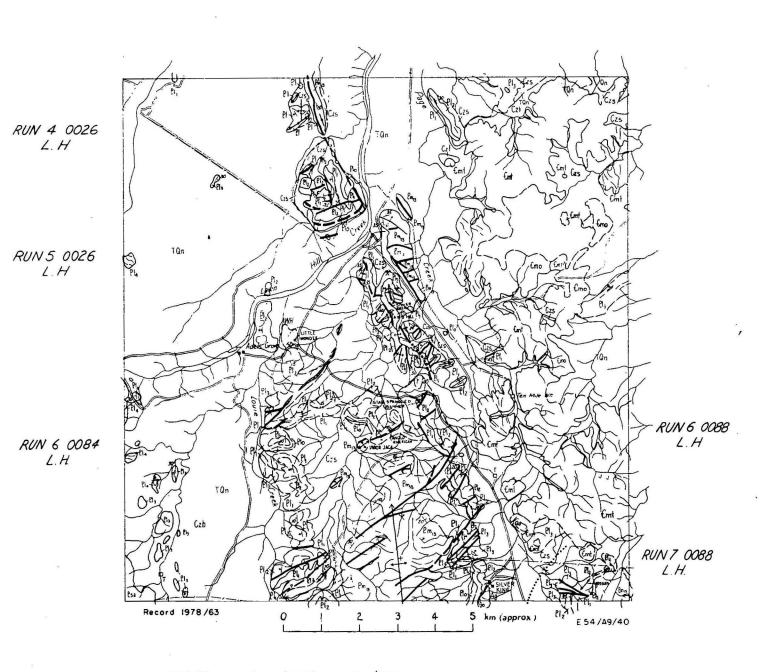


Fig. 6a

LAWN HILL

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Geology 1976-77 by I.P Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J. Mifsud (BMR) Fig. 7



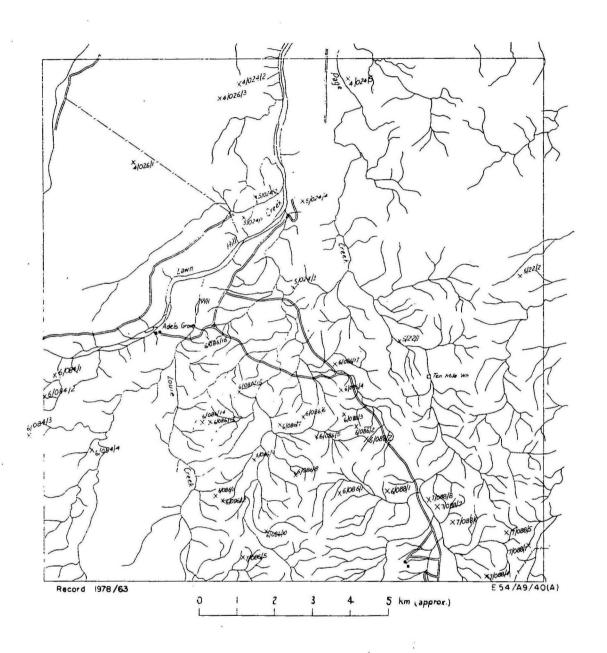
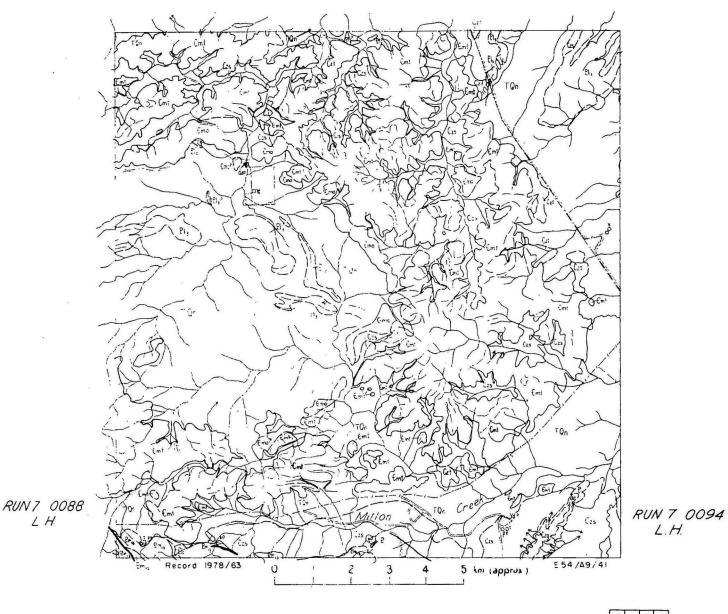




