Executive Summary

The SPIRT/LINKAGE segment of the gold module of project P511 is divided into two independent parts: the first focuses on the Yilgarn Craton, and the second on global characteristics of orogenic gold deposits. This project has derived a new and self-consistent structural history for the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, Yilgarn Craton, and provided new insights into the controls on gold mineralization. Essentially, the findings are that the belt underwent a late-Archean orogeny to produce the Kalgoorlie Orogen, which includes structures that reflect the regional deformation phases known as D_2-D_4. Deformation was in response to pure shear, and not sinistral transpression as previously proposed, and resulted from continuous ENE-WSW directed shortening. The orogen proceeded from a thickening phase D_2, to a lateral extension phase characterized by strike slip shear zones D_3, which became increasingly brittle as the crust cooled (D_4). During straining, the presence of competent granitoid bodies caused intense shearing and lateral escape of surrounding weaker greenstone sequences. Escape process was controlled by the interaction between the orientation of granitoid boundary and external stresses.

The orogeny was accompanied by low-Ca granitoid intrusion, metamorphism and gold mineralization. Mineralization took place in the later part of the history, except possibly for the Golden Mile, which had a prolonged history of mineralization. Zones of high straining, such as crustal scale shear zones, and rock competency contrast are the two key controls in the siting of mineralization. This is because shearing of rocks of contrasting strength lead to rock flow heterogeneities and dilation zones that focus fluid flow. Competency contrast is highest at greenschist facies temperatures, thus explaining, at least in part, why greenschist facies terranes tend to be more endowed with gold than other terranes. In this context, weak ultramafic rocks or shales and strong granitoid or doleritic intrusions play a key role in mineralization by providing very marked competency contrast with other rock types.

Sulphur isotope ratios of a number of deposits were investigated in order to determine their relationship to gold endowment. There is a tendency for large gold deposits to be associated with large variation $\delta^{34}S_{(py)}$ values, but this is not universal. Another indicator for the location of potentially large gold deposits is complexity in the distribution of lithological contacts and structures, as quantified by fractal dimensions. Complex zones generally host the large gold deposits, because these zones provide a number of possible hosts and increased likelihood for

fluid focusing and traps. Surprisingly, the largest deposits are sited, not in the zones of highest complexity, but in zones of strong lateral gradient in complexity.

Gold exploration should focus on regions of lithological and structural complexity within greenschist facies belts, close to crustal-scale permeable shear zones. Within these areas, large deposits will be sited where there is strong lateral variation in complexity, as measured by variation in fractal dimensions. This project derived these conclusions by detailed comparisons of the evolution of the Boulder-Lefroy, Zuleika and Ida Shear Zones. The main results are listed below in point format, further summarized at the beginning of each major section of this report, and discussed in *Section 5*.

Point Summary

Timing of deformation (Section 2.3):

- Relative timing of deformation phases previously established based on structures relative to granitoid intrusions is flawed.
- Timing of D_2-D_4 regional deformation phases is later and of shorter duration than previously considered. It is now estimated to have taken place between 2650-2630 Ma instead of 20 Ma earlier. A new time chart for the structural evolution of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt is developed.
- A major late tectono-thermal event is defined by the regional deformation phases D_2-D_4, low-Ca granite intrusion, and gold mineralization.

Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone (Section 2.4):

- The shear zone developed in two stages: a) D_2 reverse faulting and folding; b) D_3 sinistral shearing.
- There is no evidence for late important dextral shearing, commonly reported as significant in previous studies.
- Early structures developed at Kalgoorlie (Golden Mile Fault and Kalgoorlie Anticline), interpreted as abandoned early D_2, are cross cut and refolded by later active structures.
- Weaker D_2 strain at Kambalda preserved early regional D_1 thrusts, and also led to further crustal shortening as well as sinistral movement during D_3.
- The D_3 dextral, sinuous, N-S striking, *en-echelon* Charlotte set of shear zones formed as a result of NNW-sinistral shear.

- D_4 is represented by later, brittle structures, which also reactivated earlier formed structures.
- Small total D_3 sinistral displacement on the shear zone is confirmed.
- Gold, with the exception of the Golden Mile, was deposited late in the tectonic history of the shear zone, either during D_3 or D_4.
- Gold at the Golden Mile was deposited earlier, possibly during the early stages of D_2.
- General thermal arguments based on the depositional, magmatic and deformation history of the Kalgoorlie Terrane suggests that two broad metamorphic, and consequently mineralization, events took place: the first during crustal extension and extrusion of the mafic-ultramafic sequence and high-Ca magmatism; the second during the Kalgoorlie Orogen and low-Ca magmatism.

Zuleika and Ida Shear Zones (Section 2.5):

- The Zuleika Shear Zone has complex kinematics, with significant eastward thrusting at Kundana, and sinistral strike slip movement further north at Ant Hill/Bullant.
- Complexity results from internal deformation of the shear-zone bounded blocks and possibly an evolving deformation history.
- The Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor, between the Kundana area and the Bali granite/Kunanalling area, is a pop-up structure, with fold tightening towards the two bounding thrust zones: the Zuleika and Kunanalling Shear Zones.
- The Ida Shear Zone is enclosed within a narrow, amphibolite facies greenstone sequence, intensely flattened and attenuated by impinging granitoid bodies.
- Stretching direction along the corridor is sub-horizontal on a sub-vertical foliation and shear sense indicators are poorly defined due to predominant pure-shear deformation. There is no evidence for late normal faulting.
- Gently-dipping seismic reflectors at depth are not obviously related to the surface expression of the Ida Shear Zone.

Contrasting Shear Zones and Gold Endowment (Section 2.6):

- Irregular margins of competent granite batholiths cause an added degree of complexity on the kinematics of neighbouring shear zones.
- Different endowment along shear zones is related to variety in rock types along the shear zone, metamorphic facies, and geometry (tight/gentle antiforms/synforms).

- Competency contrasts play a key role in localizing fluid flow within the crust by creating regions of dilation (strain incompatibility).
- Competency contrast is high in greenschist facies rocks (ductile talc- or chlorite-schist versus brittle dolerite or granitoid) and low in amphibolite facies rocks (ductile amphibole- or quartz dominated rocks). Amphibolite facies rocks retain low competence contrasts as they cool to greenschist facies conditions, as long as they are not strongly retrogressed.
- Homogeneous rock deformation leads to unfocused fluid flow and poor mineralization, as opposed to heterogeneous rock deformation.
- The giant gold deposit (Fimiston lodes) is the only one to have possibly been deposited either before or during early D_2.

Kalgoorlie Orogen (Section 2.7):

- A late-Archean Kalgoorlie Orogen is proposed. There was an ENE-WSW continuum of shortening during orogen evolution, from D_2 crustal thickening to D_3-D_4 lateral escape. Granitoid bodies control local rock flow and stress distribution.
- The pattern of deformation and distribution of regional shear zones resulted from the interaction between these external forces and the presence of large, competent granitoid bodies which impinged upon the weaker greenstone sequences, causing them to escape in the direction of least pressure.
- External stresses and the escape from impinging granitoids led to the development, at the scale of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, of a conjugate pair of NW-striking sinistral shear zones and NE-striking dextral shear zones.
- D2-D4 deformation resulted from pure shear due to ENE-WSW shortening, and not as a result of sinistral transpression.

Gold Distribution and Fractal Dimensions (Section 3.1):

- Gold distribution along the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone follows a very well determined pattern, with four peaks in gold endowment, corresponding to the major mining camps, spaced systematically every 30-40 km, and each peak followed by an area of very low gold endowment.

- Interestingly, the highest endowed area (the Golden Mile) is followed to the north and to the south along the BLSZ by the poorest areas, suggesting that either gold or fluids were focused towards the Golden Mile, depleting the immediate surroundings.
- Fractal dimension can be used to quantify complexity of lithological contacts and major structures. The largest gold deposits are sited, not at regions of maximum complexity (highest fractal dimensions), but in regions of greatest complexity gradients (fractal dimension gradients), representing tectonic/structural domain boundaries.
- Fractal dimension is proposed as a relatively simple and low-cost method to focus exploration studies.

Sulphur Isotopes (Section 3.2):

- Large variations in gold-related pyrite sulphur-isotope compositions (>10‰) in larger gold deposits (>1Moz) are typically related to specific structural settings, hydrothermal alteration assemblages and host rocks.
- Anomalous $\delta^{34}S_{(py)}$ values and large variations are related to a sensitivity to ore depositional processes, which relate to local scale physical and chemical controls. Thus, variation in sulphur isotope ratios could be accounted for by local processes rather than specific fluid sources.
- A further source of sulphur isotope variation could be related to pyrites from unmineralized sedimentary rocks, which were found to have large variations in sulphur isotope composition, in contrast to previous studies. These are a potential sulphur source to deep-seated hydrothermal fluids.

Gold Endowment Analysis (Section 4):

- Parameters critical to the control of world-class gold deposits are defined through a combination of genetic studies and empirical analyses within a GIS environment.
- These are summarized in Table 4.1 in terms of a mineral system analysis. They can form the basis of endowment analyses, either semi-quantitative in nature or involving more sophisticated integration using fuzzy logic or artificial neural network methodologies.

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Introduction

Arguably, the most important control on the distribution of orogenic "lode" gold deposits in the Yilgarn Craton is structure. Understanding the structural evolution of the Craton and the relative timing of mineralization is therefore essential in determining the processes that lead to giant to word-class gold deposits. Early in the project, a consensus was reached via discussion with sponsors that researchers at UWA, largely funded by a SPIRT/Linkage Grant attached to the AMIRA Grant, would focus on the structure/gold relationships, and provide constraints for modeling mineralization processes at the gold module within CSIRO, supported by the AMIRA Grant. Structural knowledge would also complement results from other AMIRA projects on the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, in which structure was a secondary consideration, and yield a broad view of the tectonic and temporal development of the belt between 2.7-2.6 Ga. In this process, a strategy was required that took into account the limited access to the Golden Mile, the only giant deposit in the Craton. Thus, in agreement with sponsors wishes, the project focused on a broad region of the Kalgoorlie Terrane, around the Golden Mile, seeking to understand the patterns of gold distribution in terms of its structural evolution, and seeking to compare well-endowed and poorly-endowed regional shear zones. These studies were accompanied by GIS-based studies designed to test models and generate more quantitative relationships between parameters visible on maps and the distribution of large gold deposits. Fractal analysis methodologies were developed as part of the Project, whereas other data were contributed to the project but are not proprietary to it. Due to the perceived importance of the composition of the sulphur isotope ratios in sulphides as an indicator of large gold deposits, this module carried out also documentation of the variability of sulphur isotopes in gold-related pyrites.

Research was undertaken between 1999 and 2002 by a team based at the Centre for Global Metallogeny at UWA. The team comprised Prof. David Groves, Dr. Derek Wyman (1999), Dr. Roberto Weinberg (2000-2002), and PhD students Peter van der Borgh and Paul Hodkiewicz. In this report, the main findings of the module are described. Most of the main findings have been reported in the six-monthly meetings with sponsors, and more detailed work will be provided to the sponsors upon completion of the two PhD theses.

Research involved detailing the structural evolution of major shear zones in the Kalgoorlie Terrane, seeking to understand the broader kinematic history of the terrane (*Sections 2.4 to 2.6 and 2.8*), and how their differences controlled gold mineralization and their contrasting gold endowments (*Section 2.7*). Research involved also characterizing structural complexity and

comparing that to gold distribution. Many GIS-based methods were experimented with, and the use of fractal dimensions as a means to quantify complexity was particularly successful (*Section 3.1*). The sulphur isotope value of pyrite has been suggested as an indicator of fluid oxidation state, and therefore fluid origin, with the potential to constrain the gold endowment of individual deposits. In an attempt to clarify its significance, $\delta^{34}S$ values of pyrites from a number of different deposits were determined and the results are discussed in *Section 3.2*.

The underlying approach taken stems from the recognition that to ultimately understand the origin of giant gold deposits and to progress from a purely empirical approach to a process-based approach in gold exploration it is necessary to integrate empirical data and process-oriented thinking and modelling. The highly endowed Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone was compared with less endowed shear zones in the Kalgoorlie Terrane, seeking to understand the role of deformation on mineralization, by detailing the relation between structural development and relative timing of gold mineralization. The results of this project contribute to a longer-term national cross-discipline effort to understand the tectonic setting and thermal evolution of the Kalgoorlie Terrane and Yilgarn Craton, one of the most endowed cratons worldwide. Despite very limited access to the Golden Mile deposit, it still remained the centre of attention throughout this module, as the ultimate exploration target.

The structural evolution of the Terrane was investigated across scales, starting from detailed descriptions of gold deposits and districts along shear zones, and then linking them along strike to determine shear zone history and the large-scale kinematic history of the Kalgoorlie Terrane and, with the help of aeromagnetic imagery, regional scale maps and literature descriptions, expand those conclusions to the entire Norseman-Wiluna Belt.

Finally, the results of a preliminary orogenic gold database are combined with results of ongoing GIS research to provide guidelines for distinction between giant to world-class gold provinces and deposits. These are presented in a format consistent with the five research questions that formed the basis for the GODs Project.

Structural Evolution and Gold in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt

Abstract

This section details the structural evolution and the timing of gold mineralization in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, by focusing on the Kalgoorlie Terrane and some of its regional shear zones. First, the constraints on the absolute timing of deformation are discussed (*Section 2.3*), followed by a detailed description of the structural evolution of regional shear zones, their role in the evolution of the belt and the relative timing of mineralization.

Establishing relative and absolute time frameworks for the sedimentary, magmatic, tectonic and gold mineralization events in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt of the Archean Yilgarn Craton of Western Australia has long been the main aim of research efforts. Recently published constraints on the timing of sedimentation and absolute granite ages have emphasized the shortcomings of the established rationale used for interpreting the timing of deformation events. In this section the assumptions underlying this rationale are scrutinized, and it is shown that they are the source of significant misinterpretations. A revised time chart for the deformation events of the belt is established where the regional events D_2-D_4 are given a significantly younger age, being broadly contemporaneous with gold mineralization. It is proposed that D_2-D_4 define a tectono-thermal event which includes late-stage low-Ca granitoid magmatism and gold mineralization. Together these characterize the late Archean Kalgoorlie Orogen (*Section 2.7*).

Studies of several gold camps along the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone revealed that it developed in two main stages (*Section 2.4*). The first stage was related to the regional D_2 deformation phase of NNW-SSE trending folding and thrusting. The second phase was related to the regional D_3 regional deformation phase was dominantly expressed by sinistral shearing along the shear zone, and reactivated the pre-existing NNW-SSE trending network of steepened thrust planes. Whereas regionally, the maximum shortening axis remained constant during the change from D_2 to D_3, locally there was a small clockwise rotation of this axis. Sinistral movement linked previously disconnected thrust planes along strike and accommodated relatively modest total displacement. D_4 is interpreted as a continuation of D_3 as the crust cooled, and deformation became partitioned to narrow brittle or semi-brittle planes. The changes from a crustal thickening D_2 event, characterized by intracrustal thrusting, creating an anastomosing NNW-striking

network of listric thrusts, to a lateral escape D_3 event, characterized by conjugate strike slip shear zones suggest that the crust may have reached its maximum sustainable thickness ending D_2.

The Zuleika Shear Zone is a NW-striking curved zone, separating the Coolgardie Domain from the Ora Banda Domain (*Section 2.5*). Its history is complex, with reverse, east-directed thrusting (D_2) dominating in the Kundana District, while sinistral movement (possibly D_3) dominates further north in the Ant Hill area. North- or NNE-striking shear zones and brittle faults cut across the main trend and localize gold mineralization at Kundana. Like at the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone, these are interpreted to have been initiated during D_3 (possibly even D_2) and reactivated in the brittle D_4 stage, giving rise to multiply brecciated quartz veins.

The Ida Shear Zone (*Section 2.5*) lies within a narrow deformation corridor of dominantly amphibolite facies greenstone rocks trending NNW. Lineation is dominantly gently plunging, but kinematic indicators are commonly ambiguous, although locally a dextral shear sense may be depicted. Lack of asymmetries and strong attenuation of the rock sequence plus intensive deformation suggest that this greenstone corridor underwent intensive flattening with a sub-horizontal NNW-SSE direction of extension and perpendicular shortening. The main trend of the deformation corridor deviates around a granite batholith, suggesting they reacted to the indentation of the granite during shortening.

Mineralization along the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone took place late in the tectonic history of the terrane, either during D_3 or during a D_4 brittle faulting event. Fimiston-style mineralization at the Golden Mile is an exception, not only because it is by far the most endowed but also because it most likely took place during early D_2 or even earlier. Similarly, where the timing of gold deposition was constrained along the Zuleika and Ida Shear Zones, mineralization took place after shearing, in brittle structures which cross-cut the foliation (e.g. Igoana and Kundana).

Comparison between rock sequences sheared at greenschist and amphibolite facies conditions (*Section 2.6*) suggest that at higher temperature, shearing is more homogeneous due to generalized rock viscous flow, while at lower temperatures competency contrast is enhanced, with phyllosilicate rich rocks flowing viscously while quartz and feldspar dominated rocks deform in a brittle fashion. This difference in behaviour leads to efficient fluid focusing in rocks at greenschist facies because strain localizes to lithological contacts and heterogeneous flow due to competence contrasts leads to zones of dilation, high permeability and gold mineralization.

Discussion surrounding the timing of gold mineralization is deeply linked with our incomplete understanding of the sources of mineralizing fluids. Thermal considerations suggest that the Kalgoorlie Terrane must have undergone two phases of metamorphism: the first, related to mafic-ultramafic magmatism and crustal extension and the second, related to subsequent crustal shortening. If fluids liberated by crustal metamorphism played a role in leaching and transporting gold, an argument can be made for the possible existence of two distinct phases of mineralization related to the phases of metamorphism.

2.1 Introduction

The Archean Yilgarn Block of Western Australia is one of the major gold provinces on Earth, with the Kalgoorlie Golden Mile and Mount Charlotte gold deposits alone having produced 1% of the world's total gold production. Most gold deposits in this Archean craton are structurally controlled and as such implies that understanding its structural evolution and the timing of gold mineralization are fundamental for improving our understanding of the processes of mineralization and for prospectivity.

Several major gold deposits in the Yilgarn Block, including the Golden Mile, lie in the immediate vicinity of major regional shear zones, such as the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone (Fig. 2.4.1). Understanding the relationship between shear zones and gold mineralization has therefore been the subject of major scientific and exploration efforts in the Yilgarn, yielding many important exploration models which are today applied worldwide. This section focus on the timing and character of the regional deformation, and the relative timing of gold mineralization, aiming specifically at three regional shear zones of contrasting gold endowment: the richest Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone, the Zuleika Shear Zone, and the poorest Ida Shear Zone. The approach was to detail deposit scale structural information and link that to regional scale structures as derived from geological maps and aeromagnetic imagery.

This section starts with a general review of the literature regarding both the regional structural development of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, as well as the timing of gold mineralization. This review is followed by a re-evaluation of the timing of deformation, and its relation to granite intrusion. Then the three major shear zones in the Kalgoorlie Terrane are described: the Boulder-Lefroy, Zuleika and Ida Shear Zones.

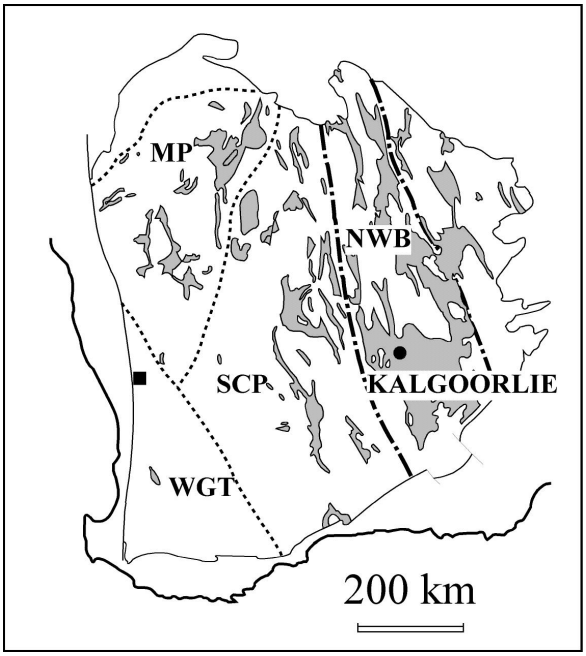


Fig. 2.1.1. The Yilgarn Craton and its main division: Western Gneiss Terrane (WGT); Southern Cross Terrane (SCP), Norseman-Wiluna Belt (NWB) which includes the Kalgoorlie Terrane and is part of the Eastern Goldfields Province.

2.2 Previous Studies

Deformation

In the literature, the deformation history of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt is generally divided into four main shortening phases, D_1-D_4 (e.g. Archibald et al. 1978; Platt 1978; Witt and Swager 1989; Swager et al. 1992; Swager 1997). D_1 comprises the earliest recognizable structures. In the region surrounding the BLSZ, D_1 is described as a major north-directed thrusting phase, recumbent folding and large-scale stratigraphic repetition (Archibald 1978; Martyn 1987; Vearncombe et al.1989; Witt and Swager 1989; Swager and Griffin 1990; Swager et al. 1992, Knight et al. 1993). Archibald (1978) distinguished two stages of subhorizontal deformation: a) stratigraphic stacking through thrusting; and b) isolated recumbent to inclined folds. Swager and Griffin (1990) described a south-over-north thrust duplex in the Kambalda domain, including several D_1 fault bounded horses separated by three major thrust planes, associated with large-scale recumbent folds, some of which have been folded during D_1 into vertical attitudes (e.g. the Kalgoorlie Anticline). Repetition of the mafic-ultramafic sequence has also been mapped around the margins of granite domes (e.g. Dunnsville Dome, Swager 1989; Widgiemooltha Dome, Griffin 1990).

A major change in the stress system took place at ca. 2655-2650 Ma (this volume) and initiated a second major shortening event, defining a late Archean orogen in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt. This orogen has been divided in the literature into three distinctive phases. The first event, known as D_2, is a crustal thickening event characterized by thrusting and folding, which gave rise to regional NNW-SSE trending fabric (Archibald 1978; Platt 1978; Witt and Swager 1989; Swager and Griffin. 1990). This phase was followed by D_3 and D_4, dominantly strike slip events, overprinting D_2 and associated with en-echelon N-trending folds (Witt and Swager 1989; Swager and Griffin. 1990). D_3- D_4 define a phase of lateral crustal extension (lateral escape) and the transition from D_2 to D_3- D_4 was most likely continuous, and a result of the crust having reached its maximum sustainable thickness during D_2.

The literature has focused mostly on the sinistral character of D_3, probably as a result of over-focusing on the major NW- and NNW-trending shear zones of the Kalgoorlie region (e.g. Boulder-Lefroy, Zuleika and Kunanaling Shear Zones; Langsford 1989; Hunter 1993). It is clear, however, that D_3 comprises also important N- and NNE-trending dextral shear zones, as

exemplified north of the Kalgoorlie by the Waroonga Shear Zone (Platt 1978; Hammond and Nisbet 1992) and the N-trending part of the Mt. George Shear Zone (Skwarnecki 1987), in contrast to its sinistral NNW-trending part (Williams et al.1989).

D_4, the last deformation phase, is subject of some disagreement and much misunderstanding. Some authors used the term to include allN- or NNE-trending dextral shear zones, neglecting the possibility of them being conjugate to the sinistral NNW-trending shear zones. Mueller et al. (1988) on the other hand suggested that deformation patterns in the Kalgoorlie area resulted from a dextral wrenching event, which overprinted an earlier sinistral wrenching (D_3). Ridley and Mengler (2000) used the term to define continued regional shortening leading a brittle reactivation of dextral D_3 NNE-SSW and N-S shear zones (Kalgoorlie District). A more general definition of D_4, and the one used here, is that it comprises a brittle and semi-brittle conjugate pair of faults: a dextral NNE-SSW and sinistral ESE-WNW. This pair developed as a result of the same straining as D_3 but in a cooler environment, where deformation is more strongly partitioned to well-defined planes. These faults are visible in aeromagnetic imagery in most areas, but are particularly well expressed in the more competent granite bodies.

Groves and Batt (1984) and Hallberg (1986) emphasized the importance of early extension in the evolution of the belt, since the accumulation of voluminous mafic-ultramafic volcanic rocks followed by felsic volcanoclastic and sedimentary rocks, must have taken place during an extension event. However, extensional related structures are less clearly defined than shortening phases. The difficulty lies partly in the overprinting by shortening structures, and partly in separating a regional phase of extension from local extensional structures developed during regional shortening phases. For example, Swager and Nelson (1997) suggested that the extension structures around the Eastern Gneiss Complex are due to doming during shortening, whereas Passchier (1994) interpreted the early extensional structures around the Raeside granite near Leonora to be a result of regional extension, unrelated to doming. Hammond and Nisbet (1992) determined movement direction on a number of shear zones and concluded that the earliest set of ductile shears records an extensional event, which Williams and Whitaker (1993) argued was contemporaneous with an early phase of gneiss and granite doming. There is general consensus that there was an extension phase before D_1, which Hammond and Nisbet (1992) labeled D_e (see Swager 1997). Williams and Currie (1993), based on the N-S trend of early

granite domes, suggested an east-west extension axis for this phase. Passchier (1994) suggested that early extension structures in the north could be contemporaneous to thrusting in the south.

Witt (1994) inferred an extensional collapse stage following D_1 thrust stacking. The results of a regional east-west, deep crustal seismic reflection profile north of Kalgoorlie have indicated the presence of a prominent subhorizontal reflector interpreted as a detachment underlying the greenstone sequence (Drummond et al. 1993; Goleby et al. 1993). Goleby et al. (1993) and Williams (1993) suggested that major east-west extension above the detachment resulted in truncation of greenstones and thrusts. This extension was interpreted to have taken place after D_1 thrusting but before D_2 shortening (see also Swager 1997). According to Swager (1997) this extension accounts for the clastic deposits in basins folded during D_2, such as the Kurrawang Sequence, at the core of the Kurrawang Syncline, and the Merougil Sequence. He estimated extension to have occurred at ca. 2675 Ma ago. This contrasts with the recent results of Krapez et al. (2000).

Krapez et al. (2000) studied the timing of deposition of a number of volcano-sedimentary sequences in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt and found a number of unconformities, indicating phases of uplift and erosion (shortening?), separating phases of subsidence. They found that the Kurrawang Sequence comprises a succession of quartzofeldspathic conglomerate, sandstone and mudrock representing high-density to low-density turbidites, deposited in a deep-marine environment. An erosional unconformity separates the Kurrawang Sequence from the underlying Kalgoorlie Sequence (formerly Black Flag Group). The deposition of the Kalgoorlie Sequence is divided into two tectonic stages with depositional ages of 2681-2670 Ma and 2661-2655 Ma (Fig. 2.3.1), as constrained by zircons ages (Krapez et al. 2000). These ages and the unconformity imply subaerial uplift and erosion of the Kalgoorlie Sequence followed by rapid drowning and deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence after 2655 Ma (Krapez et al. 2000). The deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence seems to require an important phase of subsidence after D_1. The late deposition of the Kalgoorlie and Kurrawang Sequences implies that earlier interpretations of the timing of deformation based on their early deposition must be reassessed.

The new results of Krapez et al. (2000) demand a careful scrutiny of the assumptions behind the established view of the timing of deformation. It is the purpose of *Section 2.3* to discuss the limitations of these assumptions, and to propose alternative interpretations and a new time chart for the structural evolution of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt.

Timing of Gold Mineralization

Detailed mine studies, and our own observations, suggest that gold mineralization generally took place late in the tectonic evolution of the craton, either during D_3 or D_4 (Mueller et al. 1988; Vearncombe et al. 1989; Clout et al. 1990; Groves et al. 1990; Ridley and Mengler 2000; Groves et al. 2000). This is supported by age determinations, which constrain mineralization to between ca. 2640-2625 Ma (e.g. Groves et al. 1995, 2000; Yeats et al. 1999).

There is, nevertheless, evidence that gold mineralization may have been more protracted, with a number of gold deposits in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt demonstrably multiply deformed and arguably deposited during early folding and thrusting events (e.g. Knight et al. 2000; Tower Hill deposit, Witt 2001; Mulgarrie, Davis in press). Most importantly, the Kalgoorlie gold District, the largest of them all, has had multiple mineralizing events (e.g. the Golden Mile and Mt. Charlotte deposits at Kalgoorlie, e.g. Clout et al. 1990; Kent and McDougall 1995; Ridley and Mengler 2000) suggesting a protracted mineralization history (Bateman et al. 2001).

During mineralization temperature remained very close to those recorded by peak mineral assemblages (e.g. McNaughton et al. 1990; Groves et al. 2000; Knight et al. 2000) so that gold-related wall-rock alteration assemblages vary systematically with metamorphic grade, and high temperature alteration generally occurring around granitoids (Witt 1991).

2.3. New Deformation Time Chart for the Norseman-Wiluna Belt

Summary

In this section a ***revised time chart*** for the deformation events of the belt is established, based on several lines of evidence, and supported by the results of Krapez et al. (2000). It is proposed that a tectono-thermal event defined by D_2-D_4 started at approximately 2650 Ma and ended at 2630 Ma (see also Davis 2002 in press). This event coincides with the third tectono-thermal event for the Yilgarn proposed by Smithies and Champion 1999), and includes relatively small volumes of the 2650-2630 Ma low-Ca and alkaline granites, as well as major gold mineralization.

The first shortening phase to affect the belt, D_1, was preceded by an extensional event D_{1e} and accompanied by a change from volcanic-dominated to plutonic-dominated magmatism at ca. 2685-2675. Later extension (D_{2e}) controlled deposition of the ≤ 2655 Ma Kurrawang Sequence and was followed by D_2, a major shortening event, which folded this sequence. D_2 must therefore have started after 2655 Ma - at least 20 Ma later than previously thought and later than the voluminous 2670-2655 Ma granite intrusion. Younger transcurrent deformation, D_3–D_4, waned at around 2630 Ma, suggesting that the crustal shortening deformation cycle D_2–D_4 lasted ca. 20 Ma, contemporaneous with low-volume 2650-2630 Ma low-Ca granites and alkaline intrusions. Time constraints on gold deposits suggest a late mineralization event between 2640-2630 Ma. Thus, D_2–D_4 deformation cycle and late felsic magmatism define a 20-30 Ma long tectono-thermal event, which culminated with gold mineralization.

The finding that D_2 folding took place after granite intrusion lead to research into the role of competent bodies during folding by means of numerical models. Results suggest that buoyancy-driven doming of pre-tectonic competent bodies trigger growth of antiforms, whereas non-buoyant, competent granite bodies trigger growth of synform. The conspicuous presence of pre-folding granites in the cores of anticlines may be a result from active buoyancy doming during folding.

Relative Timing of Granite Intrusion: the Established View

A large number of crystallization ages of felsic magmatic rocks of the Yilgarn Craton have been determined out over the last decade (e.g. Nelson 1997). Many granite gneisses previously interpreted as basement rocks have now been shown to be intrusive into the greenstone sequence (e.g. Swager and Nelson 1997). It has also been found that early granite intrusions in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt are contemporaneous with the youngest felsic volcanic rocks and were

intruded at ca. 2685-2675 Ma (e.g. Campbell and Hill 1988; Nelson 1997). The most voluminous intrusion occurred between 2675 and 2655 Ma (Nelson 1997). These absolute ages were used to constrain the timing of deformation by using Witt and Swager's (1989) tectonic/structural classification of granites of the Ora Banda-Coolgardie area (NNW and W of Kalgoorlie, respectively) (Table 2.3.1; e.g. Swager et al 1992; Nelson 1997; Witt and Davy 1997).

Witt and Swager (1989) defined a pre- to syn-D_2 group of granites characterized by ellipsoidal shapes at the cores of regional F_2 anticlines. These were followed by post-D_2 syn-D_3 granites, which form ovoid to circular bodies and display a well-defined, contact-parallel foliation. They occur as individual plutons or in clusters where single plutons are separated by narrow screens of poorly exposed greenstones (traced by their distinct aeromagnetic expression). In Witt and Swager's (1989) view, these plutons either pushed aside F_2 regional upright folds or were emplaced across them. They used the displaced axial trace of the Kurrawang Syncline in the vicinity of granites in the Siberia area as an example. Another example is the Bali Monzogranite, which was interpreted to displace and cross-cut an F_2 anticline (Witt and Swager 1989).

Several of these granites appear to be bounded by regional D_3 shear zones. Unlike F_2 folds, these shear zones are not locally deflected to any large extent by the granites and overprint contact foliation indicating that D_3 transcurrent faulting at least partly post-dated emplacement of these granites (Witt and Swager 1989). Late tectonic plutons (late- to post-D_3) are massive or only weakly sheared by D_3 shear zones and generally have ages ≤ 2640 Ma (Campbell and Hill 1988; Nelson 1997).