Fig 7a



Geology 1976-77 by I.P. Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hulton (GSQ). Drawn 1976-77 by J. Mitsud (BMR) Fig. 8



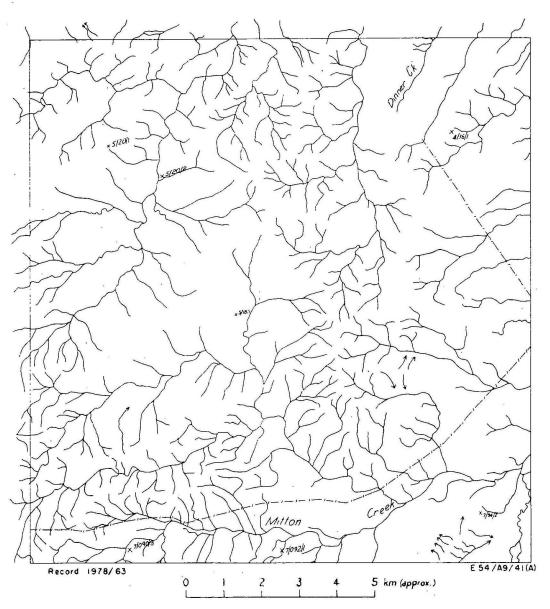
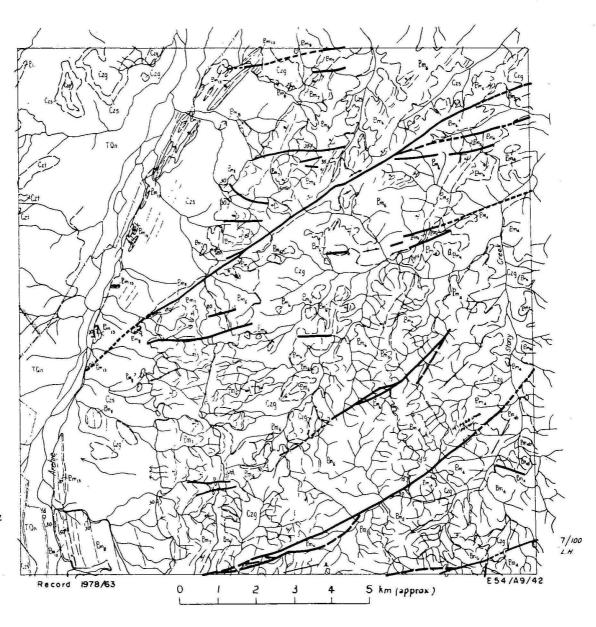


Fig. 8a



LAWN HILL



RUN 7 0094 L. H

Geology 1976-77 by I.P. Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J. Mitsud Fig 9



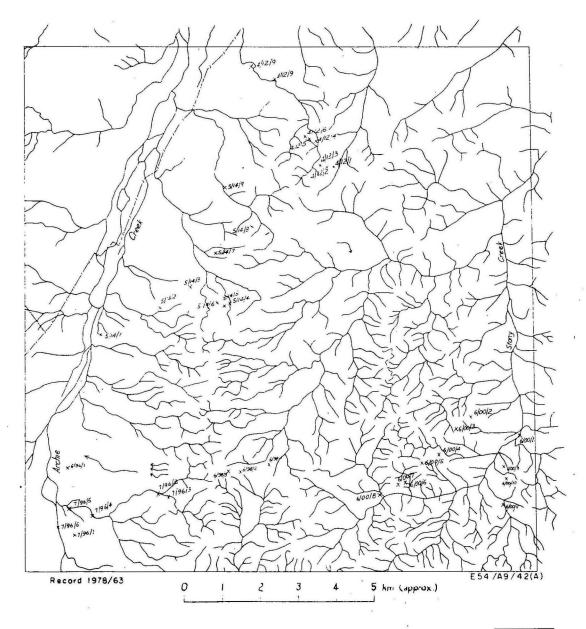
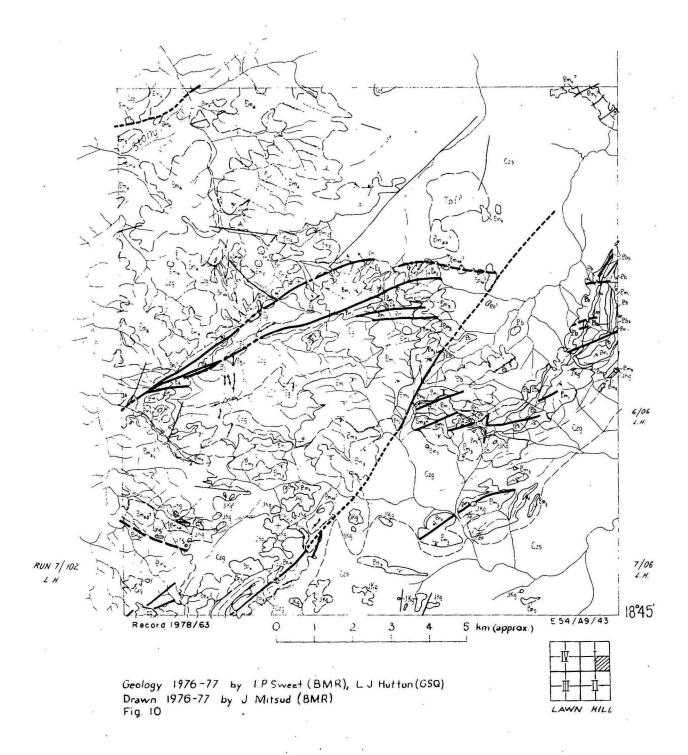


Fig 9a

LAWN HILL



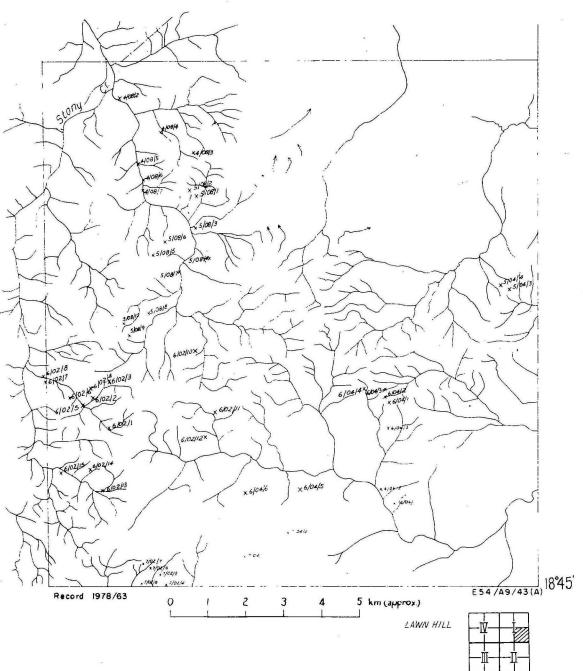
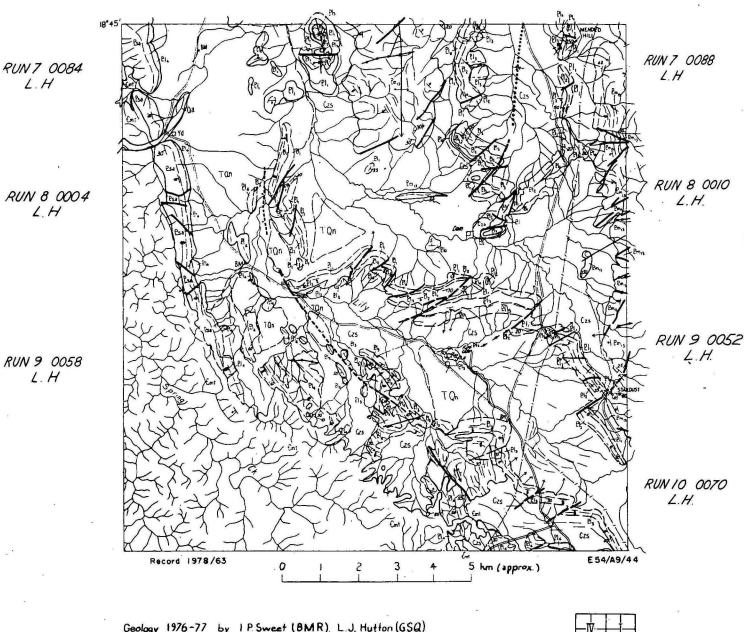


Fig. 10a



Geology 1976-77 by I.P.Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J.Milsud (BMR) Fig. 11