Assumptions. In order to understand the timing relationship between granite emplacement and structural evolution of the belt, and the origin of the discrepancies in the literature, it is necessary to fully explore the assumptions underlying Witt and Swager's (1989) rationale. These are: a) the degree of deformation of granites is related to the time of magma crystallization in relation to the time of deformation, e.g. weakly sheared granites are late-tectonic; b) pre- or syn-D_2 granites lie at the core of anticlines; and c) granite emplacement causes deviation of structures (e.g. folds) from their regional trend, i.e. granite post-dates structures. A fourth, more general assumption, often implicit in the literature, is that: d) the age of magma crystallization, as derived from SHRIMP zircon dating represents the age of granite emplacement. These assumptions are not necessarily incorrect, their problem is that they do not uniquely and tightly define the timing of granite intrusion in relation to deformation. Their use,

Table 2.3.1. Structural Evolution and Granite Intrusion Timing: the Established and New Views

Deformation Phases *compiled after Swager (1997), Witt and Swager (1997), Nelson (1997), Ridley and Mengler (2000)*	**Granite Intrusion** *after Witt and Swager (1997)* and *Smithies and Champion* (1999)	**This report**
	Late- to post-tectonic granites: 2650-2630 Ma, equidimensional, relatively small, unfoliated. Include alkaline igneous rocks (Smithies and Champion 1999)	
D_4 dextral shearing on NNE-SSW trending zones (Mueller et al. 1988, Ridley and Mengler 2000).		D_4 brittle dextral shearing Low-Ca granitoid intrusion throughout D_2-D_4
D_3 strike slip shear zones with both sinistral and dextral movement. Ca. **2663- 2632 Ma**	Post- D_2 syn- D_3 granites, deflect D_2 folds and are cut by D_3 shear zones	D_3 sinistral and dextral (conjugate) shearing waning at 2640±8 Ma (intrusion of Clarke Well Granite). Contemporaneous to and outlasting D_2.
D_2 upright macroscopic to regional-scale folds, associated axial planar fabrics reflecting penetrative ENE-WSW shortening. Local extension around granite domes. Ca. **2675-2657 Ma**	Pre- to syn- D_2 granites in cores of anticlines	D_2 shortening, syn- or late-deposition of the Kurrawang Seq. (**≤2655 Ma**). Folding and doming of granite bodies driven by granite buoyancy and regional stresses.
D_{2e} (Witt 1994; Swager 1997) east-west extension (Goleby et al. 1993)		D_{2e} follows D_1 at < **2672** to > **2655 Ma**, pre-dates Kurrawang Seq. Doming of Eastern Gneiss Complex and intrusion of voluminous granites.
D_1 low angle shear zones, thrusts and stratigraphic repetition, **≥2675 Ma** (Swager and Nelson 1997).		D_1 shortening starts at ca. **2683 Ma**, active to < **2672 Ma**. Unconformity between Spargoville Seq. and Kalgoorlie Seq.? (Krapez et al. 2000) Overlap between felsic volcanism and plutonism. Intrusion of 2675 Ma Eastern Gneissic Complex
D_e low-angle shear zones along granite-greenstone contacts, top-to-SSE movement sense, polydirectional extension (Hammond and Nisbet 1992, Passchier 1994)		D_{1e}

implicit or explicit, lies at the core of the discrepancies between absolute age of granites and their interpreted structural context. As previously published interpretations are interrogated below, a new time chart emerges.

Strain Intensity and Granite Age

The use of strain intensity recorded by granites to estimate the relative timing of granite intrusion - assumption (a) - is deeply rooted in the geological literature, despite numerous contributions outlining its pitfalls (e.g. Archibald et al. 1978; Paterson and Tobisch 1988). In the Yilgarn, early classification of granites was based on a combination of amount of strain combined with other structural characteristics (Archibald and Bettenay 1977) and has since permeated the literature. Champion and Sheraton (1997) avoided these pitfalls by using geochemistry to classify granite intrusions of the Leonora-Lenster area (Norseman-Wiluna Belt).

The strain intensity recorded by granites depends on a range of factors. Apart from the timing of intrusion relative to regional deformation, strain intensity depends also on deformation related to magma pressures (Paterson and Tobisch 1988; Weinberg and Podladchikov 1995), on the shape and size of the granite body, depth of emplacement, the location of the granite in relation to high strain zones in the country rock, as well as the competence contrast to country rocks. With the exception of coarse-grained pegmatites, narrow bodies such as granite dykes are relatively easily deformed. Large, ellipsoidal granite plutons surrounded by relatively incompetent rocks such as phyllosilicate-dominated rocks (Robin 1979; Wintsch et al. 1995) will behave rigidly and deflect deformation rather than record it. By contrast a similar pluton, at high temperature and surrounded by relatively competent amphibolites, may behave incompetently and deform during regional deformation. Furthermore, a cooling granite body may change from relatively incompetent to competent, and from recording deformation to deflecting it.

In the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, shear strain is partitioned to well-defined deformation corridors (e.g. the Bardoc and Zuleika-Kunanalling Shear Zones in Fig. 2 of Witt and Swager 1989) composed predominantly of phyllosilicate-rich greenschist facies rocks. These corridors deflect around large masses of granite suggesting a large-scale organization of deformation into corridors around the relatively competent granite cores.

The difficulty in relating strain intensity to time of magma intrusion is best exemplified in the Yilgarn by the Siberia Battery syenogranite (Nelson 1997). This body was interpreted by Witt and Swager (1989) as being post-D_3 because it is only weakly deformed where cut by D_3

shear zones. However, recent dating yielded a crystallization age of 2673±3 Ma for the syenogranite (Nelson 1997, sample 98256), making it contemporaneous to complexly deformed gneisses interpreted to be pre-D_2, such as the foliated Two Lids Soak granodiorite and the Barret Well orthogneiss (in Nelson 1997, samples 112153 and 112179, respectively). The differences in strain intensity could be simply due to emplacement depth or strain-rate partitioning across the belt (Davis et al. 2001).

Another key Yilgarn example is the weakly deformed 2640±8 Ma old Clarke Well monzogranite, which cross-cuts the Ida Fault. It was used to constrain the minimum age of D_3 movement on the fault (Nelson 1997), but just as the granite may have intruded after D_3, it may have intruded an inactive part of a wide fault zone.

Folding and Deflection: Timing of D_2

Assumption (b) above, that granites in the core of F_2 anticlines are pre- to syn-D_2, and (c), that deflection of regional trends is caused by granite emplacement, are both flawed. Whether pre, syn- or post-tectonic granites lie at the core of folds depends on the timing of deformation as well as on the mechanism of granite emplacement (Paterson and Tobisch 1988). Pre-tectonic rigid granites can control the sites of synclinal and anticlinal folds. Granites emplaced as diapirs may cause anticline growth contemporaneous to emplacement, conversely pre-existing or developing folds may control emplacement of granites as melt migrates to fold hinge zones (Allibone and Norris 1992; Davis 1993; Weinberg 1996).

The role of pre-existing granites during folding depends on the competence contrast to the country rocks and on the characteristic wavelength of the folds. Granites in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt have responded to deformation mainly as competent bodies. This is evidenced by strong shearing and shortening in the greenstones and at granite-greenstone contacts while granites away from the margins remained relatively weakly deformed. Granite dykes are commonly boudinaged, and importantly, regional structures are deflected around elliptical granite bodies, similar to the deflection of foliation around rigid porphyroblasts.

A competent granite body with a width much smaller than the wavelength of folds commonly fold with the entire package, while a competent body much wider than the fold wavelength, cause folds to develop on their margins, while the granite acts as a buttress. These folds wrap around the rigid body as a result of regional deformation and not as a result of magma emplacement efforts. Thus, contrary to assumption (c), early emplaced granites may cause

deflection of structures developed long after granite emplacement, (see also Paterson and Tobisch 1988). The role of granite bodies of sizes comparable to typical fold wavelengths of a rock sequence is explored below by means of numerical models ("*Numerical Models of Folding and Rigid Bodies*").

An illustrative example of the problems related to assumption (c) is the deflection of the F_2 Kurrawang Syncline, which includes the Kurrawang Sequence, from its NNW-SSE regional trend. Witt and Swager (1989) estimated a deflection of approximately 15 km, as it approaches the 2660±3 Snot Rocks monzogranite (Nelson 1997). Deflection was interpreted to have resulted from granite intrusion, implying that the 2660±3 Ma intrusion post-dated deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence and F_2 folding (Witt and Swager 1989; Nelson 1997). By contrast, the Split Rock granodiorite, which crops out at the core of the Scotia-Kanowna Dome, a regional F_2anticline 40 km SE of the Snot Rocks, was interpreted by Witt and Swager (1989) to be a pre- to syn-D_2 body. However, this pre- to syn-D$_2$ granite, when dated, yielded a crystallization age of 2657±5 Ma (Nelson 1997, sample 93901), within error to the crystallization age of the post-D_2 Snot Rocks monzogranite. So here are two contemporaneous granites, one interpreted as pre- to syn-D_2 and the other as post-D_2. Nelson (1997) rationalised this discrepancy by arguing that the Split Rock granodiorite must have intruded during the waning stages of D_2, and the Snot Rocks soon after the end of D_2.

Nelson's (1997) interpretation is not particularly satisfactory because it attempts to fit the results of dating into a flawed granite classification. There are other, equally valid alternative interpretations consistent with available information. One alternative is that the Snot Rocks monzogranite crystallization age does not represent emplacement age (assumption (d) above) and that solid granite moved vertically after crystallization driven by its buoyancy (diapirism), thereby causing bending of regional trends. In this case the time of folding is unconstrained by granite crystallization age. Another possibility is that the sequence was folded against a pre-existing granite buttress emplaced at ca. 2660 Ma. In this case both folding and sedimentation are younger than the granitic rocks, and like the Split Rock, the Snot Rocks monzogranite is not post-D_2 but either pre- or syn-D_2. This interpretation is considered here as more likely because it provides a straightforward explanation for the similar ages of the Snot Rocks and Split Rocks granites. Furthermore, it is fully consistent with the findings of (Krapez et al. 2000) that the Kurrawang Sequence is younger than 2655 Ma.

Relation between D_2 and D_3

Assumption (c) has implications beyond those discussed above. The view that granite emplacement is accompanied by deflection of surrounding rocks to accommodate volume increase has partly underlain the interpretation that sinistral shear zones must, in the main, postdate D_2 folding. This is because F_2 folds have apparently been deflected around granite bodies whereas many shear zones have not (Witt and Swager 1989). Like Swager et al. (1992), we note that N-S folds and NNW-SSE sinistral shear zones could develop simultaneously as a result of regional E-W shortening, where folding and shearing are partitioned (vorticity partitioning, see Passchier 1994). In this case, the different apparent behaviour of folds and shear zones may result from their different nature. Shear zones accommodate shortening by moving crustal blocks in relation to one another. If such a zone is deflected from its original orientation, it may stop moving and a new shear zone may develop with the original orientation. Evidence from shear zones cross-cutting folds suggests that movement on shear zones may have outlasted folding, but the different responses of shear zones and folds to the presence of granites are in themselves insufficient evidence to establish the relative timing of the two structural sets.

The timing of D_2 and D_3 as interpreted here is summarized in Fig. 2.3.1. It has been demonstrated that the Snot Rocks monzogranite does not constrain the minimum age of D_2. Rather, the discussion above suggests that it is likely that the Snot Rocks and Split Rocks were intruded pre- or syn-D_2 and that their presence, and not their emplacement, caused the deflection in the Kurrawang Syncline during D_2. In view of the findings of Krapez et al. (2000), it is suggested that folding (D_2) possibly associated with shear zones (normally assigned to the later phase D_3) started after 2655 Ma, post-dating the end of the deposition of the Kalgoorlie Sequence, and either contemporaneous with or post-dating the deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence.

There are no simple rules to assess the age of granites in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt based on structural relationships. Each granite body and its relationships to regional structures need to be understood individually. Having demonstrated that D_2 and D_3 most likely developed after 2655 Ma, and not before 2660 Ma as previously thought, it is now possible to reinterpret the timing of other events by working first backwards in time towards D_1.

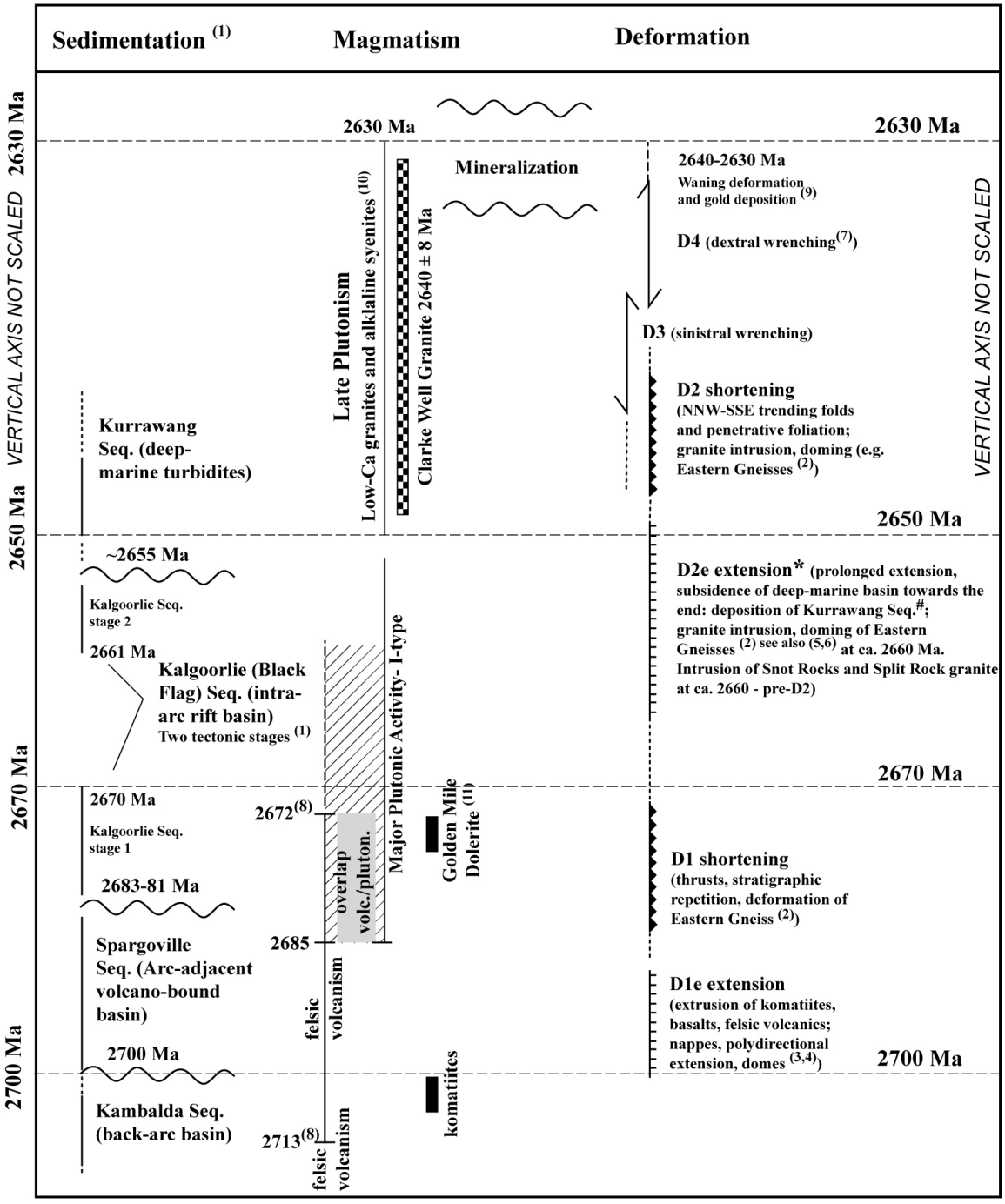
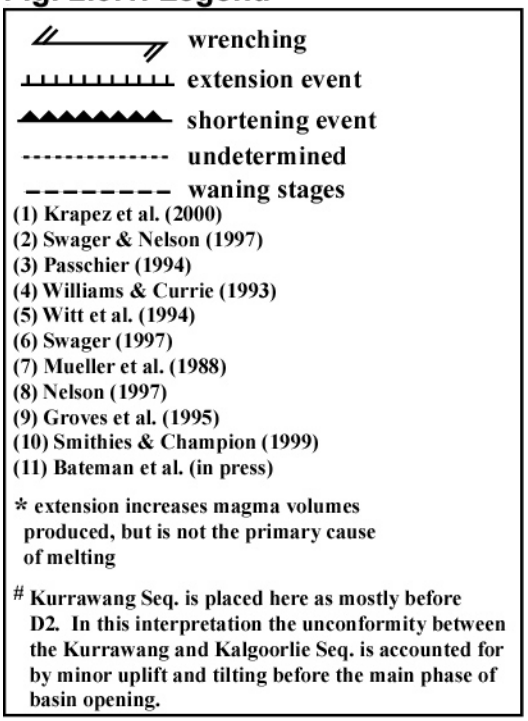


Fig. 2.3.1. Time chart summarizing sedimentation, magmatism and deformation of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt. Note that the vertical axis, corresponding to time evolution is not scaled for clarity. In contrast to previous interpretations, D_2-D_4 are all post-2655 Ma, since D_2 must have occurred after the initiation of sedimentation of the Kurrawang Sequence. This implies that most of the granite bodies were emplaced before D_3-D_4 transcurrent events.

Fig. 2.3.1. Legend



D_{2e}: the Pre-D_2 Extension Phase

The need for a prolonged subsidence phase before D_2 has already been discussed above in relation to the deposition of the deep-marine Kurrawang Sequence. Although subsidence may not necessarily be associated with extension, there is evidence for a phase of extension preceding D_2. This phase is here termed D_{2e} and it is suggested that granite doming could have occurred during this phase.

Eastern Granitic Gneiss Complex. Swager and Nelson (1997) determined that the Barret Well granite gneiss and the foliated Two Lids Soak granodiorite crystallized at ca. 2675 Ma. These foliated rocks are intruded by massive monzogranite plutons that cross-cut regional structures, such as the normal Pinjin Fault. Small sheets of monzogranite are also present along the fault plane. These are foliated and contain the same steep north-plunging mineral lineation with west-block down kinematic indicators as found along the fault. The Pinjin fault is interpreted as an extensional feature which accommodated the uplift of gneiss and monzogranite but is also intruded by the monzogranite magma (Swager and Nelson 1997). This younger monzogranite phase is presumed to be contemporaneous with the 2660 Ma intrusions of the Eastern Goldfields, and its deformation indicate that "some uplift, accommodated by normal fault movement, occurred during intrusion" (Swager and Nelson 1997). Because of the weak or absent foliation in the voluminous monzogranite plutons and their cross-cutting of the Pinjin Fault, the authors concluded that monzogranite intrusion at 2660 Ma dates the last stage of uplift of the granitic gneiss complex into the lower grade greenstone.

According to Swager and Nelson (1997), the evolution of the gneiss complex is characterized by three steps. The first step, deformation of the 2675 Ma gneisses occurred soon after their emplacement during D_1 and produced banding in zones of high strain. The uplift of this high-grade gneissic complex postdates early D_1 and was accompanied and/or followed by intrusion of the voluminous monzogranite. Because the 2660 Ma age assigned to the massive

monzogranite coincides with the established perception of the timing of D_2 shortening, the authors argue that doming took place in two further steps. First, an early dome developed during an extensional phase after D_1, this was then further uplifted during D_2 shortening and possibly driven by monzogranite intrusion, representing extensional structures developed during a shortening event.

The younger timing for D_2 deduced here (≤2655 Ma) implies that the 2660 Ma granites were not contemporaneous with D_2 shortening. The structural evolution of the Eastern Gneiss Complex may thus be simplified to a two-stage process: a) granite intrusion at 2675 Ma and deformation during D_1, followed by b) doming accompanied by the intrusion of monzogranites during an extensional phase at 2660 Ma, before D_2 shortening. Thus, rather than representing extensional structures during a shortening event, the Eastern Gneiss Complex define an extensional phase pre-dating D_2 shortening.

D_1 and D_{1e}

Moving further back in time, Krapez et al. (2000) constrained the unconformity marking the end of the Spargoville Sequence deposition and the start of the Kalgoorlie Sequence, to between 2683-2681 M based on zircon populations. This unconformity most likely represents an intrabasinal uplift (Krapez, pers. commun. 2000). It coincides temporally with the early intrusion of granites in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, between 2685 and 2675 Ma ago (Nelson 1997), as well as layered gabbro sills in the Kalgoorlie area (Mount Pleasant sill, U-Pb age 2687±5 Ma, Kent and McDougall 1995); Golden Mile Dolerite 2675±2 Ma (Bateman et al., in press). These early granites mark a change from predominantly extrusive magmatism to an extrusive-intrusive magmatic event. Time constraints on D_1 suggest that it was active after 2684 Ma (thrusting of the Bulong Anticline; Swager 1997), during or soon after the emplacement of the ca. 2675 Ma Eastern Granitic Gneiss Complex (Fig. 2.3.1; Swager and Nelson 1997) and before or during the intrusion of the 2674 ± 4 Ma felsic porphyry dyke, which crosscuts D_1 folds at Kalgoorlie (U-Pb age; Kent and McDougall 1995).

It was argued here that a subsidence phase, possibly associated with extension, D_{2e}, must have been active during deposition of the younger part of the Kalgoorlie Sequence and early Kurrawang Sequence. However, it is also known that D_1 must have been active during the deposition of the early part of the Kalgoorlie Sequence since the sequence is deformed and repeated by D_1 thrusts (Fig. 2.3.1; Archibald et al. 1981). Based on these independent

constraints, it is here proposed that the beginning of D_1 is marked by the initiation of plutonism at ca. 2685 Ma, and by the unconformity between the Spargoville and Kalgoorlie Sequences. D_1 was active during the deposition of the early part of the Kalgoorlie Sequence, which ended at ca. 2670 Ma, or alternatively there were two or more phases of D_1, bracketing the deposition of the early Kalgoorlie Sequence. This phase is responsible for early thrusting and possibly also nappe/slumping of the volcano-sedimentary sequence (Martyn 1987, Passchier 1994).

Numerical Models of Folding and Rigid Bodies

The close relationship between granites and regional folds warrants a more detailed study of the interaction between rigid-body granites and folding. Numerical models were designed to determine the role of pre-existing rigid bodies on folding of purely viscous, layered sequences. The rigid "pluton" width was similar to the typical fold wavelength of the sequence. The code used is detailed in the appendix. The Eastern Goldfields gross regional geology and seismic reflection profile reveals the geometry of antiforms cored by granites. Both pre- to syn-D_2 or post-D_2, granites have similar geometry (Swager et al. 1997; Swager 1997). They are imaged seismically as approximately rectangular massive bodies with vertical eastern and western margins, truncating gently dipping fold limbs, and a flat bottom below which greenstones are continuous (Fig. 2.3.2a).

The numerical models used a rectangular rigid body embedded in a horizontal layered sequence. The sequence may be shortened or extended by moving the right-hand side vertical wall (Fig. 2.3.2b). The model box width was three times its height for shortening models. The layer embedding the granite is overlain by material analogue to air (compressive and inviscid) and occupies half the height of the box for shortening models. The "granite" is embedded in a layer 100 times less viscous. This layer is underlain by a low viscosity layer at the base of the box (1000 times less viscous than the granite analogue). The narrow sub-layers in the embedding layer are competent, having the same viscosity as the granite. The "granite" was first modeled as having the same density as the country rocks (Fig. 2.3.3b), and made buoyant in later models (Fig. 2.3.3c).

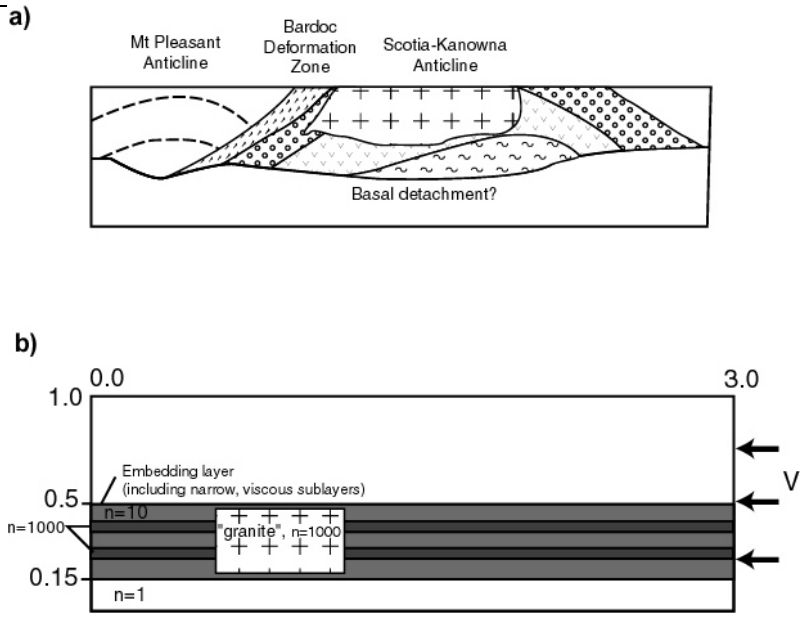


Fig. 2.3.2. a) Seismic interpretation of the shape of granite bodies and relation to country rocks (after Swager et al. 1997, Fig. 10); b) initial geometry and set-up of the numerical models. The model box has three wide layers: the bottom layer (viscosity n=1) accommodates the folding of the middle layer (n=10 and 1000), which embeds the rigid granite analogue, modelled as a high viscosity rectangle (n=1000).

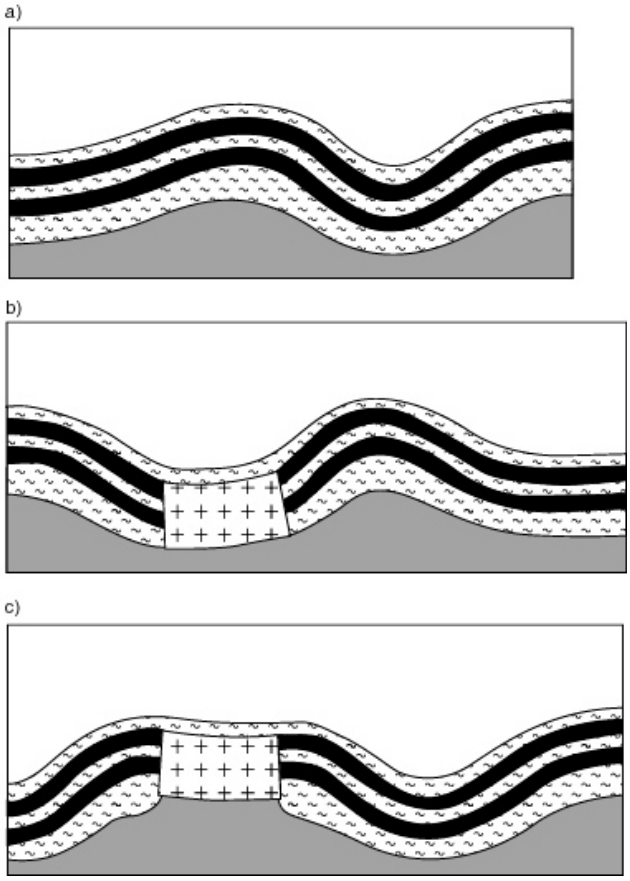


Fig. 2.3.3: Numerical models of folds developed in a layered sequence similar to Fig. 2.3.2. a) Folding of simple layers; b) "granite pluton" (rectangle) was placed at the position where the antiform developed in (a), and caused synclinal folding. In this case all materials have the same density. c) Same as (b) with the "granite" being less dense than the surrounding. Whereas in (b) the rigid rectangle trigged synclinal folding, buoyancy in (c) led to anticlinal folding. In this case, if shortening rate is increased, buoyancy-related doming will be dominated by the tendency of the rigid "granite" to trigger synclinal folding.

The role of a rigid body during shortening is depicted in Fig. 2.3.3. The pattern of folding caused by the presence of the two narrow competent layers alone is shown in Fig. 2.3.3a. Fold wavelength is controlled by the width and viscosity contrast of the folding layers. (In the absence

of the two narrow competent layers, layer shortening occurred without folding.) A rigid rectangle was introduced in Fig. 2.3.3b, in the position where the antiform formed in Fig. 2.3.3a. The rigid body, by inhibiting thickening of the embedding layer, triggered the down warping of the layer to form a synform where there was previously an antiform. Antiforms developed where the layer thickened, away from the granite. Figure 2.3.3c depicts the results where the rigid body was buoyant. In this example, the "granite" forms the core of an antiform because its buoyancy was sufficiently important to overpower its down warping into a synform. In the case of buoyant granites, whether a synform or an antiform develops depends on the relative velocities of shortening and buoyancy-driven doming. For the density contrast between granite and country rocks chosen for this calculation, the lateral shortening had to be reduced by an order of magnitude. Faster shortening inhibits doming and a synform develops. Folds in Fig. 2.3.3a attained the same amplitude as those in Figs. 2.3.3b, c only after considerably more shortening. This is because in the absence of the rigid "granite" shortening could more easily be taken up by homogeneous layer thickening.

The results are not particularly sensitive to the shape and size of the granite body. Runs with a narrower "granite" (height of 0.05 instead of 0.24 in Fig. 2.3.3) resulted in similar folding structures by slowing down shortening rate in order to match the slower deformation driven by smaller "granite" buoyancy. Only very small rigid bodies, in relation to the thickness of the embedding layer, will not play any major role during folding.

Summary and Implications. The results indicate that rigid granite bodies may trigger either growth of a synform or an antiform depending on the relative rates of shortening and buoyancy-driven doming. In nature, the presence of pre-deformation rigid plutons in the cores of antiforms commonly indicates that their buoyancy played an active part during folding. The results imply that, in the same orogen, low buoyancy granites determine the site of synformal folding, whereas large buoyancy plutons trigger antiform growth. The inverse is true for a low viscosity, dense, mass of ultramafic rock relatively localized (as opposed to an extensive, narrow layer): its low viscosity will speed up local layer shortening and antiform growth, whereas its high density may lead to the sinking of the region into a synform.

Discussion

The revised timing of events in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt is summarized in Fig. 2.3.1**.** As noted by Davis and Forde (1994) the effects of metamorphic grade, deformation partitioning,

diachroneity of deformation, successive deformations with common far-field stress directions, and the presence of pre-existing tectonic elements that influence the orientation of later formed ones, presents a formidable list of factors that must be considered when attempting to resolve the structural history of the belt. Here, only a few of these effects have been considered, and some, like diachroneity of deformation, have been left entirely out of the discussion due to lack of significant information.

There are a number of observations which suggest that D_1 was active at around 2675 Ma, and that it has deformed at least part of the Kalgoorlie Sequence. D_1 must therefore be at least partly contemporaneous with deposition of this sequence. In Fig. 2.3.1 the unconformity between the Spargoville and Kalgoorlie Sequences and the initiation of voluminous pluton emplacement are ascribed tentatively to a change in deformation marking the onset of D_1. This was followed by a period of extension, D_{2e}, the pre-D_2 extensional phase of Witt (1994) and Swager (1997). This phase is related to subsidence that may have controlled deposition of the late stage of the Kalgoorlie Sequence and the deep marine deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence. Extension also accounts for granite doming such as the Eastern Gneiss Complex. D_{2e} could arguably account for the extensional structures around Leonora (Williams and Currie 1993; Williams and Whitaker 1993), although Passchier (1994) suggested that extension could be either immediately before or contemporaneous with D_1 shortening in the Kalgoorlie area. Folding experiments described above indicate also that doming is not limited to extensional phases, and that buoyant granites could trigger the developments of doming antiforms during shortening phases. It is possible that granite doming occurred throughout the evolution of the belt.

The unconformity between the Kalgoorlie Sequence and the deep-marine basin sediments represented by the Kurrawang Sequence is not accounted for by any major shortening event (Fig. 2.3.1). Although D_2 could potentially be the cause of the Kalgoorlie/Kurrawang Sequences unconformity, it is unlikely that subsidence and a deep marine succession would be contemporaneous with the intensive folding and shortening that characterizes D_2. Thus, D_2 started after 2655 Ma either late or after sedimentation of the Kurrawang Sequence. It is most likely that the unconformity between the Kalgoorlie and Kurrawang Seqs. was a result of uplift and tilting related to changes in the extension regime.

Although the timing of D_2 is based on the late deposition of the Kurrawang Sequence determined by Krapez et al. (2000), the argument for a late D_2 (at least younger than 2660 Ma) stands independently. The argument is based on the contemporaneous intrusion of the ca. 2660

Ma Snot and Split Rocks (see above), and the role of granites in deflecting the Kurrawang Syncline during D_2 folding. The main conclusion reached here is that the bulk of deformation in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt ($D_2 - D_4$) took place between 2650-2630 Ma. This is broadly contemporaneous with gold mineralization and post-dates the main phase of granite intrusion.

Gold Mineralization, Metamorphism and Magmatism

Gold Mineralization. Age constraints of structurally controlled lode gold deposits in the Yilgarn Craton have recently been summarized by Yeats et al. (1999) and Groves et al. (2000). Timing of mineralization is generally regarded as late in the tectonic evolution of the granitoid-greenstone terrains, during D_3 or D_4 (Mueller et al. 1988; Vearncombe et al. 1989; Clout et al. 1990; Groves et al. 1990; Ridley; Groves et al. 2000; Mengler 2000). There are examples, however, where mineralization took place during D_2 (e.g. Knight et al. 2000). Direct dating of deposits and indirect constraints yielded gold deposition ages between ca. 2640-2625 Ma (e.g. Groves et al. 2000) supporting the view that mineralization is a late event. Groves et al. (2000) summarized the view held by several authors, that there has been a late Yilgarn-wide, gold mineralization event, between about 2660 and 2610 Ma with most voluminous and widespread deposition between 2640 and 2630 Ma. During this event metamorphic conditions (mostly temperature) remained very close to those recorded by peak mineral assemblages (McNaughton et al. 1990; Groves et al. 2000; Knight et al. 2000) so that gold-related wall-rock alteration assemblages vary systematically with metamorphic grade, with high temperature alteration and metamorphic assemblages occurring around granitoids (Witt 1991).

Thus, it seems that gold mineralization is closely related to the 2650-2630 Ma $D_2 - D_4$ deformation cycle, with pronounced mineralization concentrated towards the waning stages of the cycle.

Metamorphism. Considerations on the timing and heat source of regional metamorphism have lead to the alternative view that mineralization occurred diachronously across the belt. Bickle and Archibald (1984) studied the metamorphic reactions of a sample collected two kilometres away from the Widgiemooltha Dome. The sample records a temperature 530-560 ^{o}C at ~4 kbar. These conditions represent peak regional metamorphic conditions, independent from granite intrusion, and broadly coincide with regional conditions determined further north, near Coolgardie (Knight et al. 2000). Bickle and Archibald (1984) studied the reactions of another sample collected 700m away from the margin of the Pioneer Dome. The sample records nearly

isobaric heating from the regional conditions (560 ^{o}C at 4 kbar), to 600-650 ^{o}C. The high peak temperatures attained close to the granite are demonstrably related to granite magma emplacement (Bickle and Archibald 1984). The dissipation of heat carried by granite magmas within a few million years of their emplacement, lead (Bickle and Archibald 1984) to conclude that D_2-D_3 must have occurred soon after granite emplacement. However, the authors fail to describe the relationship between metamorphic minerals and structures, making it impossible to critically analyse this conclusion.