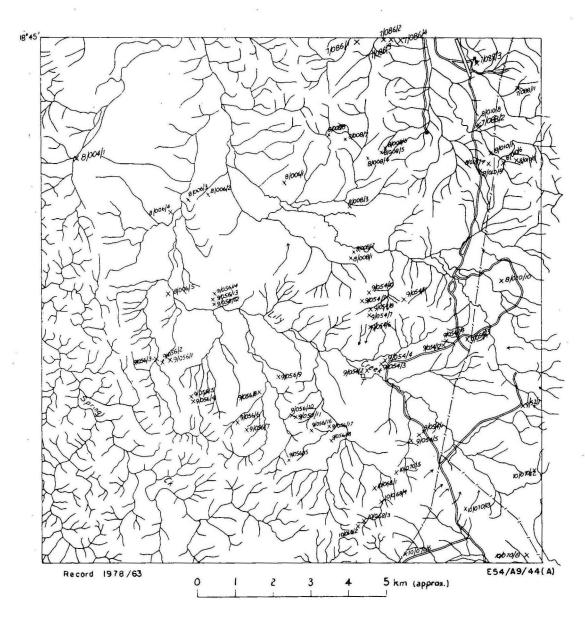
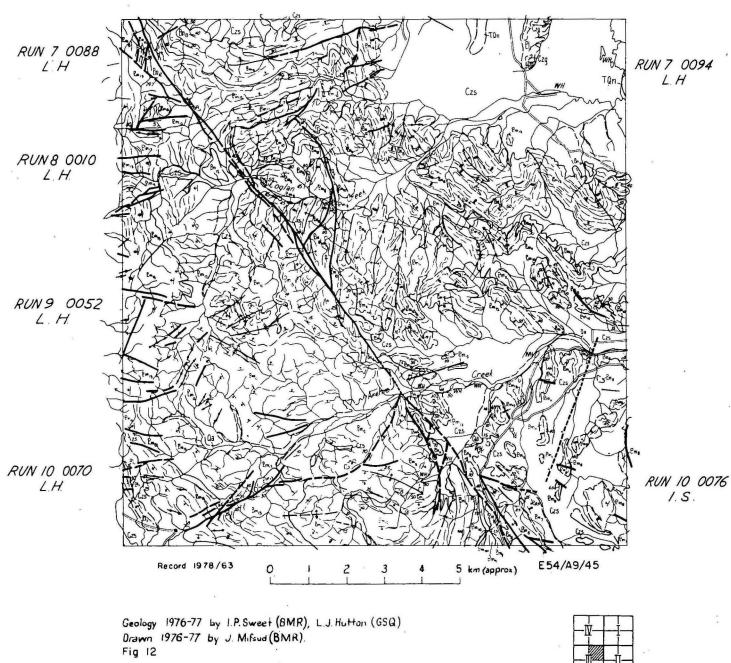