Mueller and McNaughton (2000) discussed in detail metamorphism in the Southern Cross area (west of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt), and though the ages in that area differ from those in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, the controls on metamorphism are probably similar. They concluded from their geochronology study that gold deposition did not occur during peak metamorphism, as previously thought, but 150 Ma later at ca. 2620 Ma. They suggested that granite-centred metamorphic aureoles are related to granite magma emplacement, but due to different granite ages, peak temperatures in different aureoles were diachronous. The multi-pulse nature of the Ghooli Dome in the Southern Cross, where younger plutons intruded the core of the dome suggests that metamorphism could have been a protracted event, but as argued by Mueller and McNaughton (2000) regional temperature could have decreased to 400 ^{o}C in between major magmatic events. Mueller and McNaughton (2000) exemplify the difficulties in deriving the relative timing between gold mineralization and peak metamorphism from field and petrographic relationships.

There are few direct dating of metamorphism in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt. Works such as those by Bickle and Archibald (1984) and Mueller and McNaughton (2000) imply that although peak temperatures in granite contact aureoles are controlled by granite intrusions, temperature conditions away from granite margins are controlled by far field heat sources, independent of exposed granites. Regional thermal conditions away from granite margins are controlled by the total heat flux into the crust, crustal heat production and intracrustal magma and heat migration. The long magmatic and tectonic history of both the Southern Cross area and the Norseman-Wiluna Belt suggests that temperatures fluctuated over time, producing long-lasting and fluctuating low pressure-high temperature conditions through the middle and upper crust. The prevalent view that voluminous magmatism at 2660 Ma is responsible for regional metamorphism disregards the complex evolution of the belt, and must be proven rather than assumed.

Although high temperature (>600 ^{o}C), narrow aureoles at the margins of granite domes are most likely related to magma cooling, wider and lower temperature contact aureoles may have alternative origins. One possibility is differential vertical uplift centred at buoyant granites and exhuming deeper and hotter rocks. Bickle and Archibald (1984) concluded that this was probably not the case for the Pioneer and Widgiemooltha Domes (isobaric heating), but this could nevertheless be the case for other domes across the belt. Another possibility is that high temperatures result from fluid flow and heat advection along the strained granite margins. A final possibility is that the aureole results from a combination of higher granite conductivity and heat production, compared to greenstones. As illustrated by the Sybella Batholith in Mount Isa (McLaren et al. 1999; see also Sandiford and Hand 1998), a granite body a few kilometres deep with high heat production and blanketed by low conductivity rocks may be a long-term heat source capable of imposing considerable long-term temperature perturbation on their surrounding.

Calculations using the values of conductivity for greenstones and quartz-porphyry (assumed to be similar to that of granites) measured in Norseman (Howard and Sass 1964), and the average content of heat producing elements of the Bali Suite (granites near Coolgardie; Witt and Davy 1997), indicate that the long term horizontal thermal gradient around granites of vertical thickness of a few kilometers, is relatively weak (20-30 ^{o}C decay over 35 km) and can not account for an observable thermal aureole (Mike Sandiford, personal communication 2000). These experiments suggest that a large proportion of the temperature difference between rocks near Coolgardie and rocks near Kalgoorlie (250-300 ^{o}C at ~2 kbar) is related to the different burial depths and regional geothermal gradient and not to horizontal gradients imposed by different rates of heat production. It is important to point out that even a relatively small long-term, long-distance lateral temperature difference could be an important factor in controlling horizontal hydrothermal flow across the belt. (Average values used were U= 4 ppm, Th = 22 ppm and K_2O=4.2 % taken from Witt and Davy (1997) for the Bali Suite and excluding one anomalously high U sample. This suite includes several granites emplaced in a zone of amphibolite facies metamorphism around Coolgardie, including the Widgiemooltha granite. Heat production of Bali Suite granites would have been a reasonably high 5-6 μW/ m^3 at 2.7 Ga, approximately double the heat production at present time. Low mantle heat flux into the base of the crust was used in the calculation.)

In view of the above results, it seems unlikely that aureoles in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt result from granite radioactive heat production and high conductivity. This supports the view held by several authors that the granite-centered isograds results from voluminous intrusion (e.g. Witt 1991). However, the other two possibilities to explain the aureoles (heat advection by fluid flow or differential exhumation around domes) remain viable alternatives.

Dating of high temperature gold mineralization on the grounds of their temperature being directly related to granite intrusion (e.g. Witt 1991; Knight et al. 2000) has to be tempered with the results presented by Mueller and McNaughton (2000) illustrating how difficult and misleading it can be to interpret the relative time of gold deposition in relation to peak metamorphism.

In summary, at present there is insufficient reliable information to understand the pattern and timing of peak metamorphism across the belt. There are difficulties in establishing the timing of metamorphism in relation to deformation phases and gold deposition, and there are few reliable ages of peak metamorphism in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt. It is clear, however, that granite intrusion produces a narrow high temperature aureole in its surroundings. Because of the variety of granite ages the aureoles are diachronous across the belt. There are also other processes that could give rise to the wider, lower temperature contact aureole, though calculations suggest that lateral thermal gradient caused by heat production and conductivity differences may be neglected. Timing of peak metamorphism away from the aureoles cannot be equated with the time of most voluminous magmatism, since it depends on the entire tectono-thermal evolution of the belt.

Magmatism and Deformation. Figure 2.3.4 summarizes the relationship between magma intrusion and deformation phase. Early granites (>2672 Ma) were intruded during shortening associated with D_1, as demonstrated by Swager and Nelson (1997). Different from previous authors, Krapez et al. (2000) suggested that the most voluminous intrusive phase, comprising plutons crystallized between 2670 and 2655 Ma, were emplaced during D_{2e} extension. Relatively small volumes of 2650-2630 Ma low-Ca granites and alkaline granites are exposed (Smithies and Champion 1999) and were intruded during the D_2–D_4 deformation cycle. The alkaline granites have an A-type affinity, but as pointed out by these authors, their anorogenic tectonic setting cannot be inferred from their chemistry.

The Clarke Well granite, emplaced within rocks deformed by the Ida Fault zone, is only weakly deformed. If it can be assumed that its deformation is related to the waning stages of regional deformation (Nelson 1997), an improvement of the error bar on its 2640± 8 Ma zircon (magma crystallization) age is required, since the present error bar covers most of the duration of the D_2-D_4 deformation cycle (Fig. 2.3.1).

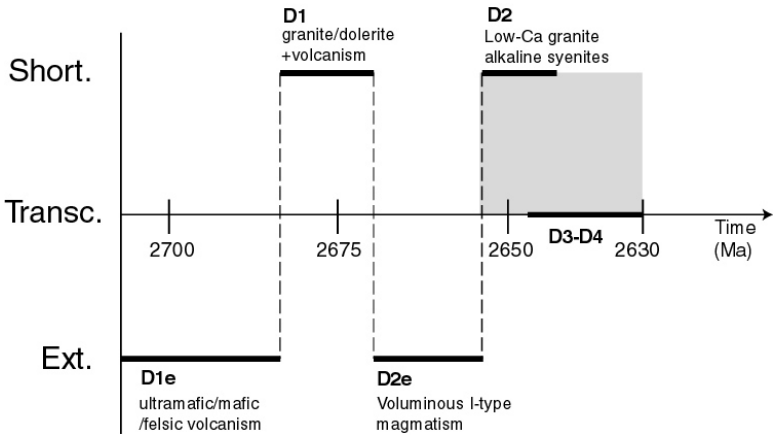


Fig. 2.3.4. Summarizing plot of the relationship between magmatism and inferred phase of deformation.

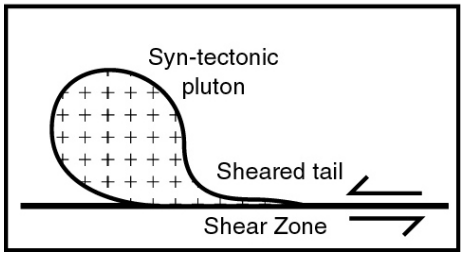


Fig. 2.3.5. Typical pluton shapes of regions where magma emplacement was contemporaneous to transcurrent shearing.

The conclusion that the voluminous granite intrusions are pre-D_3, the transcurrent phase of deformation, is borne out also by the general shape of granite bodies throughout the belt. Even though shapes alone can not be used as indicators of timing in relation to deformation, the typically elliptical or spherical shape of plutons of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt (Witt and Swager 1989; see also maps in Hallberg 1986; Hammond and Nisbet 1992, Williams and Whitaker 1993; Swager and Nelson 1997; Witt and Davy 1997), are in stark contrast to shapes of granites intruded during transcurrent deformation. These are typically molded by active shear zones: plutons may grow within the shear zone as a complex of sheared sheets (Main Donegal granite; Hutton 1982); they may link two or more shear zones and exhibit magmatic foliation related to regional shearing (e.g. the Mortagne pluton Britanny, Guineberteau et al. 1987; and plutons of the

Borborema Province, Brazil, Neves et al. 1996; Jardim de Sá et al. 1999); or more characteristically, they may form elliptical plutons with sheared tails within shear zones (Fig. 2.3.5; the Ardara pluton, Pitcher and Berger 1972; plutons of the Borborema Province, Neves et al. 1996).

Third Tectono-thermal Event: the Late Archean Kalgoorlie Orogen

Smithies and Champion (1999) defined three tectono-thermal events in the Eastern Goldfields. The first one was marked by a major thermal anomaly at ca. 2705 Ma and the extrusion of komatiites and felsic volcanic rocks. The second event was marked by the main phase of regional magmatism, which according to them, started at c a. 2690 and peaked between 2670 and 2655 Ma. The third event spans the period between ca. 2650 and 2630 Ma, and is characterized by the intrusion of low-Ca granites and alkaline granites, and gold mineralization. Smithies and Champion (1999) argued, based on Kent et al. (1996), Qiu (1997) and Ridley (1993), that despite small exposures, these late granites may be voluminous at depth, as observed in more deeply eroded terranes of the Yilgarn Craton (e.g. Southern Cross and Murchison Terranes). Kent et al. (1996) related gold mineralization at 2640-2620 Ma and this late felsic magmatism to a period of lower-middle crustal reworking between 2650-2630 Ma, involving anatexis and granulite to amphibolite facies metamorphism (see also Ridley 1993).

This work changes the character of the third tectono-thermal event proposed by Smithies and Champion (1999). Rather than being characterized by extension and possibly driven by lithospheric delamination (Smithies and Champion 1999), this event is characterized by a shortening cycle ($D_2 - D_4$) defining what we term the late Archean Kalgoorlie Orogen. Gold mineralization may have taken place above contemporaneous and voluminous magma intrusion at depth. The requirement of higher temperatures to produce A-type magmas (ca. 850-950 ^{o}C; Clemens et al. 1986) indicates that temperatures underneath the Norseman-Wiluna Belt may have risen after the end of the earlier and voluminous I-type magmatic event (Smithies and Champion 1999). This could be a result of crustal thickening during D_2 thrusting and folding combined with the previous extraction of I-type melts, leaving a restitic lower crust (Clemens et al. 1986).

Conclusions

The new time constraints provided by the work of Krapez et al. (2000) and the scrutiny of implicit and explicit assumptions underlying earlier interpretations, have provided the basis for reinterpreting the timing of structural events in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt and for producing a self-consistent time chart. The main results presented here are:

a) The onset of voluminous plutonism at ca. 2685 Ma, marks the onset of D_1 shortening after a period dominated by extension associated with volcanism (D_{1e}). This change accounts for the contemporaneous unconformity between the Spargoville and the early stage of Kalgoorlie Sequences (Krapez et al. 2000).

b) D_{2e} is an extension event cotemporaneous to subsidence and deposition of the late stage of the Kalgoorlie Sequence and the Kurrawang Sequence.

c) Doming of low-density granite masses may have occurred during D_{1e} (the Raeside Batholith; Williams and Whitaker 1993, Passchier 1994) or D_{2e} (the Eastern Gneiss Complex). Doming may also have occurred during shortening phases driven by granite buoyancy and leading to antiform growth.

d) Pre-existing buoyant masses of rigid granite bodies trigger the nucleation and growth of antiforms.

e) D_2 is younger than previously thought (≤ 2655 Ma) and shear zones, normally ascribed to D_3, may have been contemporaneous with and outlasted D_2 (vorticity partitioning). The D_2-D_4 deformation cycle took place between ca. 2650 - 2630 Ma after, and not during earlier, voluminous granite intrusion.

g) Intrusion of low-Ca and alkaline granites, D_2-D_4 crustal shortening cycle, and gold mineralization, define the third tectono-thermal event between 2650-2630 Ma. Shortening proposed here contrasts with the previous suggestion that this event was related with extension and possibly lithospheric delamintation (Smithies and Champion 1999). Magmatism during this phase could be result of crustal thickening during D_2 leading to renewed melting.

The new time chart proposed here is consistent with the timing of sedimentation, as well as structural and magmatic events.

2.4. Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone: Kinematic History and Gold Mineralization

Summary

Large gold mineralizations are concentrated along the immediate surroundings of the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone. Whereas a number of published and unpublished work detail parts of this shear zone, there is no recent published work systematically covering the structural information and controls on gold mineralization along its length. This section brings together literature descriptions and structural data from its different mining districts, in order to determine the structural evolution of the shear zone and its relation to gold mineralization.

Introduction

The NNW-trending BLSZ is a major shear zone, over 200 km in length, located within the greenstone sequence of the Kalgoorlie Terrane (Fig. 2.4.1), in the southern part of the 600-km long Norseman-Wiluna belt, one of four provinces of the Yilgarn (Gee 1979). This belt is characterized by abundant tholeiites and komatiites, overlain by felsic volcanic and sedimentary rocks, and intruded by granitic rocks, and the broad stratigraphy is constant across the terrane, and its main rock packages, as well as their different names are summarized in Table 2.4.1. The shear zone can be traced from Paddington, north of Kalgoorlie, to south of Kambalda (e.g. Gemuts and Theron 1975; Griffin 1990). Whereas its main trend is parallel to the main regional fabric, its main trace is relatively poorly defined because it is split into a number of strands and splays (e.g. Griffin 1990, and maps in Keats 1987). Many authors separate the Boulder, to the north, from the Lefroy Shear Zone to the south.

A wide range of movement senses have been reported in the literature, suggesting either a complex evolution or incomplete information. Swager (1989) interpreted the BLSZ as a major sinistral wrench structure. This is clear from both the apparent 12 km movement recorded by displacement of the Triumph-Mount Goddard gabbro near New Celebration (Langsford 1989), and N-trending en-echelon folds around the shear zone, and the sigmoidal, en-echelon distribution of N-trending dextral shear zones in the Kalgoorlie District. An important reverse sense of shear (discussed in detail below) has also been interpreted from seismic lines (Goleby et al. 2000) and confirmed by field observation (Copeland 1998; Boulter et al. 1987, Ridley and Mengler 2000). Other authors recognized oblique-sinistral movement (e.g. Swager 1989, 1991,

Swager et al. 1990 a, b, Witt 1990; see p. 1627 in Nguyen et al. 1998), as well as dextral (Mueller et al. 1988).

The shear zone and its immediate surroundings host four major gold districts with more than 100 t of total gold each. From north to south these are: Paddington, Kalgoorlie, New Celebration and Kambalda Districts. North of Paddington, the BLSZ merges with the Boorara Shear Zone, to form the Bardoc Tectonic Zone, where gold endowment of major districts are generally one order of magnitude less endowed than those along the BLSZ.

A major difficulty for research along the BLSZ is the very poor regional exposure, and consequent bias of geological descriptions towards open pits and underground mines. Because of the temporary nature of mines, many of the exposures described in the literature are commonly no longer available so that it is not always possible to confirm or expand on earlier studies.

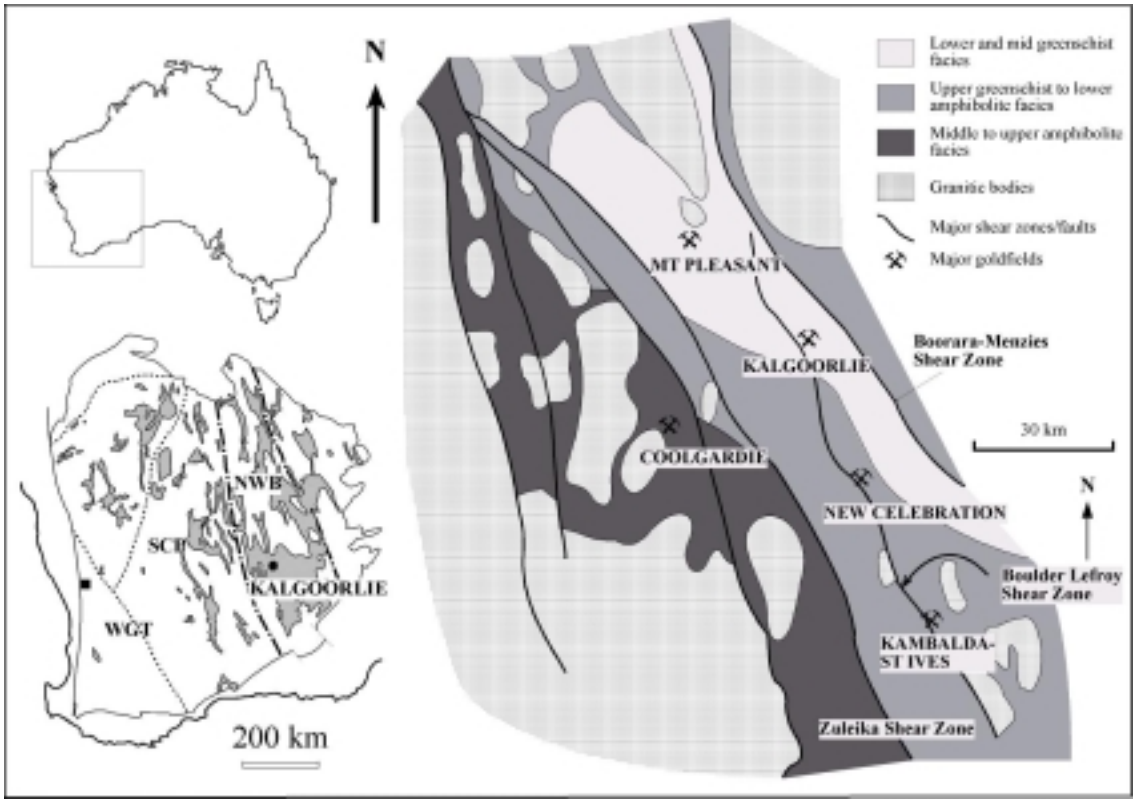


Fig. 2.4.1. Schematic map of the Kalgoorlie Terrane, depicting the main granite bodies, the greenstone belt where the grey tones indicate recorded metamorphic facies, the major shear zones and the main gold camps. Three important gold camps lie in the immediate vicinity of the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone. Inserts show the Yilgarn Craton where the Norseman-Wiluna Belt (NWB), which includes the Kalgoorlie Terrane, is a NNW-ESE trending belt bounded by the two thick dashed lines (redrawn from Phillips et al. 1996).

This section starts with a study of the pattern of gold distribution along the immediate surrounding of the shear zone. It then describes the structural evolution of the three major mining districts along the BLSZ: a) the Kalgoorlie District, in the north; b) the New Celebration District in the center; and c) the Kambalda-Saint Ives District in the south. For each of these districts, the literature is reviewed first followed by our own observations and interpretations. The literature review carried out here is in no way complete, and a large number of company reports include detailed work which we either did not have access to, or if we did, must remain confidential.

Gold Distribution

The distribution of gold along the BLSZ from Paddington to the north to SIG to the south is highly heterogeneous. Gold peaks corresponding to mining districts are followed by regions of very low gold endowment (Fig. 2.4.2). The regular spacing of the districts, and their systematic relation to gold-poor zones along shear zone strike suggest a systematic control on mineralization of some crustal scale process such as convection.

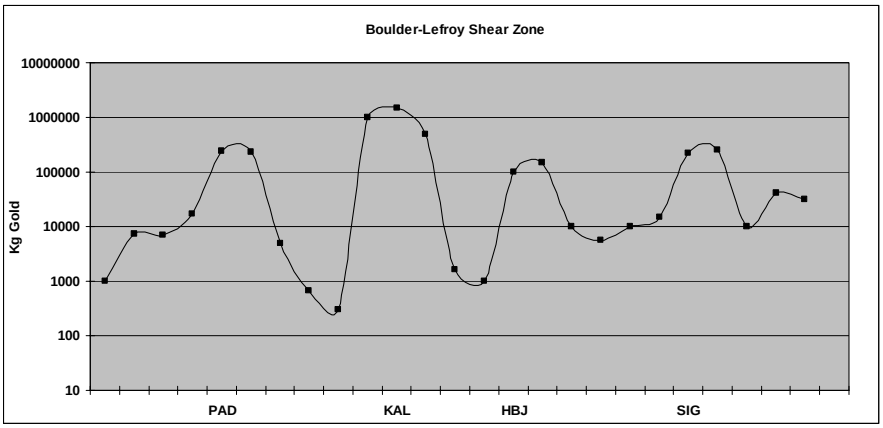


Fig. 2.4.2. Gold endowment (log-scale) along the BLSZ plotted from Paddington in the north to SIG in the south. Endowment includes all gold produced and reserves in a buffer zone of 5 km on either side of the shear zone. Gold peaks occur at regular intervals of approximately 35±5 km. Each peak is followed by very significant gold troughs. The Golden Mile forms the highest peak is followed both to the north and south by the lowest troughs along the length of the shear zone.

We start our descriptions by the New Celebration District located in the central part of the shear zone because it is the most illustrative of our findings. We will then go on to describe the structural development of the Kalgoorlie District to the north and the Kambalda District to the south.

New Celebration District

This area, also known as Hampton-Boulder-White Hope District, was described by Griffin (1990) and by detailed studies carried out by mining companies (e.g. Langsford 1989) (Fig. 2.4.3). The greenstone sequence in the district is interpreted as having the same stratigraphy as the Kambalda sequence to the south and the Kalgoorlie sequence to the north (Table 2.4.1; Griffin 1990). The size and geometry of the main geological structure at New Celebration and Kalgoorlie Districts are strikingly similar. Similarly large folds, the Celebration and the Boomerang Anticlines, characterize both districts respectively, comprised essentially of similar rock types, including similar areas of differentiated intrusive dolerites. Furthermore, in both areas the BLSZ truncates the folds (compare Figs. 2.4.3 and 2.4.12).

Despite similarities, gold endowment and mineralization siting differ considerably between the two districts. Gold endowment at New Celebration, at more than 100 t is one order of magnitude less than the 1800 t total gold in the Kalgoorlie District. By contrast to other districts, the deposits at New Celebration (Hampton-Boulder, Jubilee, Celebration, Triumph, Pernatty), tend to occur within or immediately adjacent to the BLSZ (Copeland and al. 1998; Norris 1990). The largest deposit in the district, and the main focus of this section, is the Hampton-Boulder-Jubilee, sited at the margins of a thick porphyry emplaced within the shear zone (e.g. Griffin 1990).

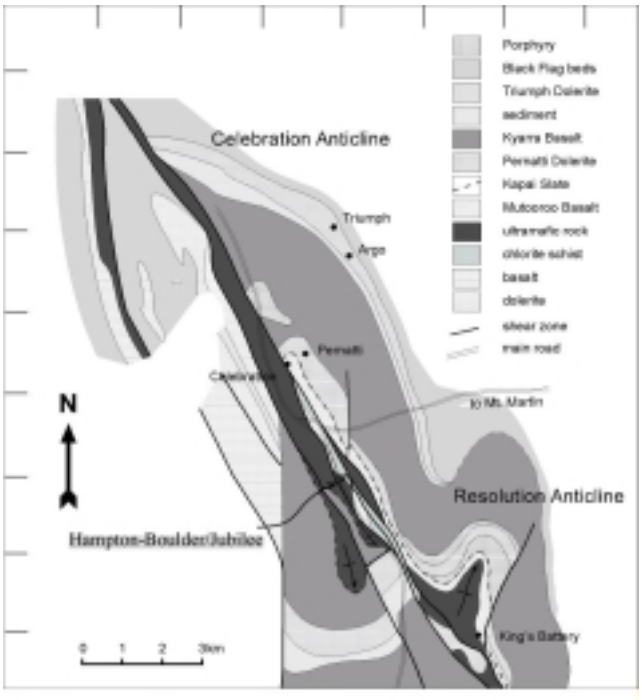


Fig. 2.4.3. Geological map of the New Celebration District. The Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee mines and the area around King's Battery are discussed in the text. The Celebration and Resolution Anticlines are depicted. Maximum displacement on this part of the BLSZ has been determined by the apparent displacement of the Triumph gabbro (south part of the map). Redrawn from Swager (1989).

Previous Studies. Hampton-Boulder and Jubilee form a contiguous open pit and are part of the same ore body and together have produced 45 t of Au and have 78 t remaining (above 0.5 g/t; S. Devlin 2001, pers. commun.). The main feature of these deposits is that they lie along the regional trace of the BLSZ (Norris 1990; Williams 1994; Copeland and al. 1998; Dielemans 2000), at the contact between schistose country rocks and a boudinaged granitic dyke (Fig. 2.4.4).

Mylonitic rocks exposed in the open-pits illustrate the kinematic development of the BLSZ. Intense shearing is up to 100 m wide, dipping steeply west, consisting of chlorite schists enclosing boudins and lenses of felsic granite dykes (Norris 1987). Mineralization is controlled by a boudinaged quartz-feldspar porphyry granite, more than 1 km long and up to 80 m wide, which dips steeply west and separates a mafic hanging wall from an ultramafic footwall (see Copeland 1998 for detailed description of the stratigraphy at Jubilee). Major mineralization is related to stockworks of quartz-carbonate-pyrite veinlets along both contacts of the fractured porphyry, producing a series of tabular, steeply west-dipping ore zones. Ultramafic schists and porphyry intrusions occupy the central part of the mineralization and contain the main trend of the BLSZ (Griffin 1990).

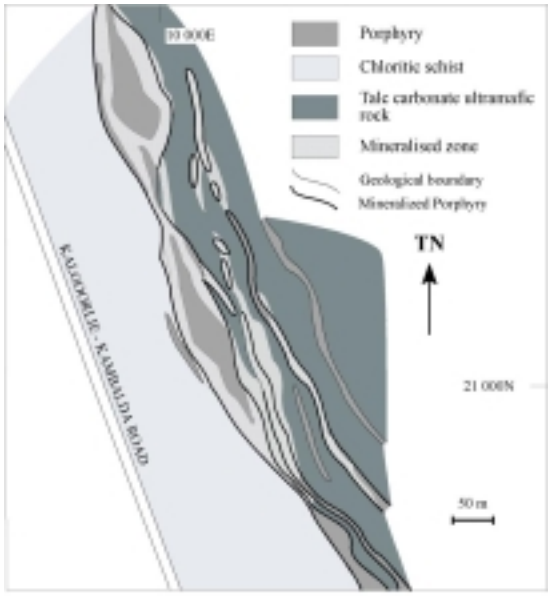


Fig. 2.4.4. The boudinaged, wide porphyry hosting the mineralization at Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee, as well as other mineralized porphyries in the area. Redrawn from Norris (1990).

Structural descriptions of these two pits have been carried out by a number of authors. Mueller et al. (1988) described the structures at Hampton-Boulder where pods of schist preserve

kinematic indicators showing sinistral sense, wrapped by an anastomosing shear fabric containing dextral sense kinematic indicators and mineral lineation plunging 20 SSE. This dextral sense was not further confirmed in our study. Detailed description of the structures in the underground workings at the *Southern Ore Zone (SOZ)* at Hampton-Boulder was carried out by Williams (1994) and Dielemans (2000). To the south, at Jubilee, a general structural description is given in Copeland (1998).

The most detailed structural study of the Hampton-Boulder focused on the Southern Ore Zone, SOZ (Dielemans 2000), a very rich ore zone at the southern end of Hampton-Boulder studied in detail by Dielemans (2000). He described a penetrative mylonitic foliation, which transposed original rock contacts and strikes on average N40W/ 82W. He noticed a gradual change in foliation orientation from northwesterly at SOZ (and Jubilee to the south), to nearly northerly in the northern end of the Hampton-Boulder pit, accompanied by a gradual rotation in orientation of the main porphyry boudins. This penetrative foliation is overprinted by what Dielemans (2000) described as anastomosing shear planes, with glistening surfaces, spaced >10 cm, and striking between N40W and N-S and dipping 70-90W.

A wide number of lineation types were determined by Dielemans (2000). These may be divided into three main groups: a) boudin axes commonly plunging gently south; b) a gently to moderately SE-plunging mineral and stretching lineation; and c) a steeply NW-plunging lineation (crenulation, mineral and stretching lineations).

The lack of kinematic indicators, suggested to Dielemans (2000) that straining must have been intense and destroyed all asymmetries. In the absence of indicators, he assumes that sinistral movement dominated (observed elsewhere, e.g. Langsford 1989) and interpreted the SE-plunging lineation (b) as the movement direction, and the almost perpendicular, steep NW-plunging crenulation lineation to represent the intermediate stress axis. He argued correctly that variations in lineation plunge are due to strain heterogeneities resulting from local anisotropies. A key finding in Dielemans (2000) was that of carbonate fibres growing perpendicular to pyrite grain margins in the ore, and parallel to the SE-plunging lineation (b), indicating that pyrite deposition, and possibly gold, took place either during of before the development of that lineation.

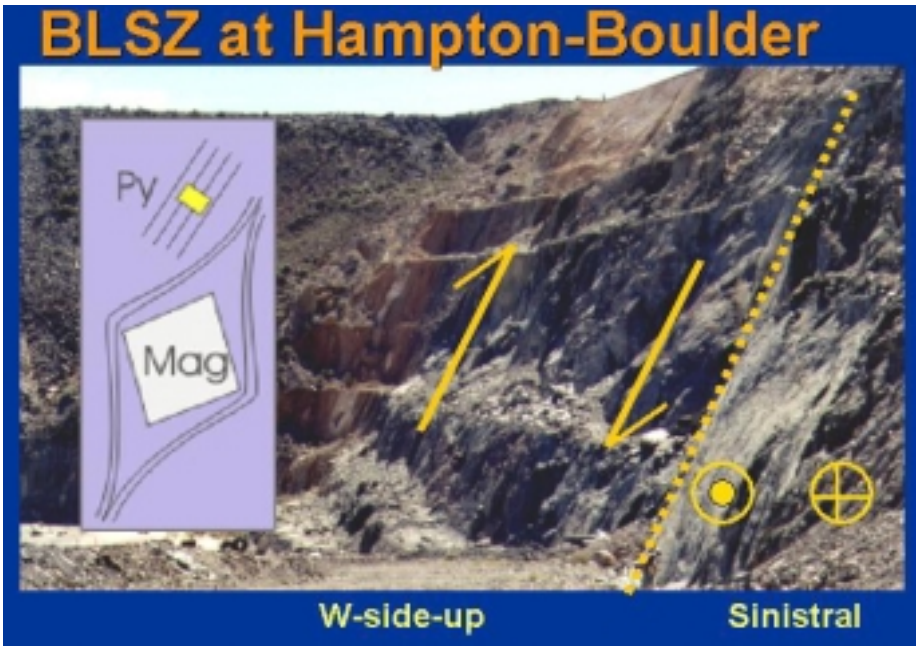
At Jubilee, like Hampton-Boulder, mineralization is centered upon a series of semi-concordant felsic porphyry dikes within the BLSZ dipping at around 85W (Copeland 1998). Gold grade in felsic porphyries is generally less than intermediate porphyries, where the highest grades are found. Dolerites are also mineralized. The main orebody at Jubilee has a strike length

of 800 m and an average width of approximately 40 m (Copeland 1998). Mineralization is controlled by anastomosing shear zones, which define the BLSZ, and is best developed where shear zones coalesce. Gold occurs as 2-20 μm grains in pyrite in quartz-carbonate veins. Copeland (1998) concludes that gold mineralization appears to be late in the metamorphic-structural sequence and is associated with retrogression assemblages and largely potassium-sulphur alteration.

With regards to the BLSZ, Copeland (1998) concludes that in Jubilee, it is a system of anastomosing shear zones with a strong vertical extension component as indicated by down-dip lineation, flat-lying quartz-veins and subhorizontal boudin axis. These shear zones have transected the hinge of a large-scale anticline (as determined from opposite younging orientations on either side of the shear zone). Strike slip shearing is late and associated with minor movement, and the NNE-trending Pisces shear zone, transect the main foliation trend and roughly separates Jubilee from Hampton-Boulder orebodies. Copeland (1998) concludes further that the structures are inconsistent with the interpretation that the BLSZ is a major wrench system and suggests that the structures represent either a reoriented thrust, which has been subsequently steepened, or it is a ramp interconnecting low-level thrusts.

Structural Study. The continuous Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee open pit is presently closed and most parts are inaccessible due to wall slides. Observations described here are limited to the northern and eastern walls of the Hampton-Boulder pit, and to the southern wall of the Jubilee pit. Structural information on the underground Southern Ore Zone (SOZ) of the Hampton-Boulder deposit (Williams 1994; Dielemans 2000) is reinterpreted here.

The northern wall of Hampton-Boulder is a zone of intense shearing with penetrative and steep mylonitic foliation (Fig. 2.4.5a) and approximately down dip mineral and stretching lineation, exposed over more than 50m across strike (Fig. 2.4.6a). Folding and thrusting structures (Fig. 2.4.7) associated with the observed lineation indicate horizontal shortening and vertical extension.



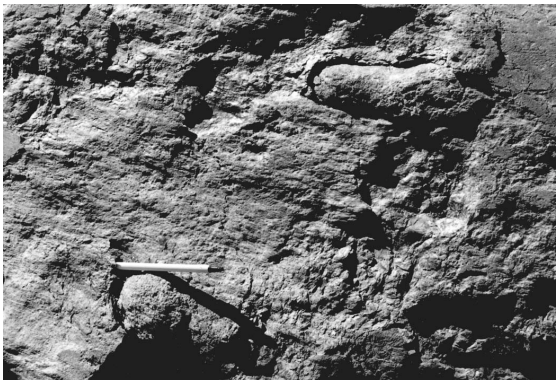


Fig. 2.4.5. a) The northern wall of Hampton-Boulder open pit. On the left-hand-side, intense foliation with roughly down dip lineation and a dominant west-side-up sense of shear. On the right-hand-side, a 3-meter wide sinistral shear zone crops out. Person for scale, on the footwall of the thrust. b) Foliation planes and stretching lineation and striae on sinistral shear zones on the eastern wall of Hampton-Boulder. Lineations plunge SSE (see also Dielemans 2000). Sense of shear indicators suggest a sinistral movement with a W-side down component. Elongated "pebbles" of granite, up to 10 cm long, oriented parallel to the lineation are shear-disrupted granitic dykes.

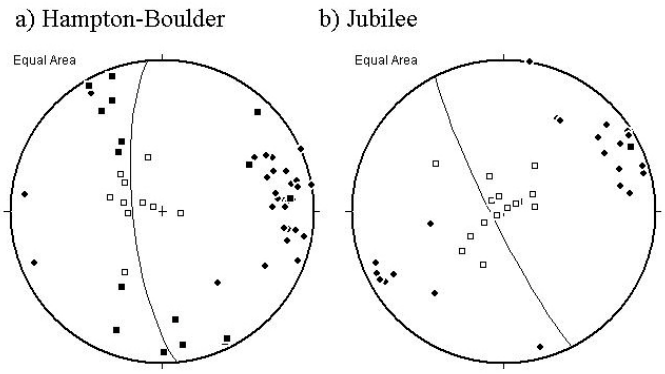


Fig. 2.4.6. Lower hemisphere equal area stereonet projection. a) Mineral and stretching lineation on reverse shear zones (open squares), sinistral strike slip shear zones (black squares) and poles to foliation (black lozenges) from Hampton-Boulder. Great circle indicates the best-fit foliation plane, and strikes N05 W/80 W. b) Same for Jubilee. Notice the absence of strike slip shearing. Average foliation strikes N25 W/75 W.



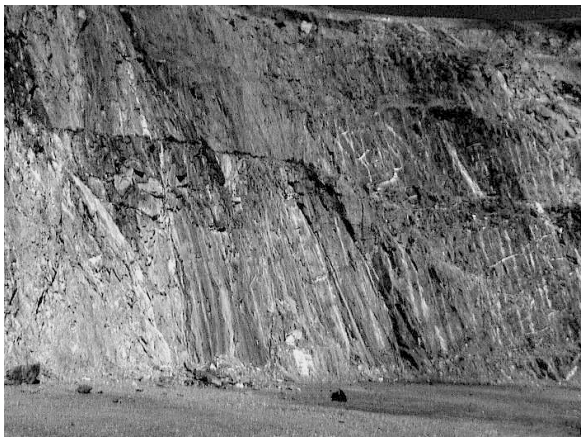
Fig. 2.4.7. Tightly folded competent granitic body in chlorite schist, associated with a reverse fault indicated by the arrows (note a granite block above the main folded mass of granite). Deformation is indicative of vertical extension (crustal thickening).

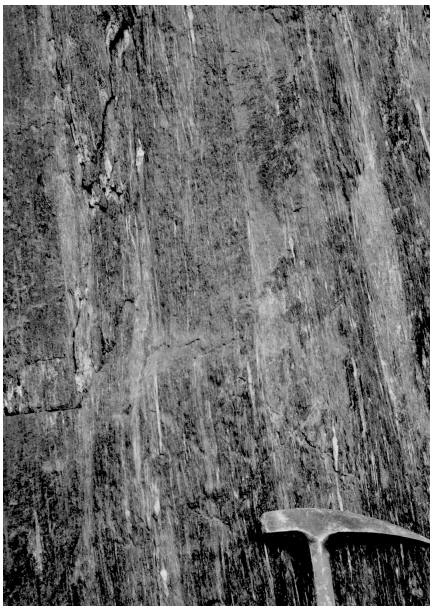
On the eastern wall, two sinistral strike-slip shear zones were found (Fig. 2.4.5b). They are parallel to the main NNW-trend of the area and are 2-3 m wide zones of intensely sheared chlorite-talc schist, with gently south plunging mineral and stretching lineation and cut across less sheared rocks with down dip lineation. The oblique sinistral sense of shear is deduced from *S-C* fabric, clearly visible by the asymmetry of weathered fish-shaped blocks, as well as under hand-lenses and in oriented thin sections. Outside the zones of intense shearing, these younger shear zones give rise to anastomosing foliation around less deformed pods, which preserve older down dip lineation. The anastomosing planes glisten due to oriented phyllosilicates (mostly chlorite, but also talc and biotite). Dextral sense of shear was only found along two small shear zones oriented NNE. These planes rotated to become parallel to the NNW-trend sinistral shear planes. Their orientation, physical links with the sinistral shear zones, and their general similarity suggest that they are conjugates to the dominantly sinistral movement.

The southern wall at Jubilee exposes bands of intense shearing, characterized by mylonitic rocks, intercalated with less deformed bands. Mylonites are easily picked out by intensely thinned and disrupted foliation-parallel quartz and carbonate veins, in contrast to more continuous, wider and crosscutting veins on less sheared rocks (Figs. 2.4.8a, b). The general trend of the foliation at Jubilee, like at SOZ, is rotated towards the NW as compared to Hampton Boulder (Fig. 2.4.6). As in Hampton-Boulder, deformation is characterized by a prominent and approximately down dip lineation (Fig. 2.4.6b), and a strong vertical extension (horizontal

shortening) deduced from both west-side up and west-side down sense of shear (depicted by *S-C* fabric, tails around clasts, as well as thrust (Fig. 2.4.8c) and boudins with gently plunging axis.

a) **b)**







c)

Fig. 2.4.8. a) Strongly foliated mylonitic gabbro defining the BLSZ at Jubilee, (scale: bag on the ramp), b) detail of a vertical wall showing strongly elongated and disrupted carbonate and quartz veins, parallel to the foliation. Outside the mylonitic zone, a few meters to the right of the figure, the gabbro is coarse grained and the veins are wider and cross cut a much weaker foliation, c) reverse fault displacing a more brittle layer. Reverse faults dipping both to the NE and SW are common.

These sheared rocks are exposed for approximately 100 m across strike, and in contrast to Hampton Boulder, there is no evidence for strike-slip reactivation. In summary, our observations here basically confirm Copeland's (1998) conclusions.

Timing of Mineralization. Thin sections were used to determine the relationship between opaque minerals and shear foliation. In the northern wall of Hampton-Boulder, ultramafic rocks displaying a steep lineation contain grains of chromite rimmed by magnetite and grains of pyrite.

Whereas magnetite/chromite commonly deflect the S2 foliation and are elongated along the foliation, indicative of its presence during shearing, smaller euhedral pyrite grains do not deflect the fabric (Fig. 2.4.9a), suggesting it was deposited after the S2 foliation (post-D_2). Figure 2.4.9b shows also that gold is related to these pyrites and is equally late. A thin section of a mineralized porphyry sample from Jubilee, also sheared during D_2, with a strongly recrystallized fine matrix, has a train of undeformed sulphides, seemingly developed along a later brittle fracture.

Similar relationships could not be determined in thin sections cut from rocks sheared by the D_3 sinistral shear zone at Hampton-Boulder. Thus, we were unable to further detail the timing of mineralization in relation to D_3. However, Dielemans (2000), as described above, found moderately S-plunging fibre growth on the walls of pyrite suggests a syn-D_3 pyritization.

a) **b)**

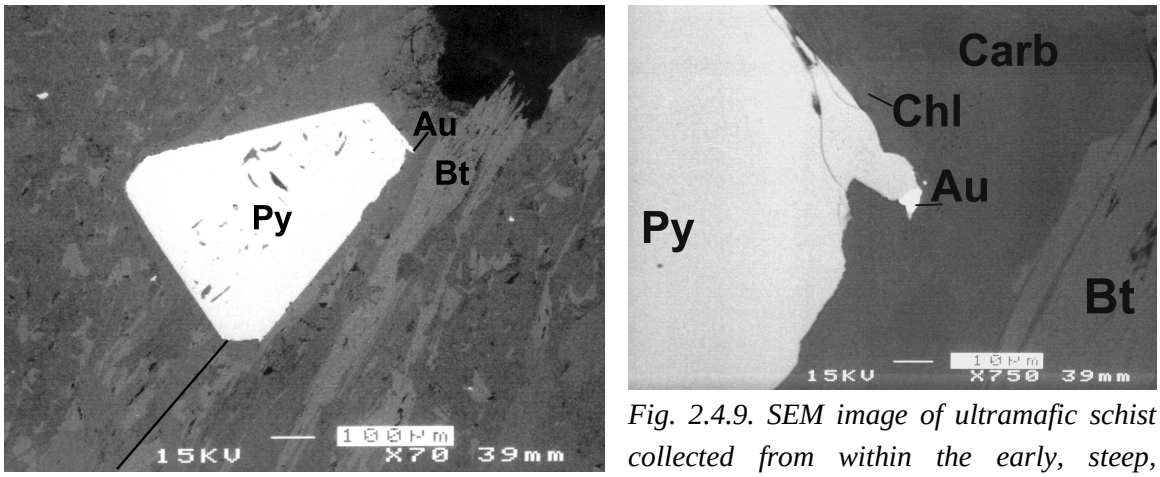


Fig. 2.4.9. SEM image of ultramafic schist collected from within the early, steep, reverse D_2 shear zone, at the western end of the N face at Hampton-Boulder. The thin section was cut perpendicular to foliation (N15W/80W), and parallel to lineation (S/70). a) Coarse euhedral pyrite grain in a zone of talc-chlorite-carbonate-biotite alteration. The foliation (marked by a thin black line and by the orientation of the large biotite on the right-hand-side and other smaller grains) is unaffected by the pyrite grain, suggesting that the pyrite grain grew over a pre-existing fabric. This is typical of all pyrites observed in this rock. By contrast, grains of chromite rimmed by magnetite in the same rock actively interferes with the same foliation. The pyrite grain has a protrusion on it, on the upper-right-hand-side detailed in (b). (b) detail of (a) showing a bleb of gold in contact with the pyrite. Pyrite and gold were therefore deposited after development of S2 and mineralization is post-D_2.

Interpretation. The BLSZ as exposed in these pits is characterized by an early phase of deformation which gave rise to a zone of intense but variable deformation over 100 m wide, characterized by down dip lineation, horizontal ENE-WSW shortening and vertical extension

(See also Copeland 1998). This was reactivated and overprinted by sinistral strike-slip movement on NNW-trending planes exposed along the eastern wall of the Hampton Boulder pit. The maximum shortening strain axis during this phase would have been rotated clockwise to trend WNW-ESE. The early structures described are likely related to D_2, while the later sinistral strike slip, to the regional D_3 event.

The difficulty in defining a dominant sense of shear associated with down dip lineation on the mylonitic rocks of the BLSZ in both Hampton-Boulder and Jubilee, suggests either intense flattening and steepening of early formed reverse shear zones, or the simultaneous conjugate pairs gradually flattened to become nearly parallel. Rotation of the main foliation at Hampton-Boulder from northerly at the north to northwesterly at SOZ and Jubilee, is associated with and probably a result of a change in orientation of the main porphyry.

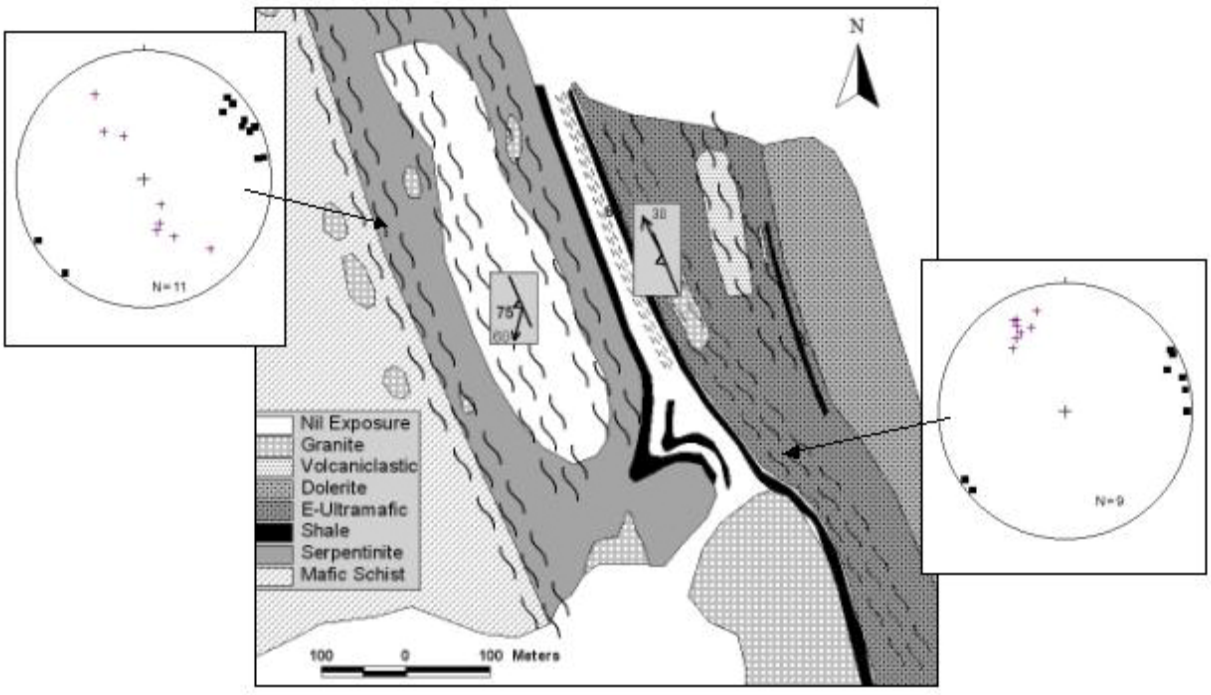
SOZ Reinterpretation. On the basis of our findings, we reinterpret the structures described by Dielemans (2000) at the SOZ. His early penetrative foliation corresponds to the dominant mylonitic foliation in Hampton-Boulder and Jubilee, where it is associated with steep lineation. His anastomosing shear planes correspond to the very similar anastomosing sinistral planes documented by us on the sinistral shear zones of the eastern wall of Hampton-Boulder. If this is correct, the SOZ also records D_2 structures overprinted by D_3 sinistral shearing. The moderately SE-plunging mineral lineation (b) at SOZ and the steep NW-plunging mineral and stretching lineation (c) correspond to the lineations we documented on the sinistral and reverse shear zones, respectively. Thus, rather than representing a single sinistral shearing, as assumed by Dielemans (2000), the different foliations and lineations are a result of D_2 and D_3.

General Remarks. Main deformation kinematics suggests a swap from a D_2 crustal thickening event, to a D_3 sinistral shearing. The relatively narrow widths of strike slip shear zones suggest a modest amount of sinistral movement, in accordance with regional estimates of no more than 12 km displacement. Kinematic indicators do not confirm early reports of dextral sense of shear along the BLSZ in this District (e.g. Mueller et al. 1988). It is possible however, that such shear zones are exposed elsewhere within the pit, but more likely, they represent relatively minor shear zones (e.g. Copeland 1998). The Pisces Shear Zone, because of its north trend, oblique to the general foliation, may well have accommodated important dextral translations, but was not studied here due to accessibility.

The width, length and intensity of D_2 structures suggest that this was an important deformation phase in the early stages of the BLSZ in this District. Our study of the relationship between pyrite and gold and foliation indicates that mineralization is post-D_2, in accordance with the finding of fibrous tails around pyrites by Dielemans (2000) suggesting a syn-D_3 timing for the pyrite and possibly gold.

King's Battery. The most complete exposure of the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone, away from mineralization, is located on the Western margin of Lake Lefroy, at the historical site of King's Battery (AMG 370333E/6560923N), 6 km SSE of Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee. Fig. 2.4.10 summarizes the geology of the area which is mainly comprised of a NNW-trending supracrustal sequence. Sheared basic rocks crops out on the west side, followed eastwards by ultramafic rocks, and a 3-5 m thick black, chertified slate, known as the Kapai Slate, and then by a zone dominated by 2-3 m thick quartz veins, cropping out as protruding ridges, and porphyries (granitic dykes). These are intruded into ultramafic rocks which weathers to a distinctive pale green colour, and a pyroxenitic layer, in which the pyroxene is now pseudomorphosed by amphibole. The mafic and ultramafic rocks crop out locally in between the protruding ridges of quartz and porphyries. This region is approximately 50 m wide and is followed by a sheared gabbro, a narrow band of shales and quartz-feldspathic rock, followed by a massive gabbro.

Fig. 2.4.10. Geological map of King's Battery indicating the Eastern and Western Shear Zones and their contact in the vicinity of the Kapai Slate. Together these two shear zones comprise the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone.



We interpret the sequence east of the Kapai Slate to represent differentiated mafic sill (ultramafic cumulate at the base followed by pyroxenite and gabbro) intruded by quartz veins and granite dykes close to its contact with the Kapai Slate. The sequence within the sill indicates east side up. Similar differentiated mafic sills, elsewhere in the region, have been emplaced between the Kapai Slate and the Paringa Basalt, such as the Williamstown dolerite. The Kapai Slate sits stratigraphically above the Devon Consols Basalt, indicating that in this instance the ultramafic-Kapai Slate contact is of a structural nature.

This sequence hosts other small granitic intrusions. One ~20m in length characterized by abundant angular fragments of mafic rocks, of massive appearance and only narrow sheared margins, along which fine pyrite grains are observed. Several small shafts have been sunk on these intrusive rocks and there is considerable evidence for recent exploration efforts focused on the quartz veins. Small porphyritic granites intruded the ultramafic rocks on the western side, and were later sheared and boudinaged. Narrow zones of alteration developed in the ultramafic rocks at the granite contacts, with random growth of amphibole needles and biotite.

Structurally this area is characterized by two shear zones distinguished by different orientation of stretching lineations and sense of shear, and are recorded by different rock types. The western shear zone is characterized by intensely sheared ultramafic rocks (talc+carbonate±chlorite schist) which have narrow, discontinuous pods (5m) of relict spinifex texture preserved within anastomosing shear zones; and a sheared basic unit, which consists of amphibole-feldspar-carbonate schist (upper greenschist to lower amphibolite facies conditions).

The zone of shearing is at least 100m wide, since its western extend is unconstrained due to lack of outcrops. The general attitude of the shear zone is N40ºW/70ºW for a strike length of ~400m, although considerable internal heterogeneity exists, some of which is described later. Stretching lineation in the talc-carbonate-chlorite schist is defined by elongate carbonate porphyroblasts, and plunges moderately to steeply southeast (typically 145/70), subparallel to a mineral lineation defined by aligned amphibole and plagioclase in the basic schist. Drag folds are observed in the fabric, with axes plunging gently NW (e.g. N35W/22). A well-developed *S-C* fabric, asymmetries around the carbonate porphyroclasts and the asymmetry and orientation of drag-folds, indicate west side down movement, with a minor sinistral component.

The eastern shear is approximately 200 m wide, strikes approximately N20-30W, more northerly than the western shear zone, and has a well-defined stretching lineation plunging gently to the north (Fig. 2.4.11). Lineation is defined by elongated pyrite agglomerates, strained

reduction spots, stretched clasts and striations which can be recognized throughout the eastern shear zone.

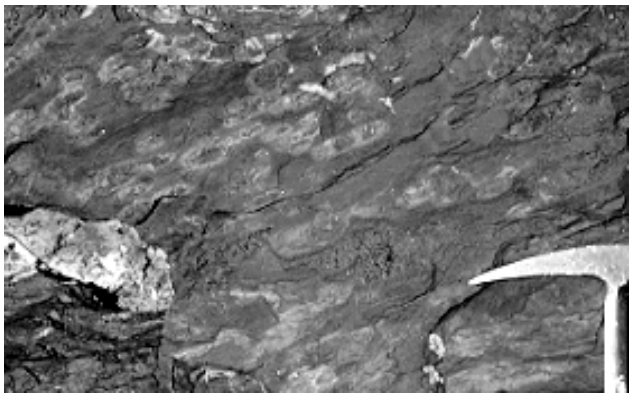


Fig. 2.4.11. Stretched reduction spots in sulphidic Kapai Slate at King's Battery, defining a gently N-plunging lineation parallel to that found over a width of approximately 200 m and defines a sinistral shear zone.

The contact between the two shear zones runs parallel to the contact between the Kapai Slate and the ultramafic rock and is delineated by a sulphidic shale, and a gentle north lineation extends a few meters into the ultramafic unit. The contact itself has not been observed. A well-developed *S-C* fabric is observed in the coarser grained units, and consistently indicates sinistral shear sense. This has been confirmed in thin-section, where chlorite is seen to wrap coarse tremolite grains with a consistent sinistral stepping. The eastern limit of this sinistral shear zone is defined by an outcrop of dolerite, where shearing is partitioned into narrow (20cm) zones within massive rock, grading eastwards into massive rock with no evidence of shearing.

Towards the southern limit of exposure, the shale beds are folded defining an axial plane trending towards N30ºE. Folded laminae within the shale have axial planes that trend towards N35ºE. The fold axes of these chevron folds plunge ~ N35ºE /70º. There is however some doubts about whether these are tectonic folds or more simply slump folds.

All rocks are overprinted by a weak but pervasive foliation trending towards N10ºE, and dips steeply W. Furthermore, a minor (~30cm wide) shear zone, trending N25ºE, offsets previously formed shear fabric, which forms a drag fold indicative of dextral movement (no lineation was identified in this fault).

Even though we lack evidence regarding the relative timing of the two shear zones, the similarities to the structures documented at Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee mines suggests that similar events took place here. Thus, we interpret these deformation events in accordance with the better-constrained relative timing determined at the mines. Thus, the down dip movement at the western shear zone is interpreted to have developed as part of the regional D_2, while sinistral

shearing developed later, during D_3. The sinistral shear zone here is wider than that exposed at Hampton-Boulder, and its north-plunging lineation contrasts with the varied south and north gentle plunging lineations at the mine. Kings Battery is on the eastern limb of the large-scale Resolution Anticline, which has an axial trace, as interpreted from regional maps, trending N15E. We relate the overprinting, pervasive N10E-trending foliation to the development and tightening of that fold. Folds with such trend have been related to D_3 sinistral shearing, and axial planar foliation generally develops late during a folding event, in accordance with our observation that it overprints all earlier foliations. In summary, the BLSZ as exposed both at Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee mines and Kings Battery have similar structural events, which may be explained in a self-consistent way and in accordance to the regional deformation.

Kalgoorlie District

The Kalgoorlie District lies approximately 40 km NNW along strike from the New Celebration District. A number of workers have described the mineralization and structural evolution of the District (e.g. Phillips 1986; Boulter et al. 1987; Mueller et al. 1988; Swager 1989a; Clout et al. 1990; Ridley and Mengler 2000) with poor agreement on the sequence of events and assignment of deformation phases. Phillips (1986) and Phillips et al. (1996) documented the nature and geometry of the alteration surrounding the Golden Mile deposit. Keats (1987) summarized historical descriptions of the area, which have concentrated on two major deposits: the Fimiston lodes at Golden Mile, a sheared intensely mineralized zone system developed largely within Golden Mile Dolerite, and which produced over 90% of the total production of the Kalgoorlie District; and Mount Charlotte, a system of extensional quartz veins (Ridley and Mengler 2000). Safety reasons have not permitted us to do our own detailed study of this District, thus, we focus on the broad scale deformation and literature descriptions. We first described its general features and then focus on the relative timing of the protracted mineralization of the Golden Mile and Mount Charlotte mines.

The main structures in the area (Fig. 2.4.12) have been interpreted in a number or ways (Table 2). According to Bateman et al. (2001), the earliest recognizable event was thrusting along the Golden Mile Fault, localized within black shales above the Golden Mile dolerite, which they ascribed to a local D_1 (Fig. 2.4.13). The fault is virtually parallel to bedding, caused repetition of the greenstone stratigraphy due to east-over-west movement, and is cross-cut by D_2 shear zones (Mueller et al. 1988, Clout et al. 1990, Bateman et al. et al. 2001). The fault is

associated with a hanging wall anticline known as the Kalgoorlie Anticline, with no equivalent synclinal closure at depth (Swager 1989). These early structures are disrupted by D_2 reverse, some eastward thrusting as suggested by seismic sections and small-scale shear zones in Fimiston Western Lodes and elsewhere (e.g. Flanagan Fault, Clout et al. 1990; Mueller et al. 1988). Ther are also westward thrusting shear zones, such as the Boulder Fault (the northern extension of the BLSZ), which can be matched to a large east-dipping fault revealed by the seismic section (Bateman et al. 2001; Goleby et al. 2000). NNW-trending D_2 folds are associated with these thrusts. The lack of an obvious preferred thrusting direction is similar to our observations at the New Celebration District.

The large scale Boomerang Anticline has folded D_1 structures and has been ascribed to either D_2 or D_3. Bateman et al. (2001) suggested the Boomerang Anticline is part of D_3 because it has steep (>60º) and north-plunging hinge, in contrast to the shallow-plunging, NW-trending hinges of D_2 folds like the Celebration Anticline. In this scenario, the Boomerang Anticline would be an *en echelon* fold. While this may be so, an alternative is that the two folds formed during D_2 and that their different axes resulted from regional variations on the attitudes of lithological contacts caused by previous deformation (e.g. $D_{1\ local}$). While we interpret this anticline to be part of D_2, both alternatives remain possible as reflected in Table 2.4.2.

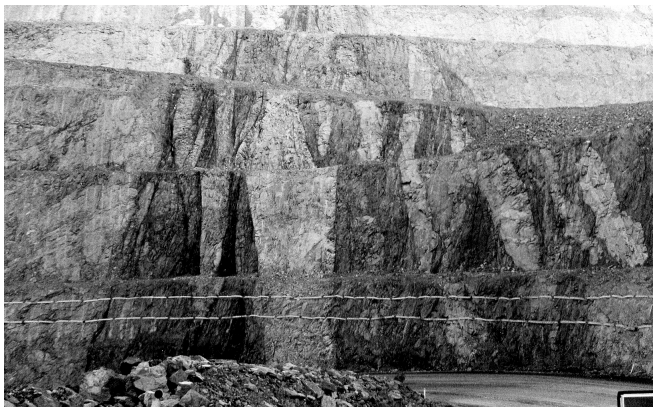


Fig. 2.4.13. The Golden Mile Fault, an early shear zone developed within carbonaceous shale (dark greys) and include numerous felsic lenses that could be either disrupted dykes or slices of volcaniclastic rocks, and which are entirely altered to quartz, ankerite and fuchsite (V-mica). Dolerite crops out on both sides of the shear zone. Scale lowest bench is estimated to be 20 m high.

The final hook-shaped refolded fold comprised by the Golden Mile fault and Kalgoorlie Anticline refolded by the Boomerang Anticline was later segmented by a set of ductile, D_3 dextral, sigmoidal shear zones, trending mainly N-S (e.g. Mueller et al. 1988). Their sigmoidal shape and en-echelon nature suggests they are related to a large-scale NNW-trending sinistral

wrenching, parallel to the regional fabric. These were later reactivated by brittle, dextral D_4 faults a few kilometres long with a few hundred metres of displacement (Ridley and Mengler 2000).

The regional D_1 event is clearly recorded south of Kalgoorlie, between Kambalda and Widgiemooltha, where it is characterized by north-directed thrusting and recumbent folds. Bateman et al.'s (2001) local D_1 can be interpreted either as a regional D_1 structures rotated into the D_2 fabric, or as structures formed early in the D_2 event and became steepened and abandoned as the event progressed, and younger active thrusts and folds developed. There is considerable discussion at present on the nature and thrust directions during D_1 and this will be further discussed below.

Eastward thrusting has also been interpreted from a seismic survey carried out by AGSO (line 99AGSY3 Goleby et al. 2000) which crosses the main structural elements of the region including the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone just south of the Golden Mile. The interpretation of the seismic line (Fig. 2.4.14; Goleby et al. 2000), indicates a general change in the trend of seismic reflections broadly coinciding with the position of the BLSZ To the west of the BLSZ, the main regional shear zones dip west parallel to the main seismic reflections. To the east of the BLSZ, reflections dip east. The regional shear zones sole into a detachment plane at ~6 km depth. The AGCRC-KCGM 1997 seismic survey of the Kalgoorlie area (Bateman et al. 2000) detailed previous results, and defined large-scale thrust duplex dipping west and merging into a detachment surface at depth. This detachment is irregular and limits the width of the overlying greenstone sequence to 5-9 km. A shallow east-dipping structure has also been depicted seismically, which appears to offset the west-dipping thrusts, and may have accommodated east block up movement.

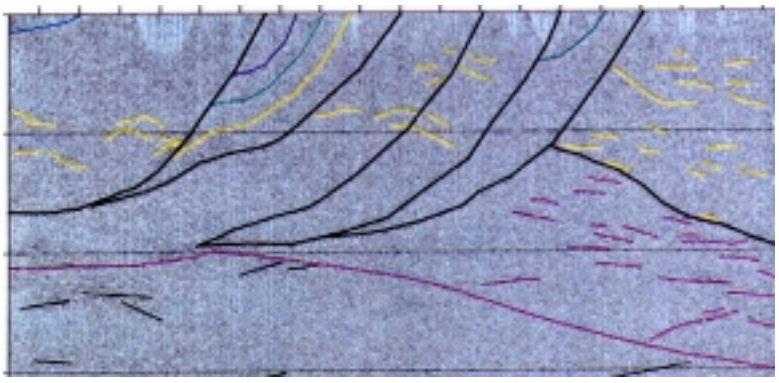


Fig. 2.4.14. Seismic line across the BLSZ, south of Kalgoorlie. From Goleby et al. (2000) Yilgarn Project Line 99AGSY3 (migrated data).

Golden Mile. The Golden Mile, the most endowed gold deposit in the Yilgarn Craton, is characterized by a protracted mineralization (Bateman et al. 2001). Most of the gold is found in "Fimiston-style lodes", the earliest mineralization, while the slightly later "Oroya-style lodes" include the Oroya Shoot famous for the intensity of its Au-Te mineralization and alteration. The latest mineralization is found in "Mount Charlotte-style" veins which contains relatively smaller amounts of gold as a percentage of the total, but still a considerable 5 Moz of gold.

Fimiston lodes are individually up to 2 km in length and occur over a total length of close to 7 km north-south and 1.3 km in vertical extent (Bateman et al. 2001). Finucane (1941) divided the lodes according to their attitudes (Easterly, Main, Caunter and Cross lodes) and based on their orientations, derived a NE-SW trending maximum compression stress axis. Clout et al. (1990), however, showed a broad spread in lode attitude, with the majority striking NNW and a steep SW dip. Fimiston-style lodes have been variously interpreted as shear zone hosted mineralization (Boulter et al. 1987), or dilational breccias within brittle faults (Clout et al. 1990). But, according to Bateman et al. (2001) the lodes are not shear-hosted mineralization, but are rather breccias and open-cavity fill vein textures, which are in some instances overprinted by foliation.

Boulter et al. (1987) found mineralization to be syn-tectonic with the phase of near-upright regional folding event (D_2), since minerals associated with gold emplacement are strongly modified during ductile shearing. They argued that the main pervasive foliation formed during displacement on the shear zones and that shearing increased rock permeability leading to mineralization. They described also a late D_3 crenulation cleavage of constant orientation overprinting the lodes. In contrast, Clout (1989) and Scott (1997), found that the main foliation (D_2) must have formed after the lodes, but Swager (1989) envisaged the lodes as resulting from D_3 sinistral wrench faulting, and the Mt Charlotte quartz veins from D_4 dextral faulting on North-trending faults (see Table 2.4.2). Groves (1993) considered the Fimiston lodes to be a member of his syn-D_3 crustal continuum, but considerable evidence in the form of structural cross-cutting relationships suggest that this may not be the case.

Structural evidence for a $D_{1\text{local}}$ age for the Fimiston lodes have accumulated over recent years and are listed in Bateman et al. (2001), and the key points are: except for mineralised felsic dykes, they are cut by all other structures, including later foliations, the $D_{1\text{local}}$ Golden Mile Fault and D_2 thrusts, and D_3-D_4 strike slip shear zones. However, Fimiston mineralization overprints regional metamorphism, which is conventionally ascribed to D_3, even though Clout et al. (1990) described evidence for syn-D_1 metamorphism. In our view, there is significant

structural evidence to suggest an early phase of mineralization. It is now necessary to determine whether $D_{1\ \text{local}}$ corresponds to the D_1 or D_2 regional event.

The Oroya-style lodes, include the ~60t Oroya Shoot, is essentially similar in alteration and fluids to the Fimiston lodes, including V-rich mica, but more intensely mineralised. Structurally the 1500 m long Oroya Shoot is different as it formed in a dilational jog within shear zones, along the contact between the Golden Mile dolerite and the Paringa Basalt. Oroya-related shear zones cut Fimiston lodes and the Golden Mile Fault, suggesting it formed during D_2. Lungan (1986) suggested that quartz veins that he related to the Oroya Shoot cross cuts Fimiston lodes. Present understanding would relate those quartz veins to a D_4 reactivation of early faults and relate the veins to the syn-D_4 Mount Charlotte mineralization (Bateman 2002, pers. commun.).

Mount Charlotte. In Mount Charlotte, mineralization consists of quartz stockwork, mainly confined to the granophyric unit 8 of the Golden Mile dolerite. Veins are usually 5 to 100 mm wide with two preferred orientations with steep and flat northerly dips (e.g. Ridley and Mengler 2000). North-trending, dextral shear zones known as the Charlotte set (Boulter et al. 1987; e.g. Charlotte, Reward and Golden Pike Faults) overprint earlier D_2-structures and are important controls on the geometry (Mueller et al. 1988).