Fig. 11a



LAWN HILL





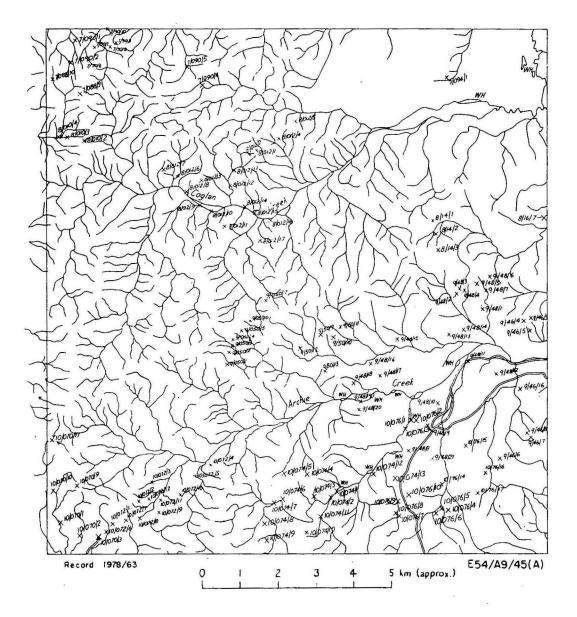
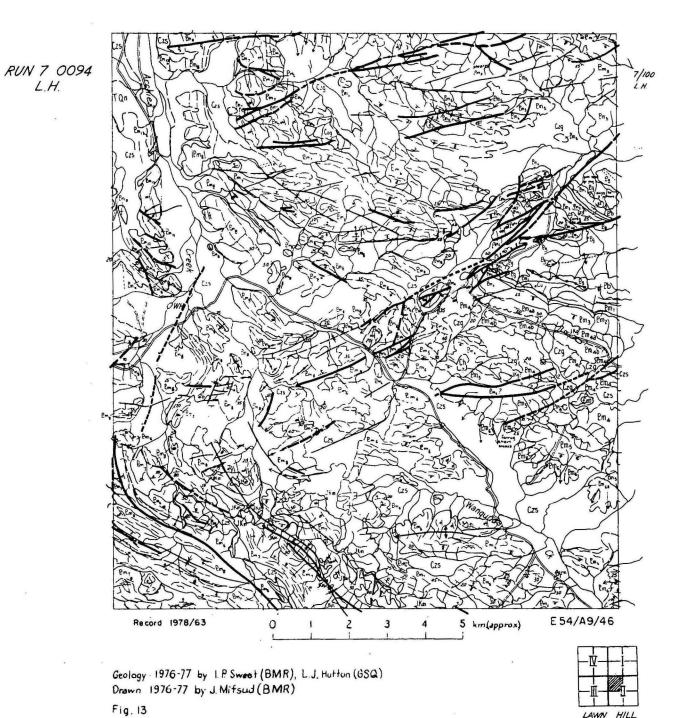
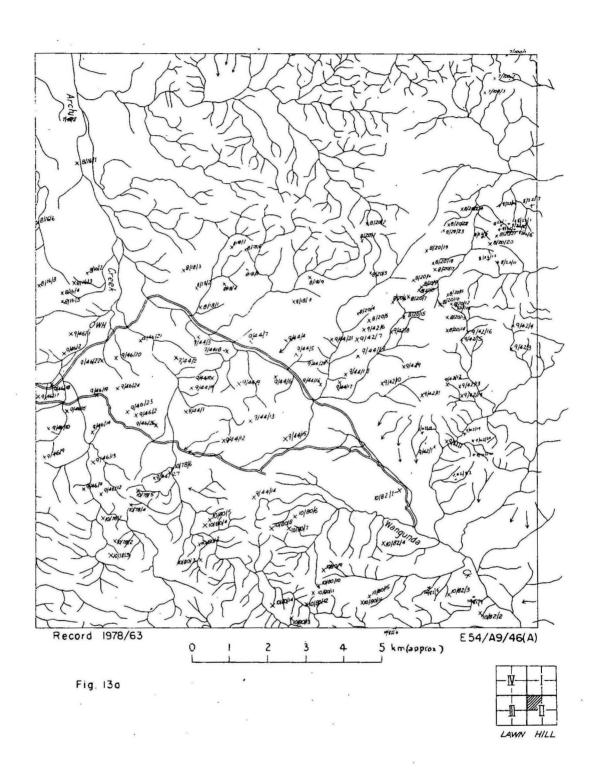