Gold at Mount Charlotte is hosted in the wall rocks of quartz veins. Ridley and Mengler (2000) analysed the structures related to the Mt. Charlotte gold deposit and defined a conjugate pair of contemporaneous quartz veins, with no evidence of shear parallel to vein walls. Despite the close presence of shear zones, quartz veins hosting gold developed after movement in these faults had ceased and seem to reflect either a late extensional shearing or bi-directional extension. Ridley and Mengler (2000) concluded that fluid flow in Mt Charlotte was a late event in the structural history, after almost all structures at the deposit and the local terrane were developed. However, the veins crosscut, and are crosscut by D_4 faults which reactivated earlier structures, normally along discrete brittle chlorite-filled fractures, mostly on faults of the Charlotte set (NS-trending set). Bateman et al. (2001) concluded that these D_4 brittle-ductile structures are closely linked to formation of the Mt Charlotte-style deposit, and that mineralization is strictly syn-D_4.

Kent and McDougall (1995) determined ^{40}Ar-^{39}Ar ages on hydrothermal muscovite samples associated with gold systems from both Mt. Charlotte and Golden Mile deposits, and found two ages interpreted to represent the time of mineralization: 2602 ± 8 Ma and 2629 ± 9 Ma,

respectively. These ages confirmed that mineralization occurred in at least two distinct periods. Recent work, however, has corrected the ages upwards by ~1% (Vielreicher et al. submitted) and cast some doubt on the validity of the older age.

In summary, here, like in New Celebration, an early crustal thickening event gave rise to thrusts and tight to isoclinal folds, associated with a steep and pervasive NNW-trending fabric (D_{1local} and D_2). This structure was subsequently reactivated by a broad zone of regional sinistral shearing, characterized by en-echelon, north-trending, sigmoidal, ductile, local-scale dextral shear zones D_3. These were later reactivated in a brittle fashion, during D_4 which also gave rise to new faults (Bateman 2002, pers. commun.). Questions remain regarding the absolute and relative timing of different phases of gold mineralization, but structures as well as isotopic dating suggest a lengthy mineralization, with the Fimiston-style lodes possibly pre-dating and the Oroya Shoot seemingly contemporaneous with a crustal thickening event, and the Mt. Charlotte-style mineralization associated with late brittle-ductile deformation.

Kambalda-Saint Ives Goldfield

Previous Work. The Kambalda-Saint Ives goldfield is one of the largest mining centres in the Norseman-Wiluna belt, and has a number of large gold and nickel deposits associated with Archean mafic-ultramafic volcanic and intrusive rocks, and metasedimentary rocks. The goldfield includes several operating and abandoned mines including Victory-Defiance (the largest one), North Orchin (in operation), Revenge (abandoned). Gold deposits are mainly shear zone/quartz vein-hosted, and are localised within low displacement reverse shear zones, up to 1000 m long (Nguyen et al. 1998) and maximum displacement of up to a few hundred metres (e.g. Repulse Fault, Watchorn 1998). The mineralized shear zones are developed adjacent to much larger NNW-trending regional shear zones, to which they are believed to be kinematically related (e.g. Roberts and Elias 1990, Nguyen et al. 1998). The BLSZ is the major regional fault, and is considered to be the first-order structure from which the second-order Playa Shear Zone splays off. The Playa Shear Zone is the largest shear zone in the immediate vicinity of most gold deposits in the area, and extends for about 10 to 15 km south of the Kambalda Dome (Fig. 2.4.15).

Apart from the NNW-trending shear zones, this area is characterized by important and well-defined ENE-WSW striking D_1 thrusts (Archibald 1979) such as the Foster, Tramways, and Republican (Swager and Griffin 1990; Swager et al. 1992). The Tramways thrust has an inferred

movement of south-over-north (Swager and Griffin 1990) is associated with a recumbent (NNW-vergence), ENE-trending, large-scale fold defined by the Tramways greenstones (Perriam, pers. commun. 2001; and Gresham and Loftus Hill 1981; Griffin 1990). These early structures were later folded by D_2 leading to NNW trending, upright, open folds, possibly associated with NNW-trending shear zones (see Griffin (1990) his table 18). Benett (1995) ascribed to D_2 the framework of reverse faults, depicted in Fig. 2.4.15b and later reactivated by D_3. The fact that D_2 folds in this area are generally open, in contrast to elsewhere in the terrane, suggests less intense D_2 straining than elsewhere. As discussed below, this has had important consequences in the development of D_3 structures, and preservation of D_1 structures.

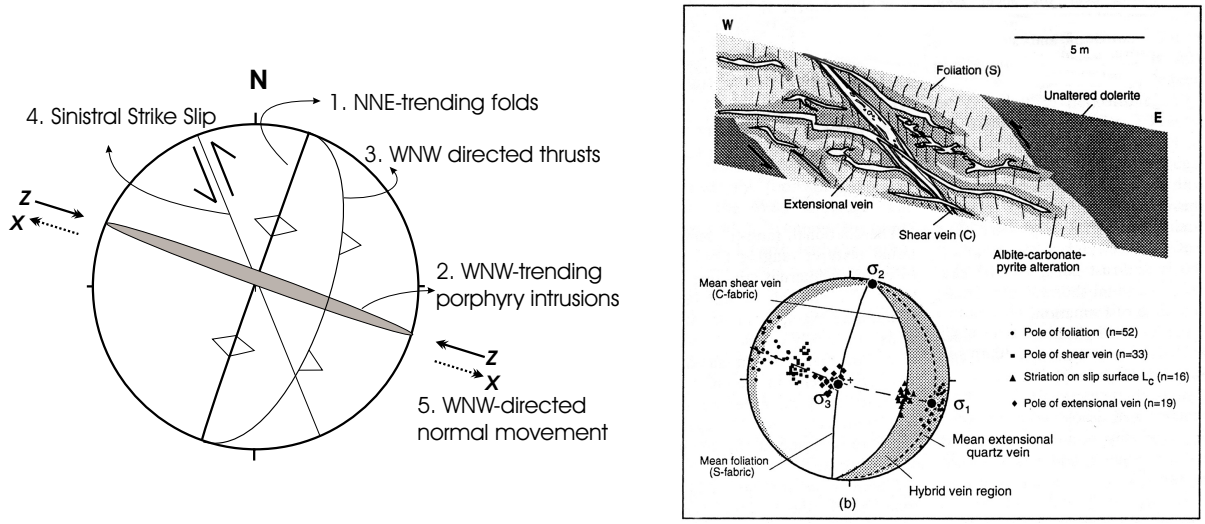
D_3 in Kambalda is different than that of the other Districts. Here D_3 gave rise not only to strike slip movement on steep shear zones but also thrusts using gently dipping limbs of the open D_2 folds. Many authors concluded gold mineralization took place during D_3 (e.g. Clark et al. 1986; Roberts and Elias 1990; Benett 1995, Nguyen et al. 1998; Watchorn 1998) and Benett (1995) details its complex structural development as follows:

1) early folding with NNE axes, which refolded a NNW fold to give rise to domal structures. D_3 folds tighten to the SSE (see also Clark et al. 1986),
2) WNW-striking, steep porphyry dykes cut NNE-trending folds,
3) WNW-directed thrusts (such as the Defiance C32 and C33, Revenge N01 and Orchin shear zones) cut these dykes and some of them host gold mineralization which is contemporaneous to shearing (C.J. Nicholson, BSc Thesis),
4) pre-existing NNW-striking, D_2 shear zones such as Repulse, Britannia and Sirius Faults (Benett 1995) are reactivated,
5) the final stage of D_3 is normal dip-slip movement in a WNW-ESE direction.

Figure 2.4.16 depicts these different structures and the interpreted WNW-ESE orientation of the axis of maximum shortening (z-axis). We note that these different structures, grouped under the same deformation phase, require the strain axes to have swapped places several times as the structures developed. In general agreement with Benett (1995), a detailed study of the structures developed at Revenge (Nguyen et al. 1998) concluded that the structures and kinematic indicators related to gold mineralization, suggest a stress system with a shallow plunging east-southeast $\sigma 1$ during mineralization (Fig. 2.4.16 b).

Fig. 2.4.16. a) Schematic stereonet projection of the structures developed during D_3 at Kambalda-SIG according to Benett (1995) and interpreted orientation of the maximum shortening axis orientation. Structures (1) to (4) are all related to the same WNW-ESE maximum shortening axis (z) as indicated. Final stage normal movement, directed WNW-ESE, (5) in text not shown in the figure), represents a period of extension along the WNW-ESE axis (x strain axis, dashed arrow). b) Equal-area lower hemisphere stereonet projection of structural data from Revenge (from Nguyen et al. 1998).

a) b)



Nguyen et al. (1998) defined two main types of shear zones: i) NW-trending, sub-vertical first- and second-order regional shear zones like the Boulder-Lefroy and the Playa shear zone, and ii) smaller, more localised E- and W-dipping mineralised shear zones. Likewise Watchorn (1998) divided deposits into two according to the mineralized structures: a) those where gold is hosted by 2-10 m wide thrust zones, trending N- or NW- and dipping moderately either E or W (e.g. Revenge, Defiance, Repulse, Orchin, Junction, Santa Ana, Apollo and Argo); b) those hosted by steep NNW-trending fault zones (e.g. Britannia, Sirius, Ives-Reward and Hunt).

Compston et al. (1985/86) found that gold was emplaced following the peak of metamorphism at 2660 Ma, while Watchorn (1998) concluded that mineralization took place after D_2 upright folding, in rough agreement with Benett (1995). The structural constrains support a syn-D_3 mineralization. Carbonate alteration surrounding the gold lodes is dated at 2629 Ma (Clarke 1987) and a last episode of mineralization was dated at 2601 Ma (Clarke 1987). Kent and McDougall (1985) report isotopic ages for gold deposits at Kambalda at 2627±14 Ma derived

from Pb-Pb in rutile and ^{40}Ar-^{39}Ar in actinolite. These ages are similar to those found using Ar-isotopes for Kalgoorlie.

Structural Study. The Kambalda-Saint Ives Goldfield differs from other goldfields along the BLSZ in that many controlling shear zones are moderately dipping. Perriam (pers. commun. 2001) mapped a regionally dominant gentle SE plunge of the mineral lineation, which is also reflected in the major mineralized shear zones. Apart from Nguyen et al. (1998), previous works have not considered in any detail the kinematic information in microstructures. Structural analysis of data collected in North Orchin, Victory-Defiance, Britannia and Sirius open pits will be here compared with data for Revenge (from Nguyen et al. 1998) and with the structural evolution proposed by Benett (1995). Like previous authors, we will first divide the structural information into those related to gently dipping structures and those from steep structures, and later integrate them.

The shallow dipping shear zones exposed in North Orchin, Victory-Defiance and Repulse are plotted in Fig. 2.4.17a. Gold in North Orchin is hosted by the N-S / 45- 50E-striking A2 shear zone. The asymmetry of fibrous tails around pyrite grains (Nicholson, BSc thesis), subhorizontal quartz veins, asymmetric folds and *S*-*C* fabric within A2, all indicate the reverse sense of shear. Late 2-cm wide bands with normal sense of shear (*S*-*C* fabric) overprint the early reverse structures (also noted by Benett 1995, late D_3 event). Minor isoclinal folds were also observed, with a gently plunging fold axis toward N20E, nearly parallel to a crenulation lineation observed locally (N30E/10) (see Fig. 2.4.17a).

Victory and Defiance orebodies are separated by the Repulse Shear Zone, which is believed to be the sole thrust of a system of splay reverse faults that are linked underground to the Playa Fault, as well as to Britannia and Sirius Shear Zones (Fig. 2.4.15b Profile). The Repulse Shear Zone has a combined sinistral and reverse displacement of 300-600m in a WNW direction, as defined by marker offsets (Benett 1995) and confirmed by *S*-*C* fabric. Where exposed in the present pit, the shear zone is approximately 50 cm wide and strikes N22W/ 45E, and has a stretching lineation plunging 130/25. The Defiance ore body lies within a shear zone striking N60E / 32E, with reverse (possibly oblique) movement recorded by displaced markers (Warwick, pers. commun. 2001).

Despite differences in attitude of the shear zones in both North Orchin and Victory-Defiance mines, stretching lineations are roughly parallel, and nearly perpendicular to measured fold/crenulation axis (Fig. 2.4.17a). Together with their sense of shear, the structures suggest a

sub-horizontal WNW-ESE trending maximum shortening strain axis (*z*) and a vertical maximum extension axis (*x*). The inferred strain and stress axes are similar to those derived by Nguyen et al. (1998) and Benett (1995).

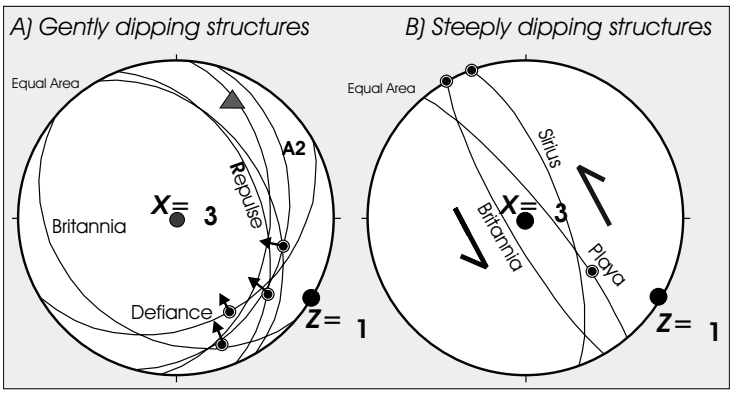


Fig. 2.4.17. Lower hemisphere equal area stereonet projection of: A) major gently dipping structures from Revenge (from Nguyen et al. 1998), North Orchin (A2 Shear Zone), Victory-Defiance and Britannia deposits, as well as stretching and mineral lineations (dots on great circles). Arrows on dots correspond to the inferred movement direction (reverse), black triangle corresponds to the orientation of D_3 fold axes and crenulation lineation; B) major steeply dipping shear zones from Playa (from Nguyen et al. 1998), Britannia and Sirius pits. Dots correspond to stretching and mineral lineations, and arrows indicate inferred sinistral shear sense. Interpreted orientation of the strain and stress axes are indicated.

Assuming the inferred strain axes are parallel to stress axes, Fry's method (Fry 1992) for determining maximum shear orientation on any given plane was used. All observed mineral lineations and sense of shear in North Orchin, Victory-Defiance and Revenge may be derived from a nearly uniaxial compression. Interestingly, the kinematics and plunge of mineral lineation in the steep shear zones mapped at Britannia and Sirius (but not the moderate SE-plunging lineation on the Playa shear zone) may be derived from the same stress system.

The shear zones that we investigated at Britannia and Sirius deposits have steep dips and sinistral strike slip shear sense (Fig. 2.4.17b. At Britannia, the main, steep mineralized shear zone, striking N30W / 80E has subhorizontal mineral lineation and kinematic indicators (*S-C* fabric) indicating sinistral sense of shear. This seems to cut across 20-30 cm wide, older gently dipping shear zones (N50W / 20SW), with parallel quartz veins in their cores. Microscale kinematic indicators in the latter were not observed, but drag folds define reverse movement. These older shear zones correspond quite exactly to the W-dipping shear zones described at Revenge (Nguyen et al. 1998), including the presence of quartz veins in their cores. At Sirius, the main shear zone strikes N20W / 70E and has subhorizontal mineral lineation and *S-C* fabric indicating sinistral sense of shear. Evidence for older deformation is preserved in between anastomosing strike slip

planes associated with alteration, as steep mineral lineation in unaltered basalt, and is in accordance with E. Baltis (pers. commun. 2001) that the Sirius Shear Zone was initially a reverse fault, linked at depth with the Repulse Thrust.

The sinistral shear zone at Sirius, as well as the A2 thrust place at Orchin have both been reactivated later, when narrow shear zones formed showing dextral movement at Sirius and normal movement at North Orchin. Such movements had previously been recorded by mining personnel (Benett 1995, E. Baltis pers. commun. 2001) and suggest a later relaxation of the maximum shortening axis.

Discussion. The moderately to gently dipping, reverse shear zones controlling gold mineralization in Kambalda-Saint Ives have a common mineral lineation, which results from thrusting from the ESE. This deformation overprints NNW-trending D_2 folds; so that NNE-trending folds refold them, and D_3 porphyry dykes cut both. In its simplest the history of straining in the District may be summarized as initiated with a D_1 north directed thrusting and folding (e.g. Griffin 1990), followed by an open D_2 folding, characterized by ENE-WSW shortening axis and NNW-trending folds, not nearly as significant and penetrative as in the districts to the north. D_3 was an ESE-WNW shortening event, regionally pervasive and associated with porphyry dykes and thrust, as well as steep strike slip shear zones. The regionally dominant lineation in Kambalda-Saint Ives area is roughly parallel to the stretching lineations found in the D_3 mineralized thrusts. This suggests that D_3 has pervasively deformed the area. The more recently found deposits of Argo and Apollo seem to be controlled by NNE-trending shear zones (Benett 1995). Although not investigated here, it is likely that those shear zones are a dextral conjugate set to D_3.

In summary, the large-scale geometry of the Kambalda Saint-Ives District resulted from D_1 NNW-directed thrusting and associated folding, followed by D_2 folding and thrusting related to NE-SW shortening (Fig. 2.4.18). Thrust planes that define the Victory Complex (including the Playa, Repulse, Britannia and Sirius Shear Zones) could have been initiated as a result of D_2 and later reactivated by D_3 accommodating shortening movement directed from ESE to WNW. D_3 resulted in different structures here than further north. As opposed to the strike-slip shearing of steep, folded lithological contacts, in Kambalda-Saint Ives D_3 reactivated gently dipping limbs of D_2 folds as thrusts. Why was D_3 different? We postulate that differences result from less intense crustal thickening during D_2, leading to not only preservation of D_1 structures, but also allowing further crustal thickening and thrusting of gently dipping D_2 fold limbs.

Discussion and Conclusions

The strain recorded in different parts of the BLSZ and our interpretation of the structural history are summarized in Fig. 2.4.18 and Table 2.4.3 and will be used as the basis of discussion in this section. The most important result is that although structures may differ, the three main Districts record a common history.

D_4 and dextral reactivation. As mentioned earlier, D_4 has been poorly defined in the existing literature. Mueller et al. (1988) ascribes to D_3 a general dextral shear regime, arguing that exposures of the BLSZ (namely the New Celebration District) have dextral fabric anastomosing around and overprinting a sinistral fabric. Outcrops at New Celebration District and good outcrops in the King Battery area allowed documentation of the BLSZ, but these exposures did not reveal the dextral overprinting described by Mueller et al. (1988). We found that not only do D_3 sinistral shears reactivate previously developed reverse shear zones and tight folds related to D_2, but also explains the en-echelon pattern of N-trending dextral shear zones in Kalgoorlie as antithetic bookshelf style shear zones subordinate to the dominant NNW-trending D_3 sinistral shear set.

We note, however, that some of these N- or NNE-trending shear zones could have had a long history, as they could have been generated during D_2 ENE-WSW shortening, to accommodate local movement transfer.

Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone: a two-stage history. Contrary to previous interpretations, this work concludes that the BLSZ is not simply a major sinistral wrench fault but developed as a result of a two-stage history starting with thrusting followed by modest amounts of sinistral movement.

Early in the history, D_2 crustal thickening gave rise to a number of NNW-SSE trending thrust ramps arranged roughly along strike of the BLSZ. At this stage, the BLSZ was probably not a connected plane but was more likely a number of individual or groups of reverse shear zones, spread along its length. Earlier formed thrusts became steep with the accumulation of strain and incapable of accommodating significant further shortening, they were then abandoned as new ones developed and cross cut and refolded earlier ones. This would explain the refolding of the Kalgoorlie Anticline by the Boomerang Anticline, making $D_{1\text{local}}$ part of the regional D_2, as well as the cross-cutting relationships of thrust duplexes interpreted on the seismic lines. We postulate that the crust must have reached its maximum sustainable thickness, causing deformation to go into strike slip mode, initiating D_3. D_2 reverse shear zones were reactivated as

sinistral shear zones. A major component in the growth of strike-slip faults is by coalescence of smaller faults. The existence of numerous bends and jogs in the BLSZ argues for such a process whereby sinistral shearing lead to the coalescence of older thrust planes along strike. Modest total sinistral movement along the ~200 km long BLSZ (less than 12 km total apparent movement; e.g. Langsford 1989; Swager 1989) is reflected by the complexity of the trace of the BLSZ, which would tend to get erased with increased displacement (Wesnousky 1988).

D_3 was characterized also by the development of a dextral, N- and NNE-trending set of ductile shear zones (e.g. Pisces Shear Zone at New Celebration, and the early shear zones of the Charlotte set at Kalgoorlie). D_4 was particularly important at Kalgoorlie where it reactivated earlier formed shear zones and gave rise to new N-trending brittle-ductile faults of the Charlotte set.

Timing of Gold Mineralization and Fluid Sources. With the exception of the Golden Mile Fimiston and Oroya lodes, gold deposition along the BLSZ took place during D_3 reactivation of the shear zone or during D_4 (Mt. Charlotte and possibly Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee). The timing of gold mineralization and the origin of fluid sources have been the subject of much discussion (e.g. Groves 1993). Whereas most detailed geochronology work, as well as our own observation, constrain timing of mineralization to late in the history of the Yilgarn Craton (2.64-2.63 Ga), there are a number of deposits and observations which suggest a broader mineralization phase (e.g. Kalgoorlie District).

The discussion of the timing of mineralization is closely linked with our understanding/assumptions about the origin of mineralising fluids. Devolatilization of typical mafic-ultramafic rocks during metamorphism from upper greenschist facies to lower amphibolite facies produces fluids similar in composition to those recorded in typical orogenic lode gold deposits, suggesting that metamorphic devolatilization could be the source of mineralising fluid (Phillips and Powell 1993; Powell et al. 1991). Whereas there may be more than one source of fluids, and there remains intense discussion on the subject, it is plausible that these metamorphic fluids played an important role in the mineralization process.

Simple thermal considerations suggest that the Kalgoorlie terrane would have undergone two distinct metamorphic events since komatiite extrusion at 2.7 Ga. The first event would have been associated with mafic-ultramafic volcanism and extension, whether or not driven by an underlying mantle plume. Because of its extensional nature, the first event would have affected predominantly deeper crustal rocks and is associated with crustal melting and voluminous felsic

volcanism, with a thermal peak within the crust at approximately 2.68-2.66 Ga, the timing of felsic magmatism. The second metamorphic event would result from the 2.65-2.63 Ga D_2-D_4 crustal shortening phase, and would have affected predominantly the upper part of the crust.

These arguments, together with evidence for several mineralising events in the Kalgoorlie District, suggest the possibility of two terrane-wide phases of gold mineralization each related to devolatilization through heating of basaltic rocks to amphibolite facies temperatures. A detailed numerical study of the thermal evolution of the Kalgoorlie Terrane would further constrain the nature of these two broad metamorphic events between 2.7 and 2.63 Ga, their timing, and the likely volumes of fluids released during each event.

In conclusion, the BLSZ is characterized by an early phase of thrusting and folding related to a crustal thickening event, D_2. This phase includes the early Golden Mile Fault and Kalgoorlie Anticline at Kalgoorlie, which became abandoned as they became oversteepened and new ones developed. Steep D_2 thrust planes were later reactivated during D_3 as sinistral shear zones, locally accompanied by N- and NNE-trending dextral shear zones, such as the Charlotte set at Kalgoorlie, and large scale N- or NNE-trending folds (Resolution Anticline). D_3 dextral shear zones continued activity through declining temperatures through a brittle-ductile stage and finishing with a brittle stage during D_4. The change from D_2 to D_3 is probably related to the crust having reached a maximum sustainable thickness, so that further horizontal shortening required lateral escape by means of strike slip shearing. The change from D_3 to D_4 was probably due simply cooling and embrittlement of the upper crust.

During D_3, the BLSZ probably expanded by linking early thrust planes, and the total displacement was relatively modest (less than 12 km) as expressed not only by marker motion but also by the tortuous trace of the shear zone. D_3 in the southern region of Kambalda-SIG was slightly different than elsewhere in that it had a component of crustal thickening, which was expressed by the reactivation of lithological contacts on gentle D_2 fold limbs. Furthermore, in this region, less intense D_2, allowed preservation of early formed D_1, north–directed thrusts. The change from D_2 to D_3-D_4 may be explained by the crust having reached a maximum stable thickness during D_2. Most gold deposits seem to have been formed either during D_3 (Hampton-Boulder/Jubilee, Kambalda-SIG) or during later D_4 brittle reactivation (Mount Charlotte-style). However, most *gold* seems to have been deposited during D_1 (Fimiston lodes). The Golden Mile, by far the largest deposit in the Yilgarn Craton, is the only one to have undergone a protracted phase of mineralization, with the first phase and most of the gold probably started during early

D_2 or even earlier. Yilgarn metamorphism remains the most poorly understood of all aspects of its evolution. Thermal history considerations suggest that there *must* have been more than one phase of metamorphism and devolatilization of crustal rocks at the upper greenschist- lower amphibolite facies metamorphism.

2.5. Structural Evolution of the Ida and Zuleika Deformation Corridors

Summary

Gold deposits along the Ida and Zuleika Shear Zones share some similarities, in that, in both areas, mineralization is late in the structural history, and structurally controlled in areas of increased complexity. Economic gold concentrations are preferentially sited at intersections between N-S and NNE-SSW ductile and brittle-ductile structures and the dominant NNW fabric, in particular where there are either low viscosity rocks (shales or ultramafic rocks), or high viscosity or brittle rocks (granites or dolerites). Gold mineralization in both corridors also show a similar chemical signature; for instance ubiquitous potassium, sulphur and silica enrichments, and anomalous arsenic concentrations at shale-hosted deposits.

Although, high-grade, shear-zone hosted deposits have been exploited along both structures, the main factor limiting the development of giant gold deposits would appear to be amphibolite facies metamorphism during or before mineralization. This not only diminishes the competency contrast between lithological units, but also, when accompanied by high strain, produces a pervasive foliation and parallelism of structures and lithologies, thus decreasing heterogeneities which could have focused mineralizing fluids.

Study of deformation of the Ida and Zuleika Structural Corridors suggest that deformation in the Kalgoorlie Terrane resulted from the interaction between a regional ENE-WSW shortening and indentation of competent granitoid blocks into their weaker greenstone matrix. Such interactions at the Terrane and Domain scales is via shear zone and fold rotation, as well as lateral and vertical escape of greenstone sequences on the sides of batholiths. Westward indentation of the large mass of granitoids north of Kalgoorlie into the Southern Cross Terrane explains the intense pure shear flattening with a small dextral component determined along the Ida Shear Zone, as well as the broad flexure of the Zuleika Shear Zone, which has sinistral movement on its northern part and exhumation on its central part around Kundana.

2.5.1. The Ida Shear Zone

Introduction

The Ida Structural Corridor (ISC) is a regional lineament, ~500 km long, on the western side of the Eastern Goldfields Terrane (Fig. 2.5.1) purported to separate the Eastern Goldfields Terrane from the older Southern Cross Terrane (Williams 1974, Gee et al. 1981), either reflecting terrane accretion, or representing the boundary of an early extensional basin into which 2.7-2.66 Ga mafic- ultramafic and felsic rocks were extruded.

The central portion of the Ida Structural Corridor is a narrow zone of high strain developed along the linear Ularring Greenstone Belt (Wyche 2000) that includes the Ida Shear Zone (the term Ida Shear Zone is used in preference to the more common 'Ida Fault', because it better reflects the attributes of the structure). This module has focused on the Ida Shear Zone, and accompanying strain corridor, as part of its regional efforts to understand the evolution of the Kalgoorlie Terrane and gold mineralisation. The structure was selected because of its regional importance as a potential terrane boundary, and also because its poor gold endowment contrasts strongly with that of the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone.

On aeromagnetic images, the Ida Structural Corridor can be traced north and south of the Ularring Greenstone Belt. The northward continuation can be traced on the west side of the Agnew-Wiluna belt as the Waroonga Shear Zone (Platt et al. 1978), while the southern continuation correlates with the western margin to the Coolgardie, Widgiemooltha and Chalice Greenstone Belts.

The Ularring Greenstone Belt is further subdivided into local geographic centres (Fig. 2.5.2), namely, from north to south, Mt Alexander, Mt Ida, Riverina and Davyhurst and was selected for study because it incorporates lithologies considered to be representative of the two terranes. The greenstone belt is bounded to the east by the Riverina Gneiss, which is a strongly foliated gneiss that yields a strong linear magnetic fabric that extends along strike for >100km and it is bounded to the north and west by granitoids (Fig. 2.5.2). The Honours Thesis work by Embry (1999) was funded by this project and details the Riverina region with a detailed geological map (available for consultation and copying at UWA, Department of Geology and Geophysics Theses Library, Ms J. Bevan, tel. 08 9380 2681).

Previous Work

The geology of the Ida Structural Corridor, from Davyhurst to Mt Ida, was described by Gibson (1904, 1906), Johnson (1950) and Tomich (1956). Focussing primarily on gold mineralisation, particularly at Timoni (Copperfield), and Riverina gold mines, little attention was paid to poorly exposed crustal breaks, although Tomich (1956) highlighted a contrast between a western 'jaspelite' bearing series and an eastern epidiorite series of greenstones within the Ularring belt. Williams (1974) determined that a "linear disruption" defined by the Ida Structural Corridor marked a change in lithology and structural orientations, while noting that the corridor itself was disrupted by granitoid intrusions.

The discovery of the Bottle Creek gold deposit in the Mt Ida area in 1983 led to increased interest in the belt. In his report on Bottle Creek, Legge et al. (1990) placed the Ida Shear Zone at the contact between the eastern margin of the Ularring Belt and the Riverina Gneiss. Wyche and Witt (1992), and Wyche (2000), both suggested that a terrane boundary might correlate with the western extent of ultramafic rocks in the Riverina and Davyhurst areas, which are accompanied by a zone of high strain. No previous detailed structural work on the ISZ has been published, while geochemical analyses of the rocks in the region are limited to a study around the Bottle Creek environs (Binns 1988), and a study in the Riverina area by Embry (1999). The Davyhurst area was mapped and described by Witt and Wyche (1992), and the Riverina area by Embry (1999) and Wyche (2000). The central (Mt Ida region) and northern (Mt Alexander region) sectors have recently been mapped by AGSO (Ballard, Mt Mason, and Mt Alexander 1:100,000 sheets).

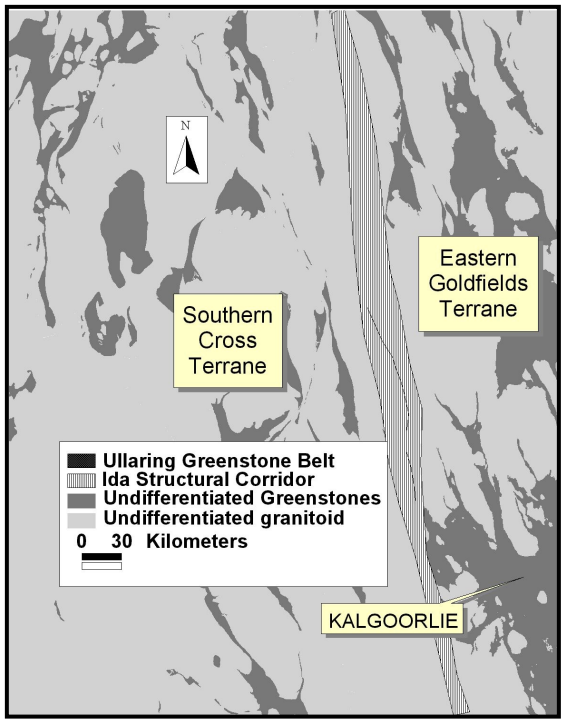


Fig. 2.5.1. The central Yilgarn Craton showing the trace of the Ida Structural Corridor and its relationship to the Eastern Goldfields and Southern Cross Terranes.

Current interpretation of the Ida Shear Zone is largely based on seismic data (Drummond et al. 1993, Swager et al. 1997, Drummond et al. 2000). The structure is interpreted to dip moderately to the east (~30°), and to penetrate to 25 km beneath the surface (Drummond et al. 1993). It is one of only a few structures that the seismic data depicts as cutting an apparent detachment fault imaged at the base of the greenstones. A gradual eastward thickening of the crust has been interpreted from the seismic study, and broadly coincides with the position of the Ida Shear Zone (Drummond et al. 1993). This crustal thickening, combined with an easterly decrease in metamorphic grade, led Swager et al. (1997) to interpret the Ida Shear Zone as a late stage normal fault and suggested that greenstones of the Kalgoorlie Terrane once extended west of the Ida Shear Zone, but were subsequently uplifted and eroded.

Stratigraphy

Three distinct stratigraphic sequences are recognised across strike within the Ularring Belt (Fig. 2.5.2). The western sequence consists of interbedded banded iron formation (BIF) and mafic volcanic and possible sedimentary units, which dip moderately to steeply east. The presence of BIF in greenstone belts throughout the Southern Cross Terrane, and their scarcity in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, have been used to correlate this package with supracrustal rocks to the west (Wyche and Witt 1992).

The central sequence is dominated by thick (<1km), monotonous, east-dipping mafic rocks ranging from fine- to medium-grained (basaltic to doleritic texture), with occasionally preserved pillow structures. Several coarse-grained differentiated mafic intrusive rocks of undetermined dimensions were intruded along the eastern portion of this sequence (van der Borgh, thesis in prep). A series of intermediate to felsic intrusive rocks are also present in this area. In the Mt Ida area (Fig. 2.5.2), the felsic rocks are intensely foliated, tabular bodies, in places discordant to stratigraphy. Individual dykes are several metres thick and persist for several hundred metres along strike. In the Mt Alexander area to the north (Fig. 2.5.2), intrusive rocks tend to be more ovoid and less foliated, and preserve intrusive relationships.

The eastern sequence consists of thinner (5-50m) layers of mafic and ultramafic and interbedded fine-grained sedimentary rocks, tightly folded around NNW- to N-trending, sub-vertical axial planes such as the major Kurrajong Anticline, which incorporates much of the eastern sequence and contains the Copperfield Granite at its core (Figs. 2.5.2 and 2.5.9).