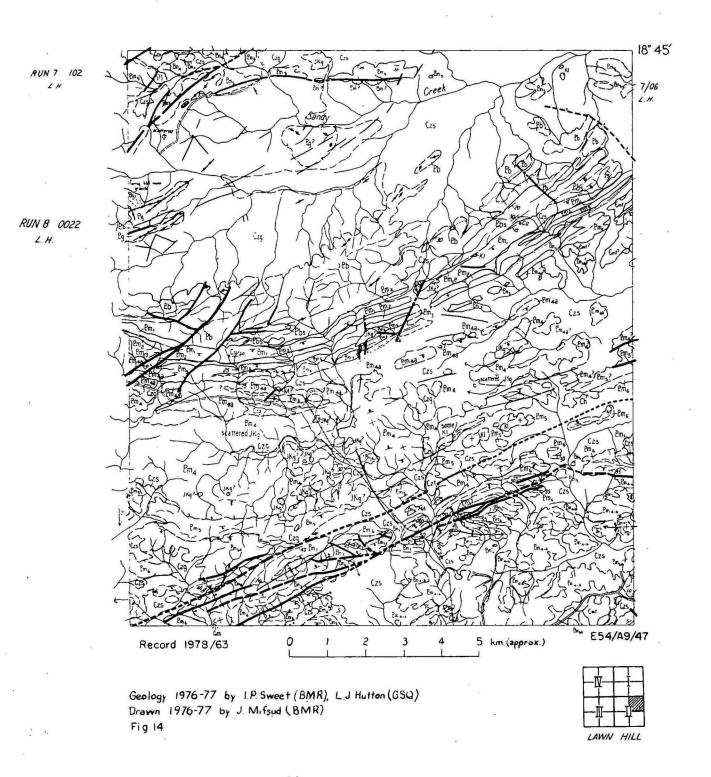
Fig.12a

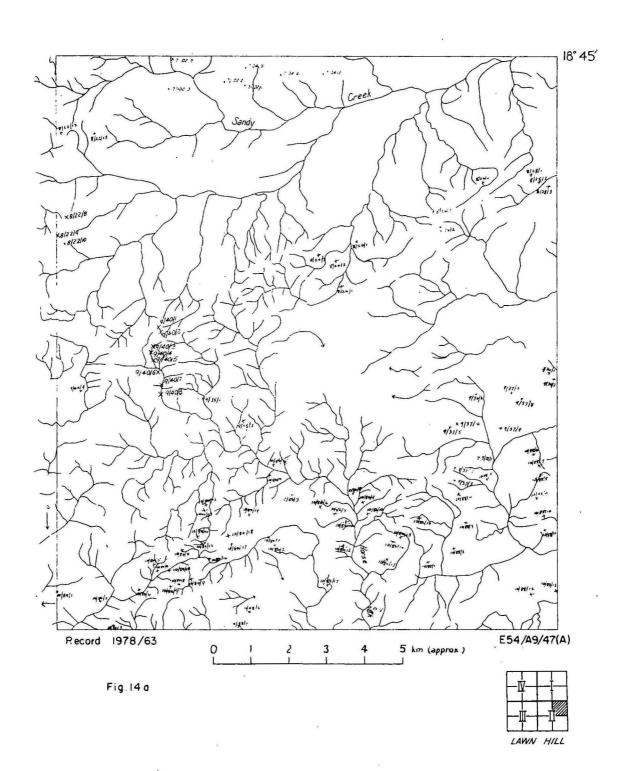


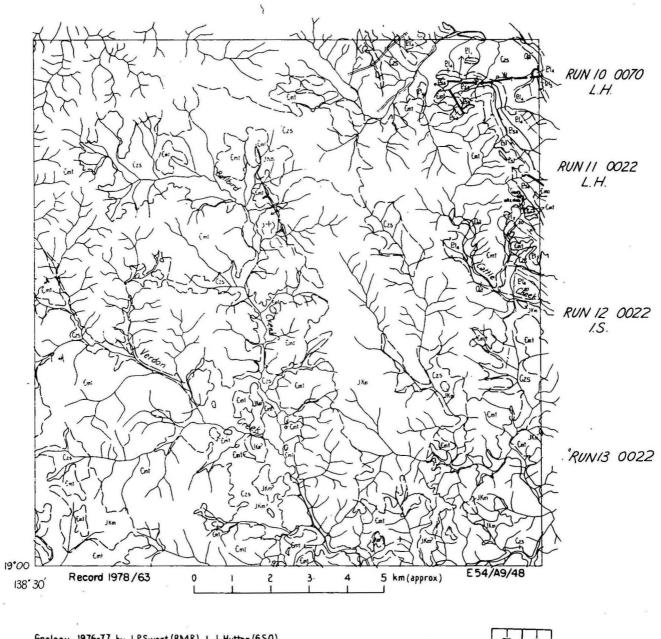
LAWN HILL











Geology 1976-77 by I.P.Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (6SQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J Mifsud (BMR) Fig 15