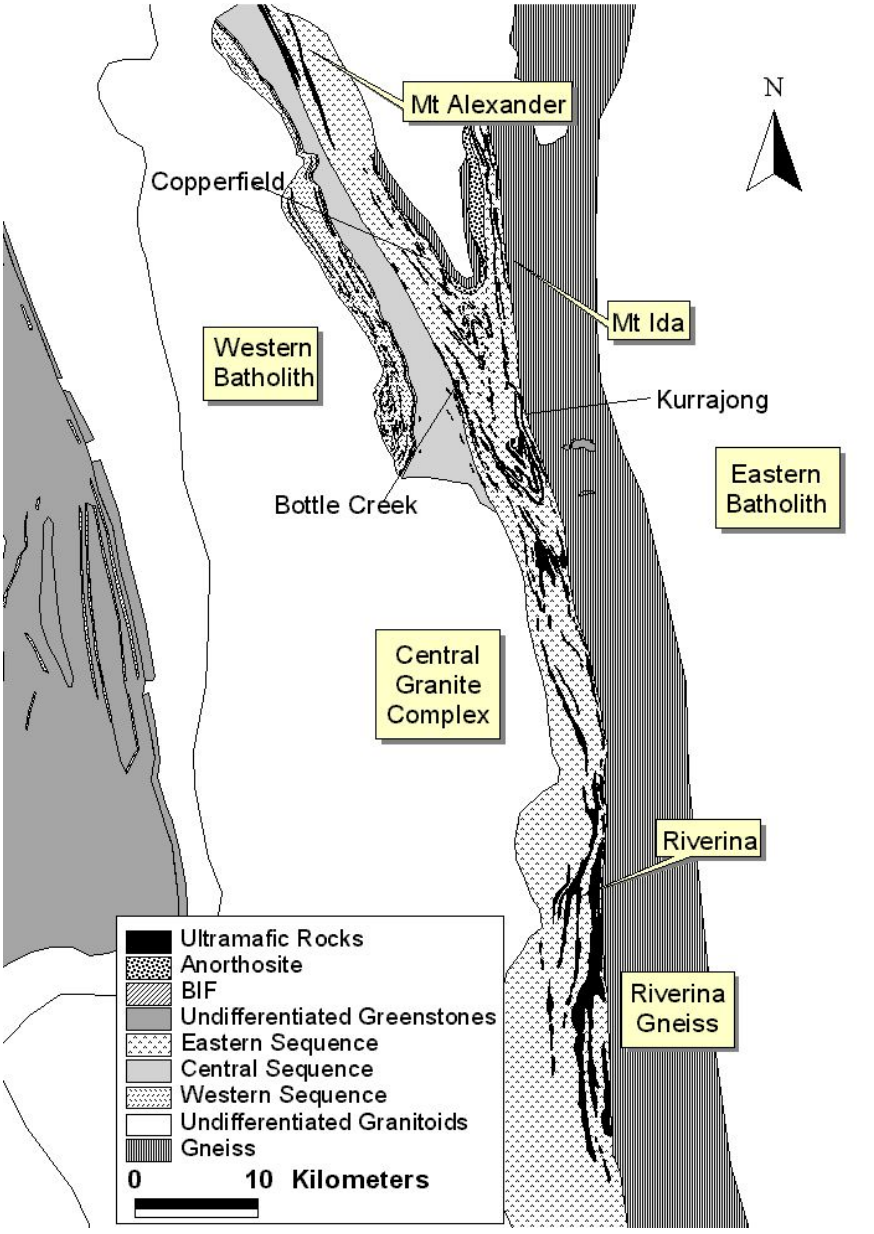


Fig. 2.5.2. Interpretive solid geology map of the Ularring Greenstone Belt and the principal regions discussed in the text.

The ultramafic rocks of the eastern sequence at Kurrajong, close to Mt Ida, have been correlated with the Walter Williams Formation (Hill et al. 1995), an extensive (35x150km) ultramafic-mafic package that can be traced along discontinuous outcrop all the way to Ora Banda, east of the Zuleika Shear Zone. The eastern sequence was correlated with similar rocks at Lawlers to the north, and Murrin Murrin to the east of the Keith Kilkenny Fault (Rattenbury

1993). Such interpretations, if correct, imply that the eastern sequence belongs to the supracrustal rocks of the Kalgoorlie Terrane, and that this sequence covers much of the Eastern Goldfields.

In the Mt Ida area, several large porphyritic bodies intrude the ISZ. These, or similar, porphyries can be observed in costeans and intermittent outcrops for >14km northward along the strike of the ISZ. Where observed, the porphyries contain a pervasive foliation, which is consistent with that of the shear zone. The porphyries host mineralisation at Bottle Creek. In the Riverina area, the Clarks Well monzogranite is interpreted to cut the shear zone and to be undeformed (Wyche 2000). A U-Pb zircon SHRIMP age determination yielded 2640±8 Ma and was used to constrain the minimum age of movement along the Ida Shear Zone (SHRIMP U-Pb on zircon; Nelson 1995). However, as discussed in this report on (*Section 2.3)*, the error bar on this age covers nearly the entire duration of the Kalgoorlie Orogen (D_2-D_4). Pegmatite dykes are common in the Mt Alexander and Riverina sectors, but absent in the Mt Ida sector. These crosscut the Ida Shear Zone at high angles, and appear to be undeformed.

In summary, three well-defined sequences can be intermittently traced for the strike length of the greenstone belt (Fig. 2.5.2). The western sequence differs from the others by the presence of BIFs, while the eastern sequence includes extensive ultramafic rocks in the sequence that is related to the Walter Williams Formation at Ora Banda. All sequences are highly attenuated, and, like other regions, they were intruded by mafic sills and porphyries.

Regional Metamorphism

Mafic rocks throughout the Mt Ida and Mt Alexander areas consist of the assemblage amphibole (hornblende or actinolite), plagioclase, ilmenite and titanite. Chlorite forms a minor, retrograde component in some rocks and epidote is rare. Most rocks contain some mineral alignment defining a foliation, although igneous textures are occasionally preserved, such as the inherited ophitic texture (Fig. 2.5.3). Plagioclase compositions of An_{50-90}, and rare epidote and absent garnets in the mafic rocks, together suggest low to mid-amphibolite facies metamorphism.

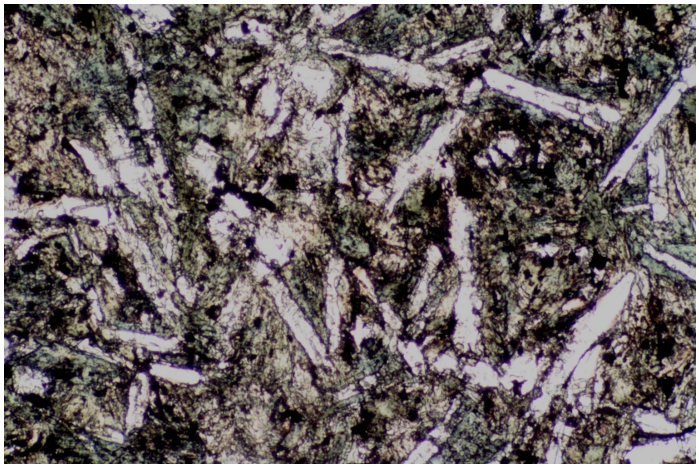


Fig. 2.5.3. A fine grained mafic rock from the Ularring Greenstone Belt, showing an inherited ophitic texture defined by igneous plagioclase laths in a groundmass of metamorphic amphibole, after pyroxene (width of view is 2mm).

Spinifex and cumulate textures are preserved in ultramafic rocks, although the mineralogy is now metamorphic, with massive ultramafic rocks consisting of the assemblage serpentine + magnetite ± tremolite. Sedimentary rocks proximal to the Copperfield Granite are reportedly amphibolite facies (Tomich 1956), and include garnet schists, and staurolite and andalusite schists, which decrease in grade with increased distance from the granitoid (Tomich 1956).

Geochemistry

During the project, a geochemical study was conducted, in collaboration with Dr Derek Wyman (University of Sydney), to define whether basaltic rocks on either side of the Ida Shear Zone are geochemically distinct and therefore belong to different terranes, or different extrusive events (van der Borgh et al., in prep). Fine-grained mafic rocks, considered to be meta-basalts, were sampled throughout the Ularring Greenstone Belt. These were combined with the Riverina data of Embry (1999), and data made available by Stephen Wyche (GSWA), which extended the dataset into greenstone belts within the Southern Cross Terrane. A brief summary of some of our findings follows:

Based on Zr/Y ratios <4.5, the basalts are all tholeiites according to the criteria used by Barrett et al. (1993) for the Archaean Noranda Mine Sequence, Canada. The tectonic discrimination plot of Pearce and Cann (1973) indicates that the mafic rocks from both terranes are typical of basalts deposited in an ocean floor or island arc environment. Although there is overlap of the data from both sides of the ISZ, the chemistry does indicate that many of the basalts to the east are distinct from those to the west. This is illustrated in a plot of V versus Sc (Fig. 2.5.4), in which many of the eastern samples lie along a trend with their ultramafic counterparts, whereas those to the west lie along a different trend line, probably as a result of pyroxene fractionation (van der Borgh et al., in prep).

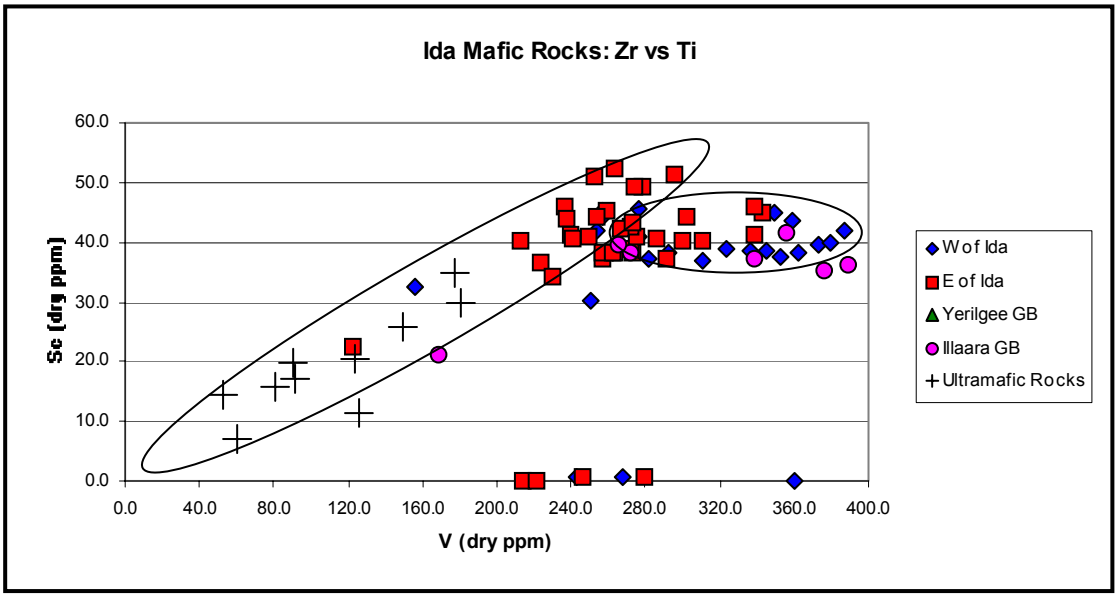


Fig. 2.5.4. Plot of V-Sc for basalts from the Ularring Greenstone Belt, and the Yerilgee and Illaara Greenstone Belts in the Southern Cross Terrane. Most basalts from the eastern sequence (squares) plot along the same trend line as the ultramafic rocks (crosses) in the eastern sequence, whereas basalts to the west of the fault (diamonds), including those from within the Southern Cross Terrane (circles), plot along a different trend.

The geochemistry highlighted a group of ten mafic samples with unusually high REE enrichment, characterized by high Y concentrations between 50 and 1000ppm compared to typical values for basalts of ~25ppm (Hall 1996). SEM analyses revealed the presence of rare-earth phosphates in these samples, including xenotime and monazite. Two attempts to date the phosphates, were unsuccessful, owing to very low *U* and *Th* contents in the phosphate grains. The geochemical aspects of the study will be dealt with in more detail in van der Borgh's PhD Thesis.

Structure and Shearing-Related Metamorphism

The Ida Shear Zone (ISZ). The four regions of the ISZ studied in detail (Fig. 2.5.2) over a strike length of 150 km, exhibit the same structural history and a similar sequence of rocks. Generally the shear zone is 100-200 m wide, and the shear fabric is formed along a sequence of alternating ultramafic and mafic flows and interbedded shales along the western side of the Eastern Sequence. The eastern margin of the shear zone is delineated by a gradual decrease in fabric intensity, commonly towards an ultramafic cumulate, and to the west by the appearance of monotonous pillowed basalt.

The progressive deformation of the ultramafic rocks results first in the flattening of serpentine and magnetite grains, followed by a gradual increase in the modal abundance of tremolite and *Mg*-chlorite at the expense of serpentine. In the most deformed regions, serpentine and magnetite are absent, and the paragenesis is tremolite + actinolite + *Fe*-chlorite. The breakdown of magnetite seems to have liberated *Fe* for chlorite, while *Mg* from *Mg*-chlorite was taken up by actinolite. Thus, shearing has led to the destruction of magnetite and the associated signature in aeromagnetic imagery. The increase of water-poor tremolite at the expense of water-rich serpentine implies deformation was accompanied by devolatilization as reflected in the decrease of LOI from 9.5 wt% in the least deformed rocks, to 4.5 wt% in the core of the shear (ven der Borgh, PhD Thesis in prep).

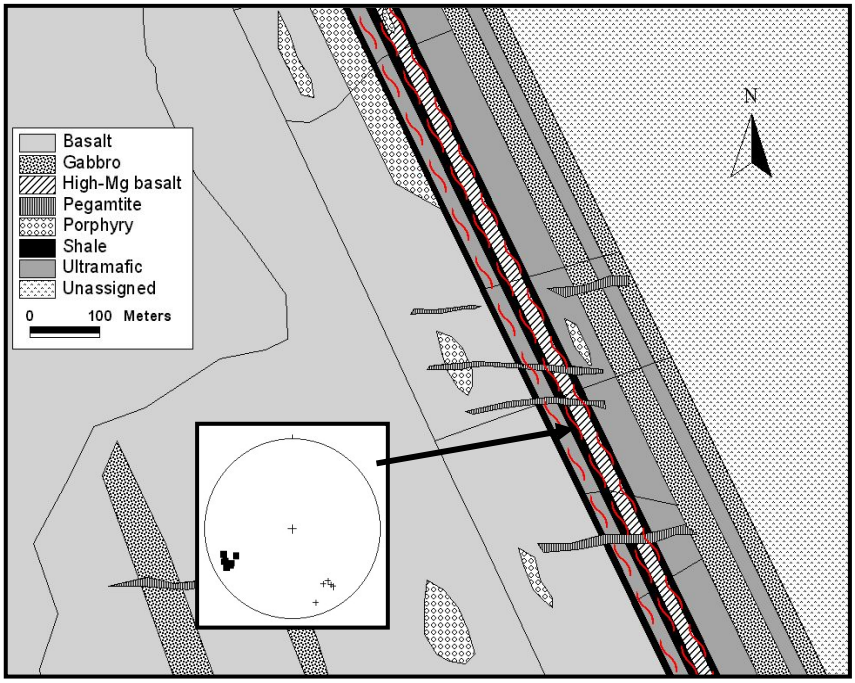


Fig. 2.5.5. Solid geology map of the Ida Shear Zone in the Mt Alexander region, showing the trace of the shear zone along the contact between thinly bedded units of the eastern sequence and massive basalt to the west. The shear zone is marked in the figure by the thick black lines representing shale layers. The lower hemisphere stereographic projection represents structural measurements from within the shear zone (squares are poles to the foliation, crosses are lineations).

The map in Fig. 2.5.5 details the stratigraphic and structural observations from the Ida Shear Zone in the Mt Alexander region, and is representative of observations along the strike length of the structure. The shear zone is typically sited along the contact between thinly bedded mafic-ultramafic rocks and interbedded shales to the east, with massive basalt to the west. The

foliation consistently dips steeply to the east, and contains a gently south plunging mineral lineation (stereonet insert in Fig. 2.5.5). A lack of asymmetries within the shear zone indicates that the deformation is primarily the product of pure strain.

The Riverina Gneiss. The Riverina Gneiss extends along the entire eastern margin of the Ularring Greenstone Belt (Fig. 2.5.2). It is characterized by a banded magnetic fabric that delineates a ~6km-wide belt in aeromagnetic images and was interpreted by Legge et al. (1990) to be a major crustal break. The gneissic banding is very strong for several kilometres in width, suggesting very high strain (Figs. 2.5.6 and 2.5.8).



Fig. 2.5.6. a) Outcrop of Riverina Gneiss at Kurrajong highlighting the gently plunging mineral lineation. b) Polished slab of gneiss from the above locality, showing gneissic banding and lack of consistent asymmetries, indicating deformation was a product of essentially pure shear (scale bar in cm)

.

The gneissic banding strikes N-S (Fig. 2.5.9 stereonet insert), and contains an intense, sub-horizontal mineral lineation in all outcrops observed (Fig. 2.5.6a). Embry (1999) depicted porphyroblasts showing dextral asymmetry. By contrast we found that the majority of porphyroclasts in the gneiss have either opposing or poorly developed asymmetries, indicating intense flattening or pure shear deformation (e.g. 2.5.6b).

SHRIMP U-Pb dating of fourteen zircon grains separated from the gneiss yielded an age for the zircon cores, interpreted as the crystallization age of the granite precursor, of 2806±5Ma (Fig. 2.5.7). Interpretation is based on the fact that zircon cores are euhedral, well zoned, and of similar habit, indicating a likely common igneous origin. Also the ages are well centred around

the average age and lack a wider age spread common in a xenocrystic population. Rim overgrowths, which cross-cut core zoning on six crystals, yielded an age of 2667±15Ma, which is interpreted to represent a resetting age caused by metamorphism or hydrothermal alteration. This interpretation is based on the fact that the concordant analyses have high *Th/U* ratios, consistent with metamorphic or hydrothermal recrystallisation (N.J. McNaughton, pers comm.), the overgrowths are not concentrically zoned as would be expected from magmatic overgrowths, and no cores yielded the younger age. The implications of these two ages are discussed below.

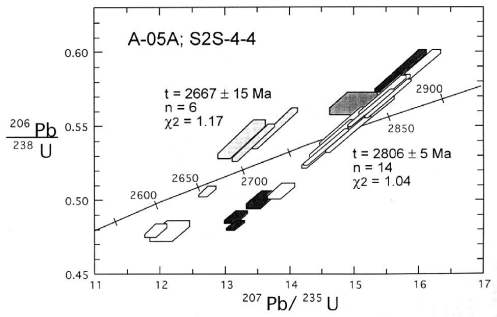


Fig. 2.5.7. Results of SHRIMP U-Pb zircon age determination of the Riverina Gneiss.

The Ballard Shear Zone. In this report, the term Ballard Shear Zone is used to describe a zone of shearing that is developed along the contact between the Riverina Gneiss and the Ularring Greenstone Belt (Fig. 2.5.9). The contact strikes N10W, and is therefore slightly oblique to the N-S gneissic fabric.

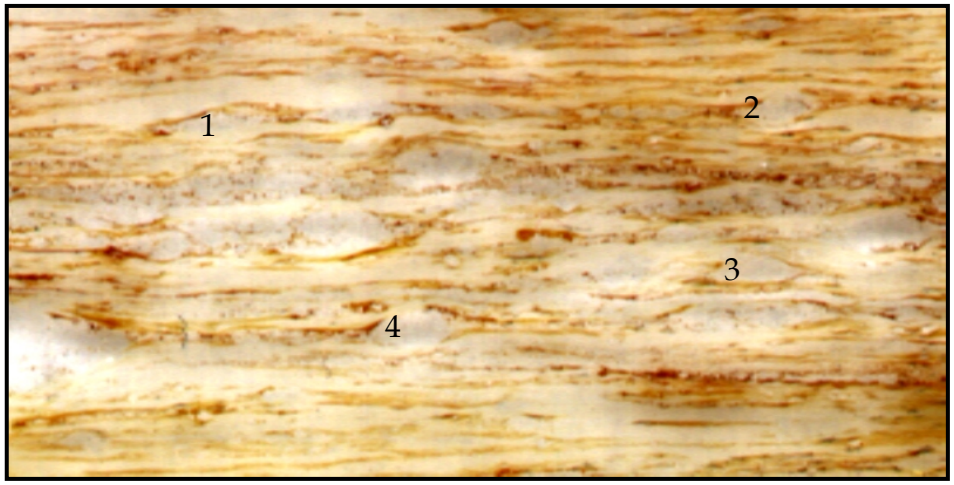


Fig. 2.5.8 Scanned thin-section of the Ballard Shear Zone. Horizontal C-fabric and ENE-WSW S-fabric, in conjunction with asymmetries around quartz porphyroclasts (e.g. 1,2,3 & 4), indicate dextral shear-sense. Width of image is 2 cm.

We studied this shear zone at Kurrajong, where it is ~200m wide and incorporates several rock types, including ultramafic and mafic rocks, porphyries and the margin of the Riverina Gneiss. The shear fabric strikes ~N25W, is sub-vertical, and contains a stretching lineation that

plunges gently both north and south. Shearing of gneiss along the margin of the Riverina Gneiss has resulted in a quartz-mica schist, as a result of extensive recrystallisation of plagioclase and quartz. Asymmetries around porphyroclasts, S-C fabrics, and rotations of porphyroclasts indicate dextral sense of shear (Fig. 2.5.8). The paragenesis and nature of shearing make it distinct from the broader Riverina Gneiss.

The Kurrajong Anticline. The core of the Kurrajong Anticline (Fig. 2.5.9) reflects, in a relatively small area, the regional deformation undergone by the Kalgoorlie Terrane. The lowermost units in the stratigraphy are an amphibolite layer and an anorthosite layer, which are folded around the Copperfield Granite. Around the margin of the granite, a strong gneissic fabric is consistently parallel to the contact and a strong mineral lineation, affecting all minerals, plunges ~30S. The orientation of the lineation is parallel to the axis of the fold, and similar features are observed in the greenstones adjacent to the granite where amphiboles are parallel to the stretching lineation in the granite.

The greenstone corridor to the east of the granite strikes N-S and has dextral kinematic indicators, while the western corridor strikes NW and has sinistral indicators. In many areas however, particularly close to the granite contacts, shearing and flattening has been intense and asymmetries or other kinematic indicators could not be determined.

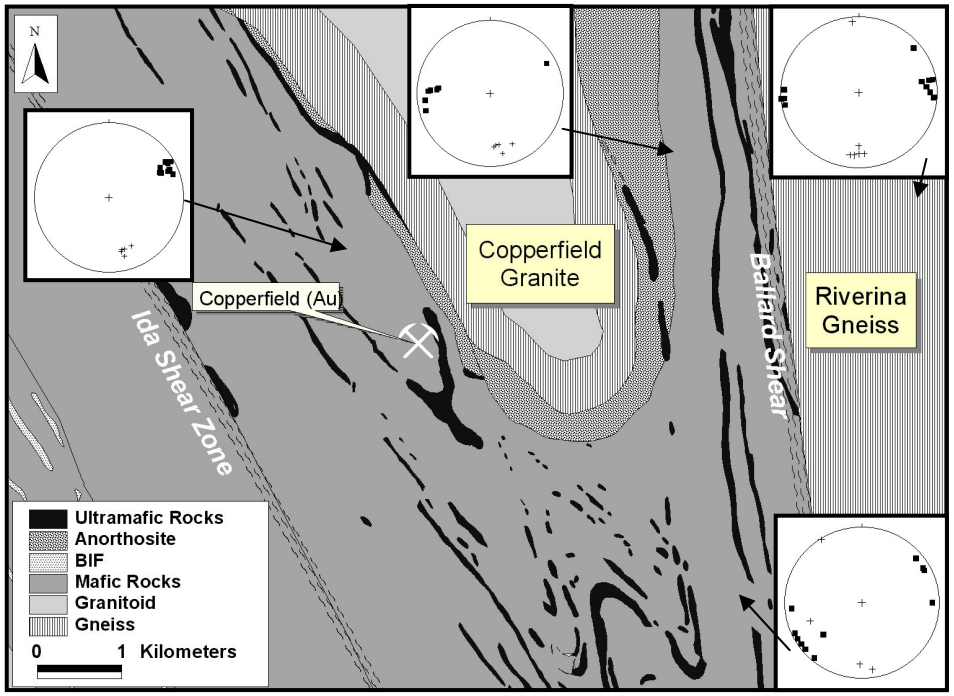


Fig. 2.5.9 Magnetic interpretation of the Kurrajong Anticline in the Mt Ida area. Note the variation in the orientation of foliations in the Riverina Gneiss and adjacent greenstones.

The change in sense of shear as a function of strike on either side of the granite, reflects the regional pattern of deformation observed of the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, where NW-striking shear zones generally register a sinistral movement, Zuleika and Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zones (e.g. *Section 2.4*, and Swager 1997), while NS or NNE-striking shear zones register dextral movement (Waroonga Shear Zone, Platt et al. 1978). This pattern will be discussed in *Section 2.7* where it will be suggested that the two sets represent conjugate shear zones, resulting from D_3 regional deformation event driven by ENE-WSW shortening.

Brittle-Ductile Structures. The Ularring Greenstone Belt contains three sets of brittle-ductile and brittle structures that are observed both on aeromagnetic images and in the field. A set of NNE-SSW brittle-ductile shear zones offset stratigraphy by tens to hundreds of metres. They are recognised in occasional outcrops as a spaced cleavage (Fig. 2.5.10). Macro- and micro-scale asymmetries associated with these shears consistently show dextral shear sense (Fig. 2.5.10). A second set characterized by NE-SW faults are observed, although unlike the previous set, they have a more localised distribution, for example along the eastern margin of the Copperfield Granite. Offsets are rarely more than tens of metres, and displacements are consistently dextral. These structures have not been observed in outcrop.



Fig. 2.5.10. a) Early, Ida Shear Zone foliation (horizontal in view) is overprinted by a later spaced NE-SW cleavage, (depicted by orientation of compass). b) Photomicrograph from the above outcrop, showing the same shear fabric (diagonal top right-bottom left) being overprinted by the NE-SW *spaced cleavage (horizontal). Note the rotations of the early fabric into the late cleavage showing dextral asymmetry.*

The third set consists of ~E-W brittle faults, which also tend to have a localized distribution, such as at the southern end of the Copperfield Granite and along its western margin. This set is usually recognised in the field by buck quartz veins and brecciation of wall rocks. Epidote alteration is observed where the faults are developed in mafic rocks. They consistently show sinistral displacement.

Deviations from Main Trend: Indentation. The Ida Structural Corridor deviates from its dominant regional trends around the Central Granite Complex, CGC (Fig. 2.5.11). The main trend of lithological contacts, the trace of the fold hinge of the Kurrajong Anticline, and the fabric defining the Ballard Shear Zone, are all rotated by ~20º, counter clockwise they approach the CGB. Deflection of the Riverina Gneiss resulted in the development of conjugate fractures dominated by a set of N70W strike-slip faults with sinistral offsets of up to 600m as interpreted from aeromagnetic imagery, and dextral NE faults with undetermined offset (Fig. 2.5.12). We interpret the deflection to be the result of progressive shortening of the greenstones as the CGC, representing a competent indentor to the west, impacted upon them.

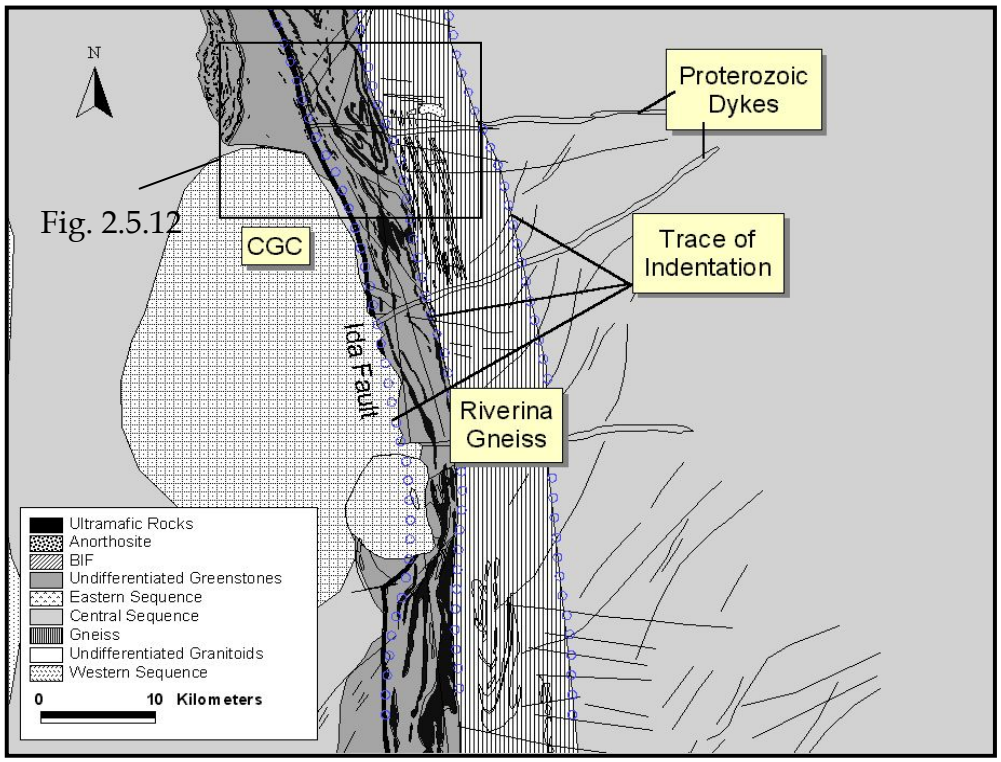


Fig. 2.5.11. Interpretive map of the Central Granite Complex (CGC), located in the area between Mt Ida and Riverina. The image highlights the trace of the 'indentation' observed in the greenstones and gneiss adjacent to the CGC, and the conjugate structures that developed in the gneiss and Eastern Batholith in response to the indentation.

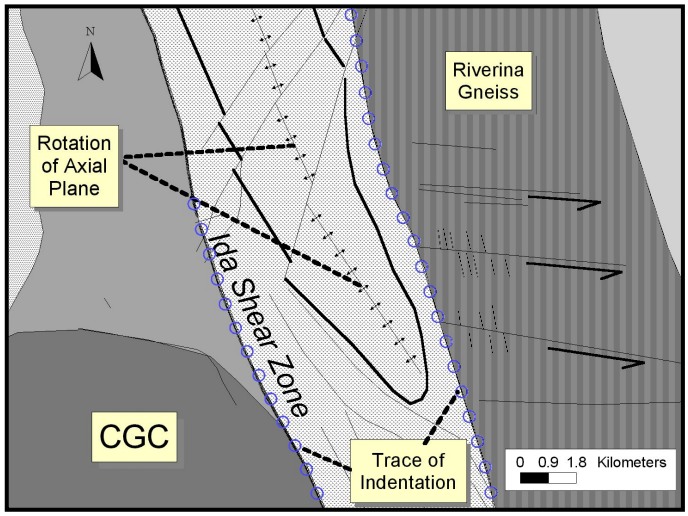


Fig. 2.5.12. Schematic interpretation of the northern part of the CGC, highlighting the 20°counter-clockwise rotation of the Kurrajong Anticline, and associated NNE dextral faults that have accommodated the rotation of blocks. Notice how indentation of the gneiss was accommodated by sinistral ~E-W structures. These structures delineate the northernmost extent of the indentation, which can be observed southwards for ~40 km.

Gold Deposits along the Ida Structural Corridor

Despite being poorly endowed in gold, more than one hundred mines are documented within 10km of the Ida Shear Zone but to date, no deposits have produced >500,000oz. In this section, we focus on three areas where gold production has exceeded 50,000 ounces, namely Copperfield (Fig. 2.5.9) and Bottle Creek in the Mt Ida area, and Iguana, south of Davyhurst.

Copperfield. The camp is located on the western margin, and towards the southern end, of the Copperfield Granite, approximately 2 km east of the Ida Shear Zone (Fig. 2.5.9). To date five parallel lode structures have been mined for a total production of >300,000oz, with the Timoni lode producing >250,000oz. Prior to the mid 1980s, the Timoni mine ranked in the top 12 producing mines in the Eastern Goldfields. All stratigraphic units in the camp, including amphibolite, anorthosite and ultramafic lithologies, host mineralisation.

The Timoni Lode is hosted in amphibolite. Mineralisation occurs in podiform quartz-carbonate veins up to 1m in thickness, enveloped in a biotite-carbonate schist. Mining continued to a depth of 300m, and for a strike length >500m. The majority of gold won was free in the quartz veins, with lesser amounts in pyrite sited along vein margins and alteration selvages. The structural controls on mineralisation are poorly documented and not well understood. The lode is disjointed by several ~E-W trending crosscutting structures, which have been variously interpreted to have been active pre- and post-mineralisation.

Features of the Timoni Lode in common with mineralisation elsewhere include the potassic alteration, a competency contrast owing to its proximity to the granitoid, and the intersectio of the lode by cross-structures. Furthermore, schistose ultramafic rocks are adjacent to the lode.

Bottle Creek. The three mines at Bottle Creek are located within the Ida Shear Zone. The pits are currently full of water and inaccessible, however the stratigraphic relationships (ultramafic-mafic-shale lithologies) and easterly dips that characterise the shear zone, as outlined above, are recognisable. The deposit was described by Legge et al. (1990), from which the following is taken. Mineralisation is hosted in a banded amphibolite that defines the upper part of the central sequence, and a porphyry. Shearing along the contact is intense, with the mafic mineralogy being altered to biotite-hornblende-chlorite-epidote-quartz schist, with garnet porphyroblasts, while the margin of the porphyry is quartz-sericite schist. Mineralisation is coincident with an arsenic anomaly (>500ppm), which is similar to many sediment hosted gold deposits in the Yilgarn. Unlike most orogenic lode gold deposits in the Yilgarn Craton, this mineralisation has a *Au/Ag* ratio <1. In general, gold grades in the primary zone rarely exceeded 3 g/t, while silver grades in the areas of highest gold grade averaged >27 g/t. Gold was very fine grained (<45μm diameter), occurring both as free particles, and as inclusions in quartz and sulphides. Gold distribution was very even, and without 'nugget' effects. The report does not detail the structural controls on mineralisation.

In some respects, this line of deposits contrasts with typical lode gold deposits, for example the *Au/Ag* ratio <1, and its location within the plane of a first-order shear zone. Similarities to lode-gold deposits include the ultramafic and porphyry associations. Furthermore, the deposits are situated within a corridor of NNE orientated structures with apparent dextral offset. However, not enough is known of the structure, metamorphism or metasomatism of the deposit to reliably compare these to mineralisation elsewhere in the Kalgoorlie Terrane.

Iguana. The Iguana deposit is located ~30 km south of Davyhurst, and 1.5 km east of the granite-greenstone contact, which marks the Ida Shear Zone in this area. The deposit is of particular interest as it is only ~15 km north of where the 1991 seismic traverse (EGF01) crossed the Ida Shear Zone. There are no published descriptions of the deposit. The pit is located in a sequence of interleaved ultramafic, mafic, and sedimentary rocks. Outcrop in the vicinity of the mine is very poor, and the open pit is intensely weathered, and no detailed mapping is available. The mine stratigraphy is dominated by amphibolite, consisting of *Mg*-hornblende, *Ca*-plagioclase ($An_{>80}$) and titanite. The amphibolite contains numerous grains of HREE-phosphate, including xenotime and other unidentified species as well as small zircon grains. Pyroxene-rich boudins are observed towards the central portion of the pit, and distinguished by their pale green weathering colour. Pegmatite dykes intrude the sequence.

The main shear fabric strikes N40W and dips 80SW. A consistent down-dip mineral lineation is defined by acicular amphiboles. Boudin necks in the pyroxene-rich lenses plunge gently north and south, and provide further evidence for vertical extension. Rare asymmetries around competent porphyroclasts indicate a west-side-up shear sense.

The shear fabric is overprinted by a gently dipping foliation (variable strike N60W to N10W, dipping 20-40NE). The origin of this late foliation is unknown, and clear shear sense indicators could not be found. We note however, that the seismic image depicted a gently E-dipping foliation at depth, south of this locality, which was interpreted to be a result of normal faulting (e.g. Swager 1997). Gold was won from quartz veins, with associated biotite alteration of the amphibole schist. The veins were sited within a narrow zone where the amphibolites have been boudinaged. Arsenopyrite is the main ore mineral, and gold is in these grains (SEM imaging). Gold has also been imaged in one of several potassium feldspar veinlets that brecciates the main shear fabric (Fig. 2.5.13a&b). The veinlets are not sheared or rotated, indicating that mineralisation took place after the foliation developed

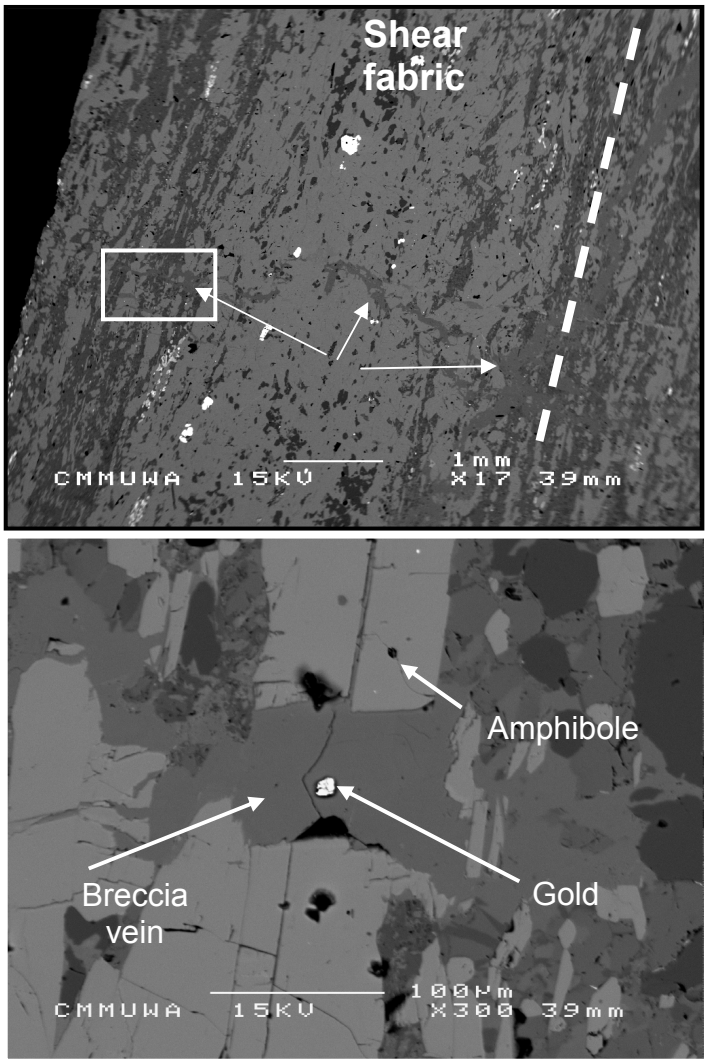


Fig. 2.5.13. Scanning Electron Microscope images of a) the shear fabric at Iguana, highlighting the potassium feldspar breccia veins that cross-cut the main shear fabric, and are themselves undeformed. b) Inset in (a), showing a potassium feldspar breccia-vein hosting a gold inclusion. The undeformed nature of the veinlet, and presence of gold, indicate mineralisation post-dated the main shearing event at Iguana.

In summary, the deposits along the Ida Shear Zone have some characteristics similar to those elsewhere in the Kalgoorlie Terrane, such as: a) the As-anomalies in the two deposits in proximity to sedimentary horizons (i.e. Bottle Creek and Iguana), and the absence of an As-anomaly at Copperfield, where no sediment is present; b) potassic alteration; and c) pyrite and arsenopyrite as the main sulphide mineralogy. Mineralisation at Iguana and Copperfield post-dates the formation of the regional shear fabric. Decreased contrast in the behaviour of rock types under deformation at amphibolite facies conditions, as compared to greenschist facies conditions, might be the single most significant cause for the decreased endowment along this shear zone.

Discussion

The Ida Shear Zone is an intra-greenstone structure within the more extensive Ida Structural Corridor. Strain developed along a stratigraphic break where massive, pillowed tholeiitic basalts to the west, meet a sequence of thinly bedded basalts and ultramafic rocks. The continuity of the ultramafic-mafic stratigraphy along the eastern half of the Ularring Greenstone Belt and possibly into the Ora Banda Domain supports earlier interpretations (Hill et al. 1995, Rattenbury 1993) that it belongs to the Eastern Goldfields Terrane. This interpretation contrasts with suggestions that a major crustal break exists along the margin of the Riverina Gneiss, at the eastern margin of the Ularring Greenstone Belt (Legge et al. 1990).

Contrasting stratigraphy on either side of the ISZ as mapped here suggest that it represents a terrane boundary between the Southern Cross Terrane, which includes banded iron formations in its stratigraphy, with the Norseman-Wiluna Belt, which includes ultramafic rocks in its stratigraphy. Unfortunately, although the geochemistry of basalts highlights different fractionation in rocks on either side of the ISZ, it did not positively discriminate the basaltic sequences on either side. Furthermore, no dateable volcanic rocks have been found to determine any age differences the sequences might have. The fact that the Ida Shear Zone is a fundamental stratigraphic break will be used at the end of this section to build a new model for deformation along the eastern margin of the Eastern Goldfields Terrane.

Lithologies and fabrics in the shear zone consistently strike ~330 and dip ~70E. The south plunging lineation in the Mt Ida and Mt Alexander regions is sub parallel to the axis of the Kurrajong Anticline which controls the orientation of the greenstones in the northern part of the Ularring Greenstone Belt. The structures are interpreted to be a result of intense straining, with a

sub-horizontal or gently south plunging extensional direction associated with folding and flattening of the rock sequence as a result of pure shearing with a minor dextral component.

A late, gently east dipping foliation was documented at Iguana. Owing to its proximity to the position of the seismic traverse, it may represent what was imaged in the seismic reflection survey. However, because this foliation was not observed elsewhere in the Ularring Greenstone Belt, there is a possibility that it represents a relatively local feature. An alternative interpretation for the shallow dipping seismic reflector is that it represents a listric fault that links upwards with the steeply dipping foliation characteristic of the outcropping Ida Shear Zone. Neither interpretation is fully satisfactory as yet, and more structural information and detailed seismic imaging of this important boundary zone is required to further elucidate its nature at depth.

The ages determined from the Riverina Gneiss are broadly consistent with older ages reported from gneisses on the eastern side of the same batholithic mass (west of Leonora, Witt 2001) suggesting that a significant portion of the batholith, including the gneissic margins, represent older continental crust that formed the basement for the 2.7 Ga extrusive and sedimentary sequences.

In some respects, the deformation observed in the Ida Corridor differs slightly from some of the other regions we have documented, and largely reflects the metamorphic conditions that accompanied deformation. Typically, rocks within the deformed corridor are intensely deformed indicating pervasive deformation, and even though competency contrasts between rock types was sufficient to trigger large scale folding (e.g. Kurrajong Anticline; a fold around a granite core), and local boudinage, it was not nearly as strong as in greenschist facies areas, where low-viscosity talc-schist and shales coexists with brittle porphyry dykes and dolerite sills. Brittle fracturing and rock brecciation, though it exists locally, is relatively uncommon in the Ida Corridor.

In general, the major structural features observed in the Ularring Belt are entirely consistent with the pattern of deformation we have observed elsewhere in the Kalgoorlie Terrane. The sinistral and dextral pair of shear zones observed along the western and eastern margins of the Copperfield Granite reflects the influence of the varying orientation of the granite margins in controlling the shear sense in an environment of ENE-WSW shortening. ENE-WSW shortening, and sub-horizontal stretching axis oriented parallel to the regional fabric, is similar to the regional D_3 while upright and tight folds, and reverse movement such as at Iguana, suggest a component of crustal thickening, which probably relates to the regional D_2. In the Ida Corridor these two phases are not as distinct as they are in the Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone. It is argued here that

because the ISZ is oriented nearly perpendicular to the maximum shortening axis during D_2 and D_3 most of the shear recorded is pure shear, with little difference between the structures developed during the two phases

The later, brittle-ductile and brittle fault sets that overprint the regional fabric are assigned to the regional D_4 and are similar in their orientation, shear sense, and physical character, to those in other parts of the Terrane (see *Zuleika Shear Zone* below).

We conclude that the deformation pattern in the Ida Structural Corridor is a function of the interaction between a long-lived regional shortening event, and the presence and geometry of pre-existing granitoids, during peak-metamorphic and retrograde conditions. Deformation along the Corridor occurred in an environment of high strain, in which shear sense was a function of the orientation of pre-existing contacts, such as those along granite margins.

2.5.2. The Zuleika Shear Zone

Introduction

The Zuleika Shear Zone was selected for this study because of its intermediate gold endowment and its location between the Boulder-Lefroy and Ida Shear Zones. A high strain corridor can be traced on aeromagnetic images, from a northern limit on the SW margin of the Mt Pleasant Dome, to its southern limit west of Democrat, a distance of ~200km. The Ballard Shear Zone has been interpreted to represent the northward continuation of the Zuleika Shear Zone (Legge 1990, Wyche and Witt 1992).

During the course of this study, we visited the northwest deposits of Chadwin, Ant Hill and Bullant, the central deposits of Centenary, Strezlecki and Barkers at the Kundana camp, and Cave Rocks at the southern end, as well as regional outcrops. This report incorporates existing data with our new data, and provides a new insight into the role of the Zuleika Shear Zone during deformation of the Kalgoorlie Terrane, and associated mineralisation.

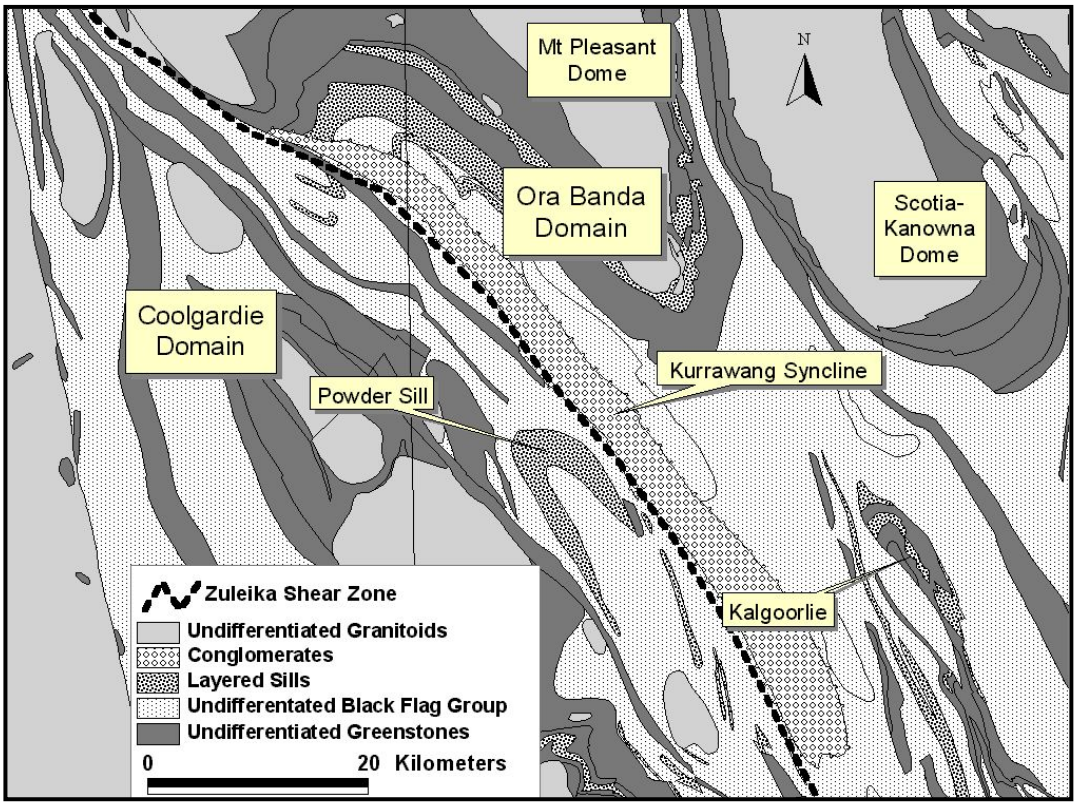


Fig. 2.5.14. Simplified geological map of the northern portion of the Zuleika Shear Zone (modified after Groenwald et a 2000), highlighting the major features discussed in this section of the report. Note the broad curvature of the Zuleika Shear Zone, and corresponding curvature in the Kurrawang Syncline.

Previous Work

Portions of the Zuleika Shear Zone have been documented within the Davyhurst (Swager 1994), Bardoc (Witt 1990), Kalgoorlie (Hunter 1993), and Yilmia (Hunter 1993) 1:100,000 GSWA map sheets. The Zuleika Shear Zone was delineated by these workers as a curved zone, forming the western boundary to the Kurrawang Syncline where it strikes NW and rotates to a more southerly trend to the south (Hunter 1993) cutting west of the Merougil sedimentary rock sequence that forms a synclinal structure similar to that of the Kurrawang Syncline. Swager (1994) defined the Zuleika Shear Zone as a domain boundary fault, separating the Coolgardie Domain from the Ora Banda and Kambalda Domains (2.5.14).

Sparse outcrops of strongly deformed rocks indicate the zone to be as much as 1km wide. On the Bardoc 1:100,000 map, Witt (1990) estimated the width to be between 100m and 1km, and noted that deformation was located between an ultramafic unit to the SW and a sedimentary rock to the NE, although the contact is not exposed. Tripp (2000) studied the ZSZ in the Ant Hill, Bullant, Porphyry and Wattlebird gold deposits on the northwestern section of the shear zone, and concluded that the structure was a zone of interlinked, anastomosing, mylonitic fabric, of sinistral displacement, which preferentially partitioned along lithological contacts and internal heterogeneities such as pillow margins.

Swager (1994) also reported sinistral asymmetries within the zone, a feature also noted by Witt (1993) at Hawkins Find and Zuleika. Witt (1993) documented moderately plunging (~45NW) mineral lineations at these locations, while those at Bullant and Wattlebird are sub-horizontal (Tripp 2000). Stratigraphic mismatch and lack of cross cutting relationships hamper the estimation of the amount of displacement along the shear zone (Swager 1994).

Witt (1993) documented widespread porphyry dykes in the vicinity of the Zuleika Shear Zone and Tripp (2000) described porphyry intrusions preferentially intruded into ultramafic rocks, and interpreted these to be syn- to late-shearing, based on the wrapping and truncation of shear fabrics.

Results from the 1991 and 1999 Yilgarn seismic surveys indicate that the Zuleika Shear Zone itself is not reflective, but displacement of planes cut by it lead to the interpretation that it dips to the east (Goleby et al 2000).

Stratigraphy and Metamorphism

As noted above, the ZSZ is a boundary between the Ora Banda and Coolgardie Domains. The Ora Banda Domain, situated to the NW of the Zuleika Shear Zone, has a well-defined stratigraphy described by Witt (1990), and not repeated here. It is important to note, however, that the Ora Banda Domain includes a significant ultramafic sequence known as the Walter Williams Formation, which has been recognized in several greenstone belts (Hill et al 1995), including the eastern portion of the Ularring Greenstone Belt, as previously mentioned. The two uppermost layers in the ultramafic-mafic sequence, termed the Bent Tree and Victorious Basalts, crop out along, and define, the NE margin of the Zuleika Shear Zone. In the context of the ZSZ and its gold deposits, the two basalt sequences, and rocks at the base of the Black Flag Formation, are particularly important. Particularly important is the role of the Centenary Shale, which is a recognized marker horizon at the interface between the Victorious Basalt, and the Black Flag Formation (Beeson, pers. comm.) within the Ora Banda Domain, and hosts a significant proportion of the mineralisation at Kundana. In the vicinity of the shear zone these rocks are exposed, dipping steeply to the SE, and attenuated.

West of the ZSZ, in the area of Dunnsville (northern section of the shear zone), the stratigraphy has been correlated with that of the Coolgardie Domain (Swager 1994) and consists of a lower basalt and dolerite, overlain by 600m of ultramafic flows and interflow sediments. These mafic-ultramafic rocks are overlain by the Spargoville Formation, which is defined as the felsic volcaniclastic lower section of the Black Flag Group by Krapez et al (2000). To the SW of Kundana, these intermediate to felsic volcaniclastic rocks are intruded by a differentiated dolerite termed the Powder Sill. The stratigraphy of the Coolgardie Domain differs from that of the Ora Banda Domain in that it lacks the Upper Basalt horizons between the ultramafic rocks and the Black Flag Group (Hunter 1993).

An overview of metamorphism in the Kalgoorlie Terrane was presented by Witt (1993). In his metamorphic map (Fig. 2.4.1), much of the Ora Banda Domain is indicated to be low- to mid- greenschist facies, and amphibolite facies rocks occur proximal to the granite domes. West of the ZSZ, metamorphic facies is generally higher than to the east, but he greenschist facies/amphibolite facies isograd cuts the shear zone to the SW of Kundana. The Spargoville Formation is depicted in Witt's (1993) map to be upper greenschist to lower amphibolite facies. Because the isograd cuts the shear zone at a high angle, the ZSZ does not mark a change in metamorphic facies.

Regional Folds

The Kurrawang Syncline forms the NE margin to much of the arcuate central and northern portions of the ZSZ. The axial trace of this fold is parallel to the arcuate shear zone (Fig. 2.5.14). To the SW of the Zuleika Shear Zone, a corridor of intensified deformation is characterized by a broad-scale synclinal structure (the Powder Sill Syncline), and minor folds within the Spargoville Formation (Fig. 2.5.14). These folds are well defined in aeromagnetic imagery.

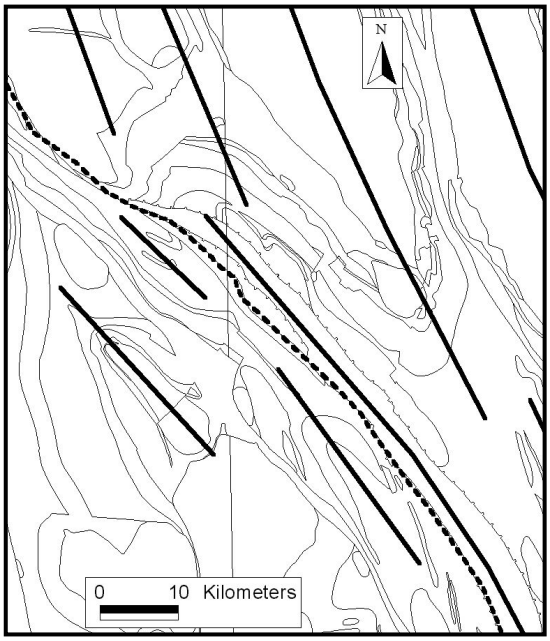


Fig. 2.5.15. Lithological contact map of the area depicted in Fig. 2.5.14, showing the orientation of major folds in the region. Note the obliquity of fold traces adjacent to, and SW of, the Zuleika Shear Zone, relative to those to the NE (see text for explanation). Note also similar orientation of the SW folds to the orientation of the Zuleika Shear Zone.

The open Powder Sill Syncline in the center of the corridor contrasts with increasingly tighter folds towards the ZSZ. At Kundana, rocks that belong to the Powder Sill define a tight anticline with attenuated limbs, as revealed by recent drilling (S. Halley pers. comm.). The NE limb of this anticline forms the SW margin of the ZSZ, where it is in faulted contact with the upper greenstone units of the Ora Banda Domain.

NE of the Kurrawang Syncline, fold structures defining the Mt Pleasant Dome trend ~N25W (Fig. 2.5.15), and formed in response to regional D_2. The axial traces of these folds are markedly oblique to the N45W-trending folds SW of the ZSZ outlined above (Fig. 2.5.15). The difference in the orientations of these folds is central to understanding deformation in this region and will be dealt with in later discussion.

Late Brittle-Ductile Structures

Numerous N-S to NNE-SSW oriented faults in the region are observable on aeromagnetic images. Several of these can be traced along strike for over 50 km, while many are more than 10

km long. Tripp (2000) defined three principal orientations, a N-S set, a NE-SW set and an E-W set which closely match those in the Ida Structural Corridor. Offsets range from a few metres to a maximum of hundreds of metres, and the sense of displacement is consistently dextral for the N-S and NE-SW sets, and sinistral for the E-W set (Tripp 2000). Furthermore, Tripp (2000) reported the sets of faults to have mutual overprinting relationships, to be brittle-ductile in style, and to crosscut the Zuleika Shear Zone.

Field Observations

Owing to sparse outcrop and degraded sample material, structural analysis of the Zuleika Shear Zone for this project has concentrated on open pit exposures. Ten pits considered to be within the Zuleika Shear Zone were visited over a strike length of ~200 km, from Chadwin in the north to Cave Rocks in the south. Drill core from the recently discovered Raleigh deposit was also observed and sampled for SEM work and microstructural analysis. In this section only the major findings will be described. Full description of the data assembled will be presented in van der Borgh's PhD thesis. For descriptive purposes, individual mines are grouped into geographical camps, namely Chadwin, Bullant, Kundana and Cave Rocks (Fig. 2.5.16).

Chadwin. The Chadwin pit is oriented N45W in its longest dimension, and is located a few hundred meters south of the margin of the Siberia Granite. The pit exposes the contact between interleaved quartzo-feldpathic sedimentary rocks and ultramafic rocks to the SW, and the Victorious Basalt to the NE. A pegmatite dyke lies close to the contact. The western sequence is isoclinally folded and the axial planar cleavage strikes ~N70W and dips 54S, and fold axes plunge ~30/160. The ultramafic layers are boudinaged and boudin necks plunge moderately WNW.

Rocks in this pit are strongly elongated and locally give rise to *l*-tectonites and sheath folds. *S*-*C* fabric and asymmetries around porphyroclasts indicate NW-directed thrusting, parallel to the lineation. A shear fabric striking N40-45W and dipping 70SW is developed along the axis of the pit, at the contact between the two sequences. The parallelism of the long axis of the pit with this shear zone suggests that it hosted the mineralisation, although this could not be confirmed. The hornblende-plagioclase ($An_{>85}$) mineralogy of the Victorious Basalt implies low- to mid-amphibolite facies metamorphism.

Wattlebird and Bullant. The pit at Wattlebird exposes a 25 m wide, high-*Mg* pillow basalt juxtaposed against ultramafic rocks. A 10-15 m wide shear zone at the contact is

interpreted by Tripp (2000) to represent the Zuleika Shear Zone. Small, attenuated porphyries are observed in the ultramafic schist, while a chlorite-biotite schist in the basalt hosts gold mineralisation. Pillows become increasingly flattened and attenuated towards the zone of shearing, and have long axes parallel to the shear foliation, which in this zone strikes ~N30-40W, and dips >80E, with a gentle north plunging stretching lineation (Fig. 2.5.16). Highest gold grades occur in a ~20m-wide, N-S trending vein array, where the ZSZ is intersected by a N-S trending brittle-ductile fault (Tripp 2000).

At Bullant, the pit is developed wholly within high-Mg pillowed basalt, which is a thickened version of that seen at Wattlebird. The basalt is cut by a series of 0.5-20m-wide ductile shears zones that Tripp (2000) interpreted to be the Zuleika Shear Zone. The average strike-orientation of these shear zones is N28W with a dip of 88/SW (n = 28: Tripp 2000), with gentle to moderate north plunging lineations, all of which was confirmed by our own measurements. In all instances, *S-C* fabric and asymmetries showed sinistral sense of shear (Tripp 2000). High-grade mineralisation at Bullant is also associated with the intersection of the main shear zone and a cross-cutting, NNE orientated, brittle-ductile fault. The foliation in the cross-fault has *S-C* fabric and asymmetries around porphyroclasts indicative of dextral shear sense. The westernmost lode-structure has a dextral jog that is coincident with the intersection of this cross-fault, and also correlates with higher gold tenure. Ore minerals and fine grains of free gold are hosted in quartz-carbonate veins or disseminated in silicates in sheared rocks. Biotite and carbonate are the principal alteration minerals, while ore minerals include galena, sphalerite, pyrrhotite, pyrite and marcasite (Tripp 2000).

Kundana. The Kundana camp incorporates numerous deposits, with mineralisation now recognized along a 14 km strike length, and a total resource >6Moz (S. Halley pers. comm.). Shearing and mineralisation occur along two sub-parallel trends. An eastern line follows the trace of the Centenary Shale, which, owing to the presence of the Ora Banda Domain's Victorious and Bent Tree Basalt to the SW, lies in that Domain. The western line lies within the Coolgardie Domain and is limited to the SW by the Powder Sill.

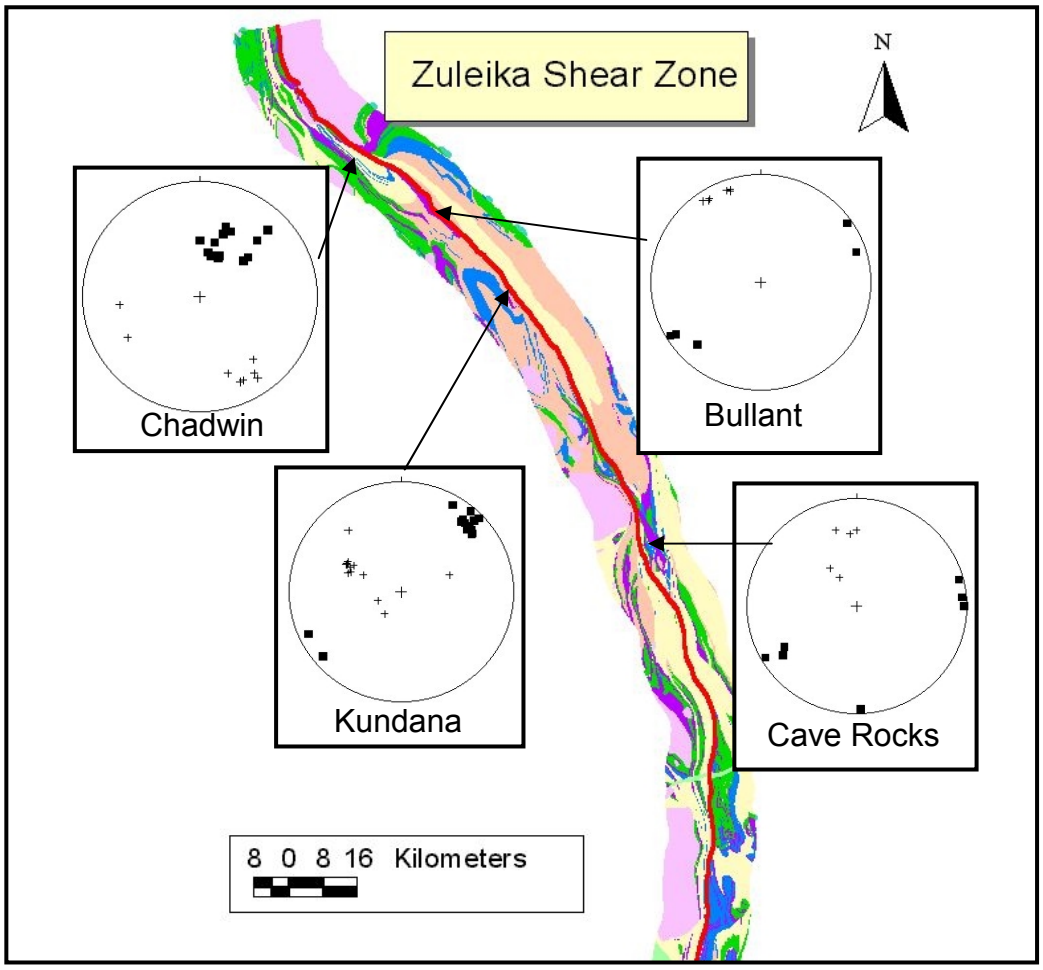


Fig. 2.5. 16. Lower hemisphere equal area projections of structural measurements from the four mine camps visited during this study. Black squares are poles to foliations, crosses are lineations.

The stratigraphy and structures have been segmented and displaced by a series of ~N-S trending brittle-ductile shear zones, and brittle faults with quartz breccias, which show a consistent dextral offset, with up to 600 m displacement. The correlation between N-S faults and gold deposits is typified at Kundana, although the role of the structures in the mineralisation process is obscure. Economic mineralisation is invariably hosted in structures that follow the regional NNW-NW trend, while the N-S to NNE-SSW structures very rarely contain economic gold values. However, grades tend to increase in the vicinity of the N-S and NNE-SSW structures, suggesting a possible relationship between mineralisation and these cross-cutting structures.

Eastern Line (Centenary Shale). The North and South Pits at the Kundana main camp show similar mineralisation styles, and lithological and structural characteristics. Mineralisation occurs in ribboned, crack-seal veins within the *Centenary* Shale. Ore minerals include pyrite,

pyrrhotite, arsenopyrite, and base metals such as galena, sphalerite and scheelite (S. Halley, pers. comm.). An arsenopyrite halo is often observed around the veins.

South Pit exposes a 200m-wide zone of gradational shearing, which incorporates the Centenary Shale at its core, the Victorious Basalt to the SW, and an intermediate volcaniclastic rock to the NE. The shear fabric in the shale and Victorious Basalt is sub-parallel to the contacts, striking N45ºW and dipping steeply SW, with well-defined stretching lineation that plunges moderately north (Fig. 2.5.16). In the basalt, the lineation is defined by plagioclase grains, which are significantly flattened and elongated. Plagioclase grains have been wholly replaced by sericite. Chloritoid 'spots' are elongate in a similar orientation. A sub-parallel lineation in the shale is defined by stretched clasts, and voids that may represent weathered pyrites.

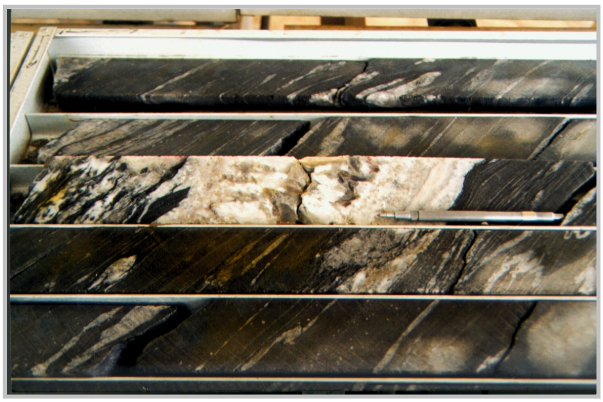


Fig. 2.5.17. Core from a high-grade intersection on the Centenary Line, showing a 30cm quartz vein within the strongly foliated Centenary Shale. Note the folded veins in the Shale, with axial-planes parallel to the foliation (width of view ~60cm).

Veins within the shear zone are folded and boudinaged (Fig. 2.5.17). The lineation is constant in orientation from the less deformed margin to the core of the shear zone. An *S-C* fabric and asymmetries indicate oblique sinistral shear sense at South Pit but not at North Pit. On the western wall of North Pit, a second structure, the K2B, is exposed along the contact of the Victorious Basalt and underlying Bent Tree Basalt. Here, we measured a steep west-dipping

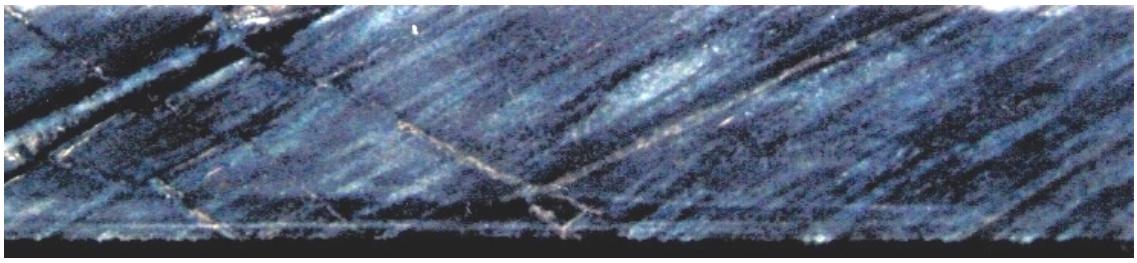


Fig. 2.5.18 Half-core from the Centenary line showing brecciation of the main shear fabric in the Victorious Basalt by mineralized veinlets, indicating that at least part of the mineralisation at Kundana was post the main phase of shearing (length of core is 20 cm).

foliation striking N50W, and a lineation in the Victorious Basalt plunging 70/S along the foliation plane. Asymmetries around the grains showed a consistent west-side-up (reverse) sense of shear. North and South Pits are displaced by a N-S striking fault with dextral offset.