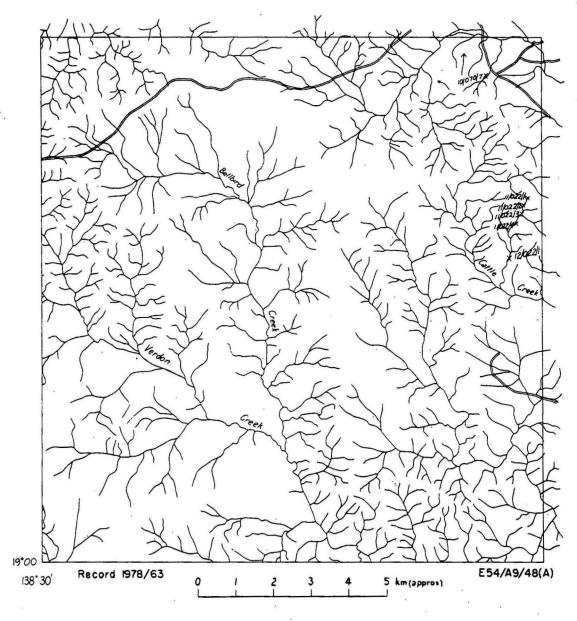
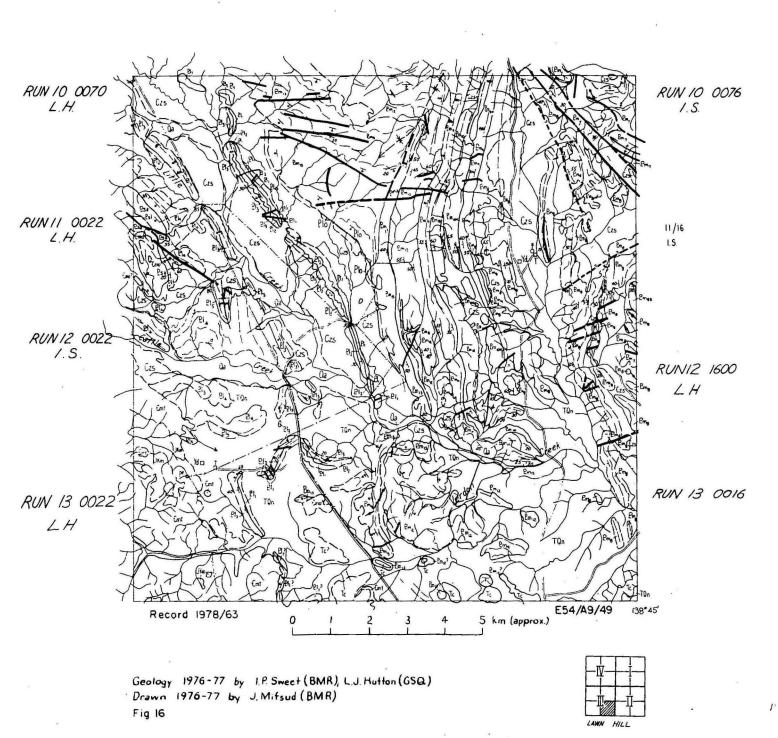


Fig. 15a



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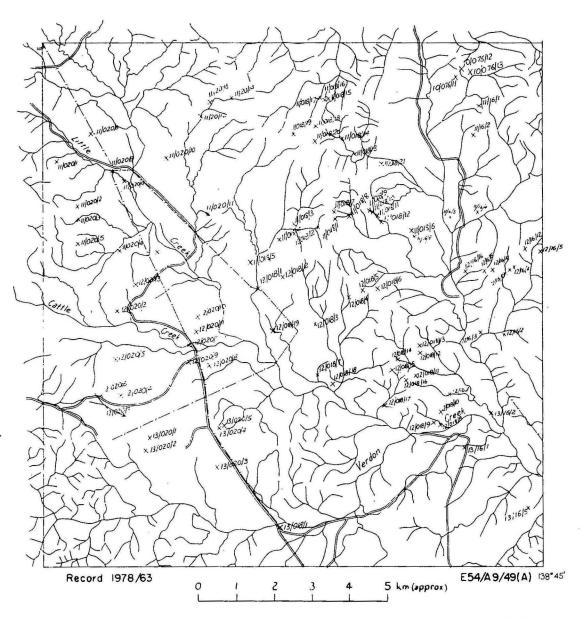
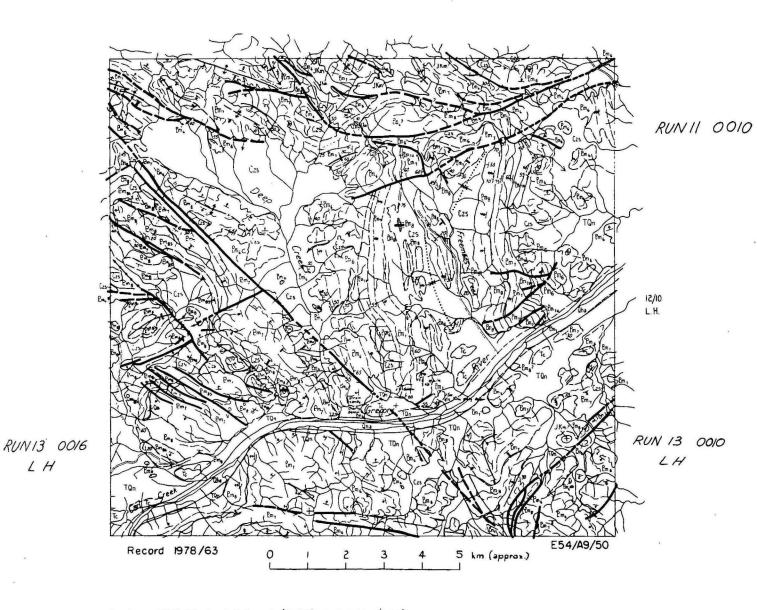


Fig 16a





Ceology 1976-77 by I.P. Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton(GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J. Mifsud (BMR) Fig 17



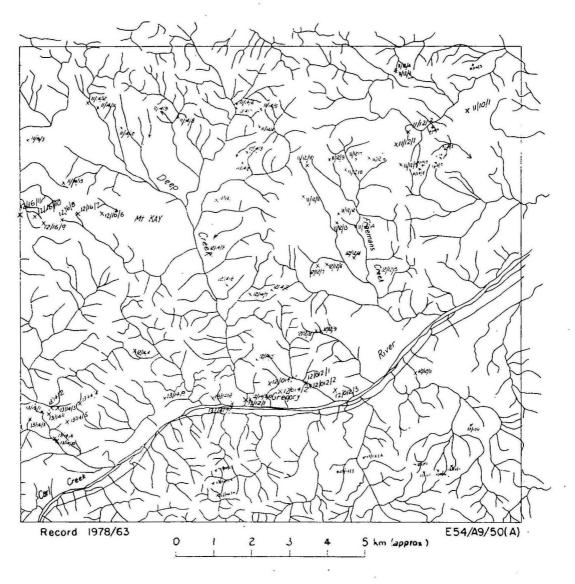
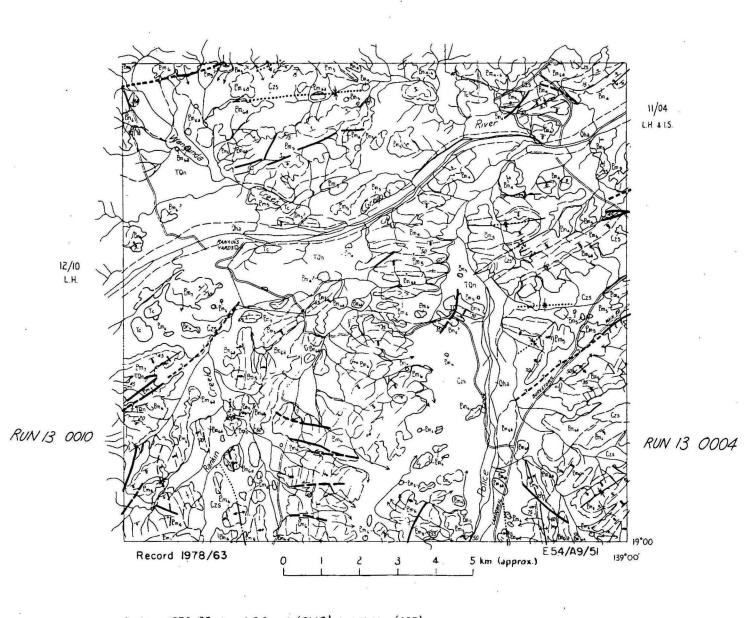


Fig 17a





Geology 1976-77 by 1.P Sweet (BMR), L.J. Hutton (GSQ) Drawn 1976-77 by J. Mifsud (BMR) Fig. 18



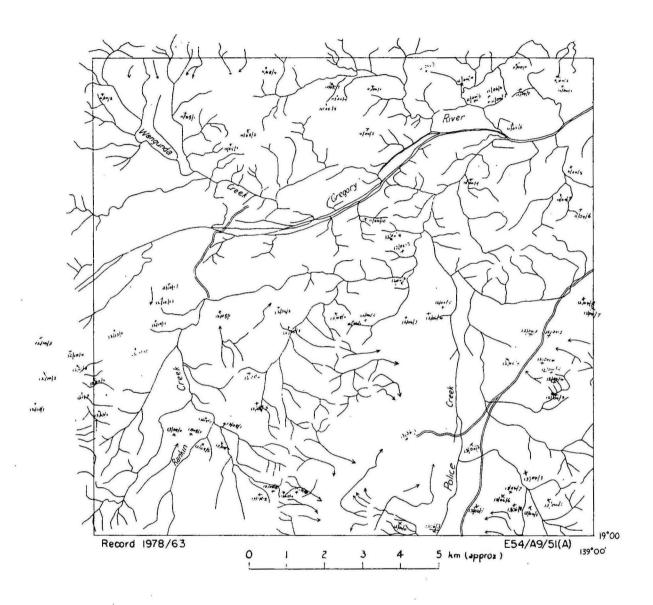


Fig 18o