Although the gold mineralisation occurs within the shear zone, there are several lines of evidence to suggest that mineralisation occurred later than the main phase of deformation. Figure 2.5.18 depicts a drill core through sheared Victorious Basalt at South Pit. The shear fabric is brecciated by quartz veinlets that are orientated both parallel, and at high angles, to the shear fabric. The veins host ore sulphides and have biotite selvages and are not sheared.

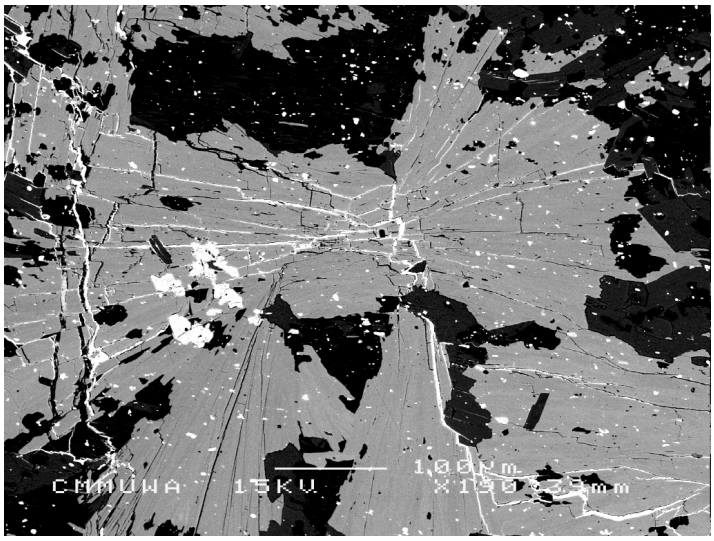


Fig. 2.5.19. SEM image of a chloritoid grain (grey) being brecciated and replaced by sulphides (white). Cross-cutting relationships such as these indicate that at least part of the mineralisation at Kundana post-dated the main phase of shearing.

The veinlets show mutual cross-cutting relationships indicating simultaneous formation, and clearly post-date the main shear fabric. Furthermore, the SEM image in Fig. 2.5.19, depicts a chloritoid grain which is aligned parallel to the shear fabric, brecciated and replaced by sulphides.

Western Line (Barkers-Strezlecki-Raleigh). The Barkers, Strezlecki and Raleigh pits are located approximately 250 m SW of the Eastern Line and define the Western Line. The Strezlecki Main vein is a laminated quartz vein (Fig. 2.5.20b), typically 0.5 m wide, and averages ~55g/t Au locally reaching above 100 g/t. The laminae represent slices of host-rock that became incorporated into the vein during multiple fracturing episodes. Petrographic analysis of the vein indicates laminae commonly take the form of stylolites (Fig. 2.5.21)

The ore at Raleigh and Strezlecki consists of a pair of parallel veins that are developed along the upper and lower surfaces of a 2-14 m wide, moderate SW-dipping felsic sedimentary unit. This unit has been offset along the Lucifer Fault, which strikes N10W, dips sub-vertically,

and has a total dextral displacement of ~600 m (J. Beeson, pers. comm.). The Raleigh and Strezlecki veins pinch out to the north and south respectively, as they approach the Lucifer Fault.

At Strezlecki, the Main vein sits between the upper contact of the felsic sedimentary unit and the Powder Sill. The vein strikes ~N50W and dips ~60SW (Fig. 2.5.20a). An intensely foliated biotite-rich layer is developed along the margins of the vein, and dips steeper than the vein (e.g. N50W/74SW). Laminae within the main vein are oblique to the strike of the vein (e.g. N35W), and have been interpreted to signify sinistral shear sense during vein formation (John Beeson, pers comm.). A stretching lineation on one lamina was measured to plunge 28/320. An increase in the number of laminations within the vein correlates with increased *Au* values (John Beeson, pers comm.).



Fig. 2.5.20. a) Looking NW at the moderately SW-dipping Strezlecki Main Vein (top-right to bottom-middle). The Powder Sill forms the hangingwall, while a felsic sedimentary rock forms the footwall. In this exposure the vein is ~30 cm wide, and the vertical height is 5m. b) Half-core showing a portion of the laminated vein at Raleigh, coin for scale.

A second, parallel vein, (the footwall vein) is developed along the lower surface of the felsic unit, where it is in contact with an intermediate volcaniclastic rock. The stratigraphic position of the footwall vein at Strezlecki is equivalent to the position of the main vein at Raleigh. Down dip lineations were observed in several discrete shears along the NE wall of the pit, and in proximity to the footwall vein.

Biotite and chlorite are the principal alteration minerals, with carbonate and epidote forming a minor component. Ore minerals observed include pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and scheelite. SEM analyses indicate that gold and galena show a close spatial relationship, often forming along, or in close proximity to, stylolitised laminae (Fig. 2.5.21), and occasionally along cracks in pyrite.

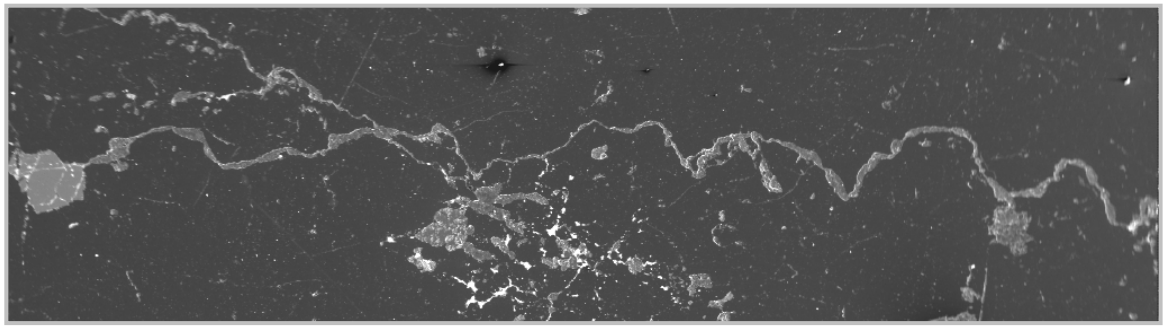


Fig. 2.5.21. SEM image of a sample from a laminated vein at Strezlecki, highlighting the stylolitic form of a lamina. The bright material (bottom-centre) is gold and galena, which generally occur together as aggregates close to, or along, the laminae (width of view is 3.5 mm).

The laminated vein at Barkers has an average trend of N50-60W and dips from 75-85SW. An additional structural component at Barkers is the N-S trending 21-Mile Fault, which intersects the southern end of the pit. The fault is developed along a gabbro-sedimentary rock contact, and has a strong ductile fabric that strikes N8E and dips 70-80E. A very shallow stretching lineation and well-developed *S-C* fabric indicate movement along the fault to have been dextral strike slip. The fault was associated with mineralisation several hundred metres south of the main mineralized trend, and represents a rare occurrence of mineralisation on this trend alone.

Cave Rocks. The Cave Rocks pit is ~65 km south of Kundana and exposes a turbidite (greywacke) package to the east, and ultramafic rocks to the west, separated by a dolerite that hosted the mineralisation. The sedimentary rocks are tightly folded, with vertical axial planes and axial planar cleavage striking N-S. Stretched clasts throughout the sedimentary sequence define a lineation plunging ~30N. The dolerite deformed in a ductile manner, and has a foliation striking N30W and dipping 65E with a stretching lineation plunging down dip. More than one deformation is recorded by the dolerite as reflected by several foliation planes, and no clear tectonic history could be derived as yet. Detailed sampling and microstructural study will be required. Discrete sub-vertical shear zones (~10cm wide) are developed in the ultramafic rock, and trend ~N15W. A stretching lineation plunges 28N along the shear planes, although no asymmetries could be recognized to confirm a shear sense.

Discussion

The Zuleika Shear Zone juxtaposes the Ora Banda Domain against the Coolgardie Domain. The shear zone is developed along a disrupted and attenuated anticlinal corridor that separates two broad, coherent synclines, and was the locus for significant strain partitioning. No marker exists on both sides of the shear zone that would constrain the amount of displacement along it.

The structure is defined by a zone of intense deformation, approximately 1km wide, within which lithological contacts were the dominant loci for shearing. This is typified at Kundana, where at least five steeply west-dipping shear zones are recognized along different lithological contacts. The most central one of these marks the stratigraphic break between the two Domains, juxtaposing the lower surface of the NE-facing Bent Tree basalt, against intermediate volcaniclastic rocks belonging to the Coolgardie Domain.

Steeply plunging lineations and *S-C* fabric asymmetry at Kundana, suggest reverse and oblique-reverse movement. Dominant sinistral strike slip movement was not recorded by us, although it has been interpreted from fold asymmetries within the mine (J. Beeson, pers comm.). However, we documented sinistral strike slip at Bullant/Ant Hill to the NW.

With the exception of Bullant, gold mineralisation along the Zuleika Shear Zone is located at lithological contacts, and reflects the gross pattern of strain partitioning observed along the structure. In the northerly deposits at Bullant, ultramafic rocks and porphyries are present, although it is the mafic lithologies that host the ore. A notable feature of the Kundana camp is the absence of these two rock-types in all known deposits, which is atypical in the Kalgoorlie Terrane. Instead, competency contrast is provided by the presence of low viscosity shales and doleritic rocks.

Biotite is a major alteration mineral in all camps, highlighting the ubiquitous relationship between potassic alteration and gold mineralisation. Carbonate alteration is significant in the regions where ultramafic rocks are present. A relationship between anomalous arsenic values and shale-hosted deposits is highlighted at Kundana, where deposits hosted in the Centenary Shale are associated with an arsenic anomaly, while those along the Western Line lack this anomaly. This is despite the close proximity of the two Lines, their similar temporal relationships, and the presence of similar ore-related sulphides on both Lines. The *As*-shale relationship strengthens the observations along the Ida Shear Zone as outlined earlier in this report.

Gold mineralization at Kundana took place after shearing and foliation development, as exemplified by cross-cutting veinlets and brecciation. Economic mineralisation within one of the

cross-faults (i.e. the 21 Mile Fault at Barkers), implies that some of the cross-faults were active during, or prior to, mineralisation. In contrast, Tripp (2000) suggested that mineralisation commenced during the formation of the shear zone at Bullant, but continued during the formation of cross-faults that cut or displace the main shear fabric.

Stratigraphy and metamorphism. The presence of the Walter Williams Formation (WWF) in both the Ora Banda Domain and along the eastern part of the Ularring Greenstone Belt (Hill et al 1995) implies that the Zuleika and Ida Shear Zones both delineate the western margin of sequences containing the *same* sequence of ultramafic volcanic rocks. In the Mt Ida area, we observe the WWF and rocks beneath it as they are exposed in the Kurrajong Anticline, whereas at Ora Banda the WWF and rocks above it are exposed (i.e. in the Mt Pleasant syncline).

Folds. Folds adjacent to, and SW of, the shear zone, in the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor have NW axial traces that are at a small angle to the shear zone (Fig. 2.5.15). These trends are oblique to NNW-trending regional scale axial traces of the Ora Banda Domain and the margins of the main batholiths to the NE (Fig. 2.5.15). This obliquity is here interpreted as resulting from the rotation of regional D2 folds within the Kunanalling-Zuleika Corridor during shearing and deformation. Both orientations of folds are cut by through going brittle-ductile fault sets, which places an upper constraint of the relative timing of the rotational phase of deformation. Rotations are also observed on the southern end of the Mt Pleasant Dome, whereby the trace of the axis of the dome rotates in a counter-clockwise direction as it nears the Zuleika structural Corridor.
There are several features in the geology of the Ida, Zuleika and Kunanalling areas that suggests that a process of indentation of competent granitoid blocks into weaker greenstone corridors has played an important role in the structural evolution of the area. These will be detailed below, but most striking is the broad curvature of the Zuleika corridor, the accompanying folding of the southern tips of the large batholiths as they approach the Zuleika Shear Zone; and local deviation of the Ida Corridor trend around the Central Granite.

The Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor. The Zuleika Shear Zone (ZSZ) at Kundana is predominantly a reverse shear zone, with steeply plunging lineations on steep, W-dipping foliation planes. In many localities, movement was oblique, with a small dextral or sinistral strike-slip component, that varies according to deviations of strike from N45W which corresponds to precise down dip lineations as observed in the Streszlecki pit and is interpreted to be perpendicular to the direction of maximum shortening. By contrast, further north at Bullant

and Ant Hill, movement was predominantly sinistral along gently plunging lineation. In order to understand deformation in this zone, it is necessary to zoom out and investigate the deformation in the Zuleika Deformation Corridor, a zone approximately 20 km wide bounded in the east by the ZSZ and in the west by the Kunanalling Shear Zone.

This corridor contrasts with the less deformed Ora Banda Domain to the NW, and the Coolgardie Block to the SE which has an internal fabric discordant to the regional NW to NNW fabric. The corridor is well defined in aeromagnetic images (Fig. 2.5.22) and includes folds with axial traces trending ~ NW. While folds in the cenre of the corridor are broad, they tighten towards both bounding shear zones. Lineaments in the NW end of Fig. 2.5.22 suggests a possible broad sinistral component as determined at Bullant and Ant Hill.

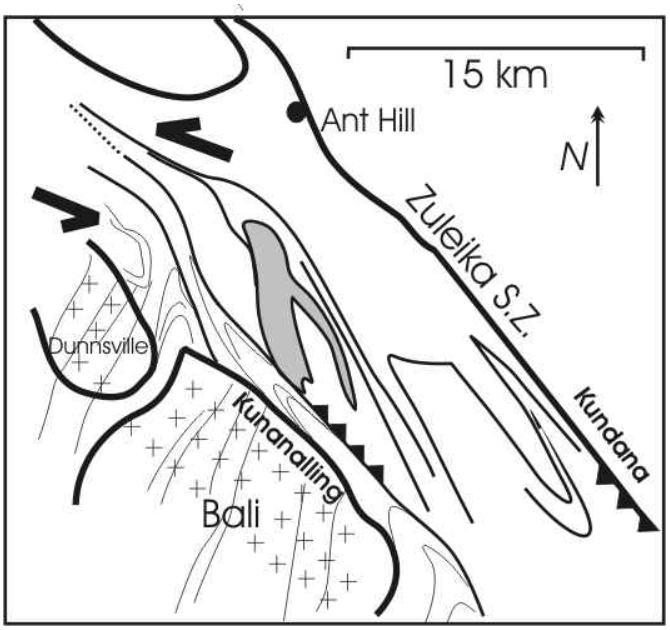


Fig. 2.5.22. The Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor, limited to the west by the Dunnsville and Bali Granites and to the east by the Ora Banda Domain. Opposite vergence on reverse shear zones at Kundana and Kunanalling accompanied by tight folds suggest the block was exhumed in relation to surrounding areas. The angle between fold traces and the trend of the corridor suggests a possible sinistral component of deformation as was documented at the Ant Hill area.

During this project, open-pits (Kunanalling, London, Blue Bell) along the narrow band of intense folding in the vicinity of the Kunanalling Shear Zone and Bali Granite (Fig. 2.5.22) were studied. This area has been studied by Hunter (1993), who by linking ultramafic rock exposures on either side of the Kunanalling Shear Zone suggested a 12km sinistral movement. This shear sense was not confirmed here. Exposures in the open pits are characterized by NW-striking foliation dipping steeply NE, accompanied with approximately down dip mineral and stretching lineation (Fig. 2.5.23). Sense of shear indicators (*S-C* fabric) suggests SW-thrusting, and in the Kunanalling open pit, ultramafic rocks were thrust over pillow basalts and tight, west-verging folds were also documented (Fig. 2.5.23).

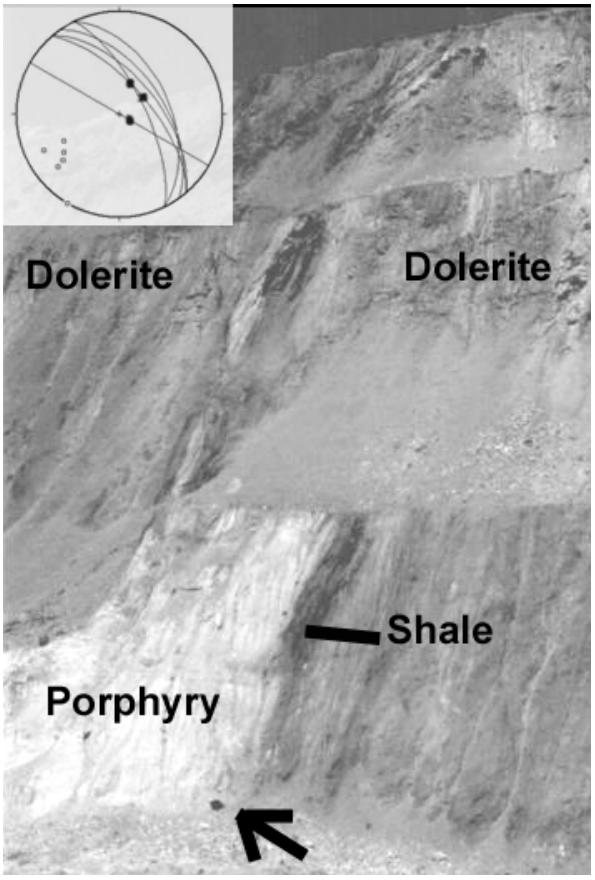


Fig. 2.5.23. A porphyry and a narrow shale layer (darker band) define a tight fold enclosed by dolerite on the SW face of the Kunanalling open pit. Insert: lower hemisphere equal area stereo projection of foliation (N30W/60NE; great circles), their poles (plus signs) and the approximately down dip mineral and stretching lineation (black squares on the great circles). Arrow points to a bag as scale.

These observations suggest that deformation in the Kunanalling Shear Zone was characterized by west-directed thrusting and tight originally recumbent folding, and that these structures probably became steeper as shortening progressed. The sinistral movement previously inferred (Hunter 1993) is based on the incorrect procedure of linking two random parts of complexly folded ultramafic layer.

The symmetric pattern of strain distribution within the corridor between Kundana and Kunanalling, with fold tightening towards the two bounding structures and opposite thrust and fold vergence (Fig. 2.5.24) suggest that folding and thrusting developed broadly contemporaneously and led to the exhumation of the corridor as a *pop-up structure*. Because this deformation event led to a period of crustal thickening, it is most likely related to the regional D_2 event.

As noted above, in contrast to the dominantly reverse movement at Kundana, sinistral shearing along the ZSZ is well-developed at Ant Hill and Bullant, (Tripp 2000; and our own observations) 20 km northwest of Kundana. It could be that either the broad ZSZ lineament has been reactivated as a sinistral shear zone after reverse movement, like the BLSZ, or alternatively,

the sense of shear changes along strike. This will be further discussed below in the section related to the indentation of the Coolgardie Block.

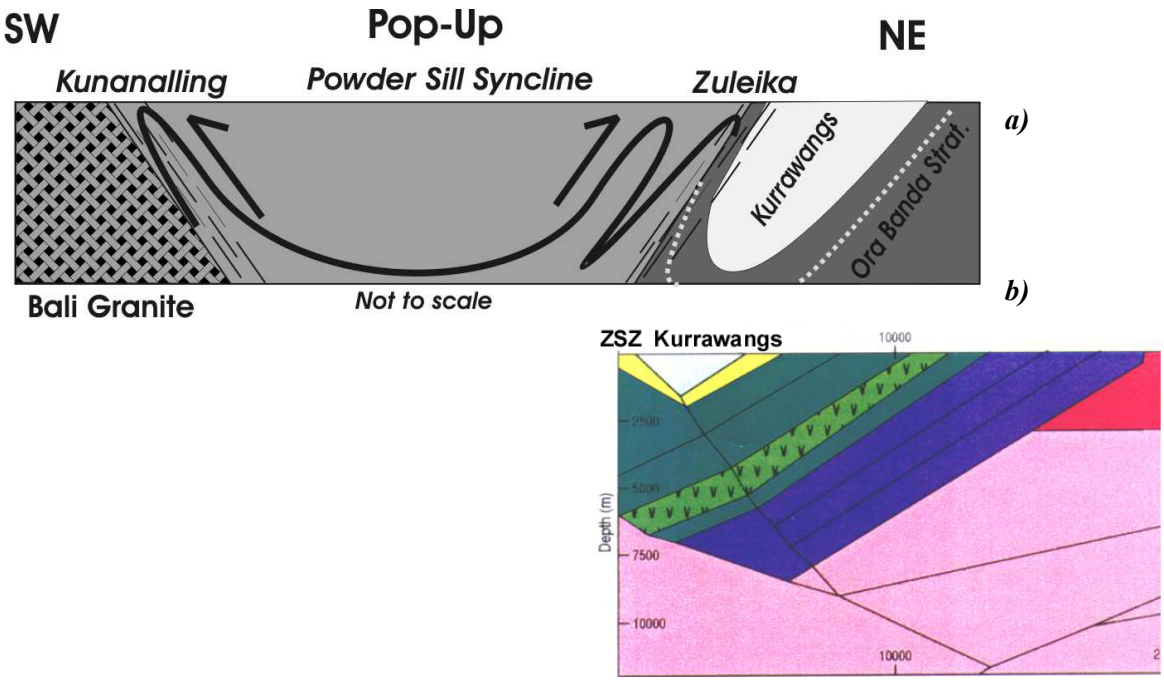


Fig. 2.5.24. a) Schematic profile from Kundana, on the Zuleika Shear Zone, to the Kunanalling pit, on the Kunanalling Shear Zone, 20 km to the west. The profile depicts the tightening of folds towards the shear zones, and their opposite vergence, defining a pop-up structure. Note that the Kurrawangs Sedimentary Sequence has been folded by the same event even though these sedimentary rocks lie in the much less deformed Ora Banda Domain. This profile is only slightly different from that of Hunter (1993), but here shear senses are added to the main shear zones. The profile compares poorly with the seismic interpretation in b) where the stratigraphy is virtually undisturbed by the Zuleika Shear Zone (Goleby et al. 2000).

Escape Tectonics and Deformation of the Kalgoorlie Terrane

Several lines of evidence suggest that large granitoid-dominated masses may have controlled regional deformation, via a process of indentation. Firstly, we described the indentation pattern around the Central Granite Complex on the Ida Shear Zone (Section 2.5.1). Secondly, the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor defines a broad flexure and a pop-up structure around the granite dominated Coolgardie Domain. This is associated with a bend of the southern tip of the Siberia Batholith Granitoid, which suggests that the Coolgardie Domain moved eastwards. Thirdly, intensive flattening along the ISZ suggests that the large granite mass to the east may have flattened it against the large granite-dominated Southern Cross Terrane to the west.

A numerical model was designed to test whether some of these features could be explained by indentation of the large granite block north of Kalgoorlie (the Eastern Batholith, Fig. 2.5.2). The code ELLIPSIS developed by Louis Moresi (CSIRO) and run by Chris Wijns (UWA)

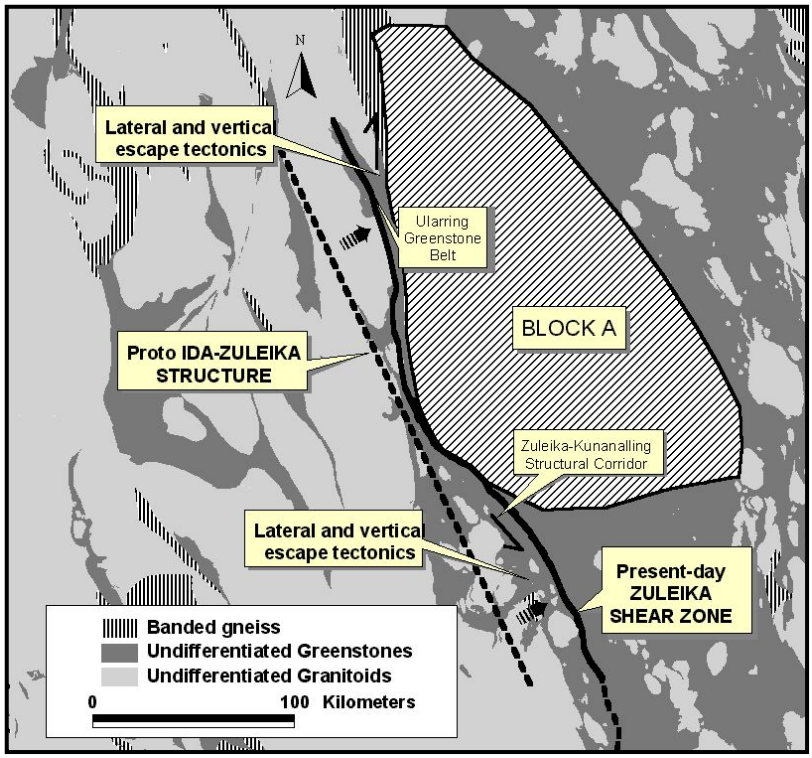


Fig. 2.5.25. Simplified geological map highlighting the principal features on which the ELLIPSIS model is based. Block A broadly defines the Eastern Batholith, which impinged upon the Southern Cross Terrane and surrounding greenstones, resulting in the lateral escape of the greenstone sequences.

was used for this purpose. The model consists of a competent, lozenge-shaped block (Block A, Fig. 2.5.25 and 26), simulating the large, batholithic complex (the Eastern Batholith, Fig. 2.5.2) to the north of Ora Banda and west of the Ularring Greenstone Belt. Block A is surrounded by a less competent matrix, representing the greenstone sequences of the Ida and Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridors. Greenstone sequences are bound to the west by a competent band simulating the

granite-dominated Southern Cross Terrane. Shortening was oriented ENE-WSW (Fig. 2.5.26), as concluded previously in this report.

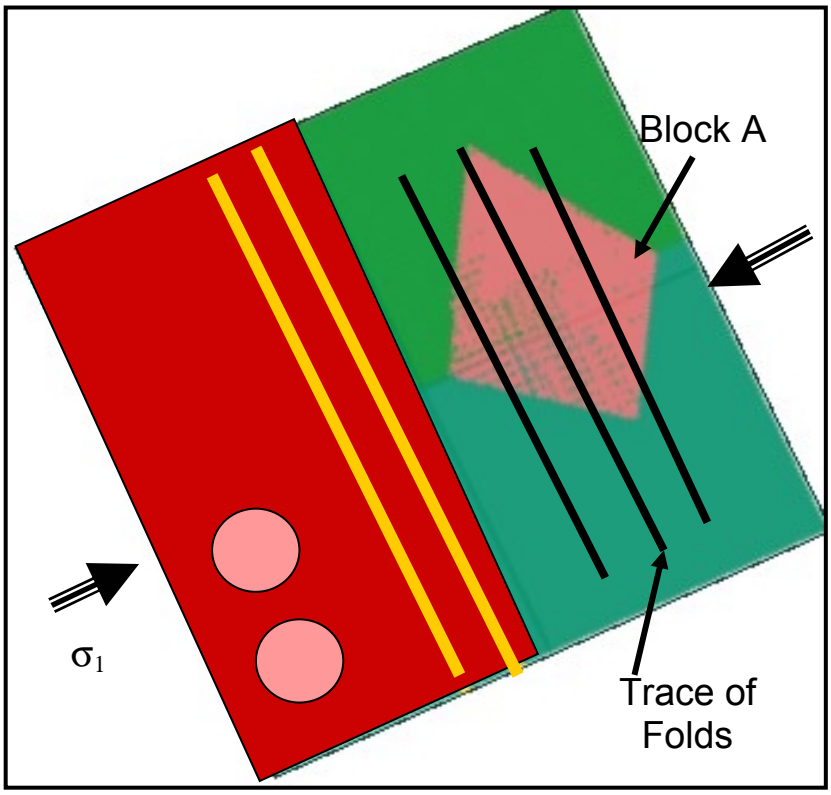


Fig. 2.5.26. Starting configuration for the ELLIPSIS model to test the hypothesis for escape tectonics in the Kalgoorlie Terrane (see text for details). The model is rotated to match regional orientation.

As the indenting Block A approached the competent Southern Cross Terrane (Fig. 2.5.27) the intervening greenstone sequence was forced to escape laterally, causing the incompetent layer (greenstones) to wrap around Block A, rotating and tightening earlier folds and thrusts. Material immediately in front of the indentor, the region corresponding to the Ida Corridor, accommodated much of the deformation by means of intense flattening. Simultaneously, the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor, because of its position on the SW margins of the indentor Block A, was forced to escape towards the southeast by means of rotation and sinistral strike slip. Furthermore, the competent Southern Cross Terrane underwent a broad concave deflection, which caused the Coolgardie Block to move eastwards and led to a general shortening and pop-up of the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor. The model also suggests that the region to the NW of the indentor is characterized by a northeastward escape along dextral shear zones, and that is what has been described along the Waroonga Shear Zone (Platt et al. 1978).

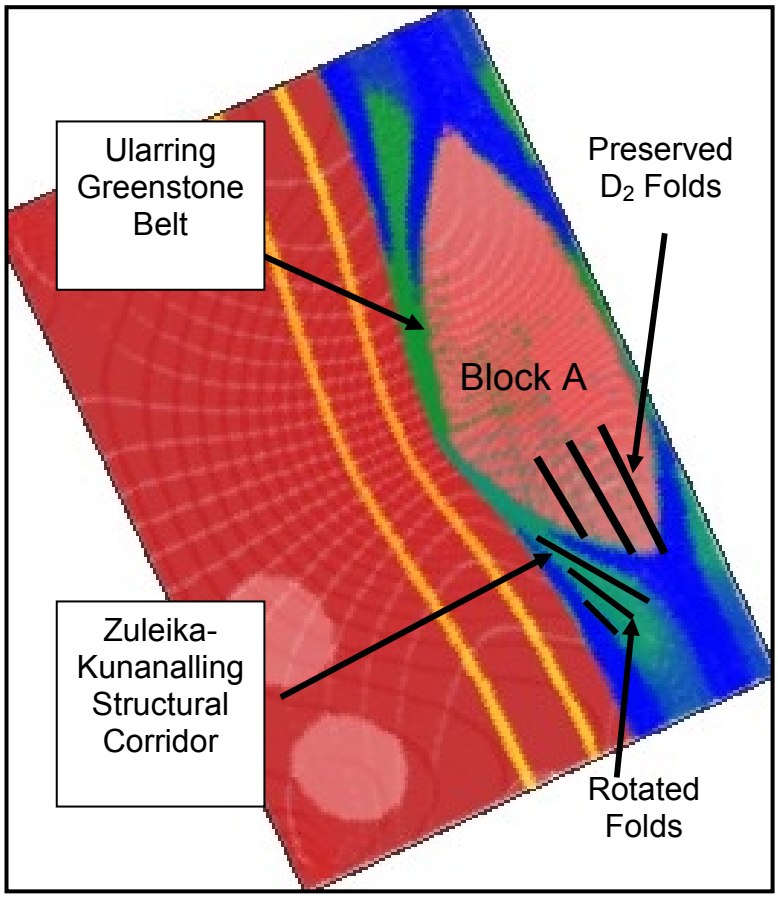


Fig. 2.5.27. Result of the numerical model. Areas in green indicate high strain, and correlate well with the Ularring and Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridors (see text for details).

Thus, our simple model suggests that ENE-WSW directed crustal shortening driving the indentation of the competent granite batholith in the middle of the terrane, not unlike the indentation of India into southern Asia, is capable of explaining flattening along the Ida Corridor; the southeast escape and rotation of the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor defined by sinistral motion on the northern part of the ZSZ; the eastward motion of the Coolgardie Block and consequent pop-up of the central part of the Zuleika-Kunanalling Corridor; as well as dextral movement on the Waroonga Shear Zone. We suggest also that the Ida and Zuleika might once have been one and the same roughly linear shear zone that was bent into the present shape by the indentation of rigid blocks.

2.6 Controls on Gold Endowment: Shear Zone Comparison

Summary

Field observations suggest that a variety of rock types provides a positive environment for gold deposition, because it provides local zones of dilation as a result of competency contrast, as well as chemical gradients to trigger gold deposition. Field observations, supported by theoretical arguments suggest that competency contrast is strongest at greenschist facies temperatures and decreases at amphibolite facies. This is because at greenschist facies phyllosilicate-rich rocks flow viscously, while coexisting quartz- or feldspar-dominated rocks tend to behave in a brittle fashion. Greenschist facies gold deposits in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt provide numerous examples of this contrast, where granite dykes or dolerite sills are intensely fractured while surrounding talc-schist is strongly sheared.

It is in fact this contrast in behaviour and strength at greenschist facies that ultimately leads to gold deposits because such competency contrasts give rise to local strain incompatibility, and rock rotation during shearing, increasing permeability in dilational zones, particularly close to contacts, and focusing mineralizing fluid flow. At amphibolite facies, by contrast, phyllosilicate schists may be strengthened in comparison to other rocks by the growth of amphiboles and feldspars, or grain size coarsening; while quartz- and feldspar-dominated rocks are weakened and start flowing as ductile materials (e.g. Tullis and Yund 1987). Thus, relatively weak schists may become strong amphibolites, while strong granites and dolerites are weakened by temperature rises. Decreased competency contrast then leads to poorly developed fluid pathways, unfocused fluid flow and impoverished gold deposits.

Three shear zones of regional significance and contrasting gold endowment were previously detailed: the Boulder-Lefroy (BLSZ), the Zuleika (ZSZ) and the Ida Shear Zones (ISZ). This section compares them, focusing particularly on the controls on gold mineralization. The main differences between the shear zones, with direct bearing on gold endowment, are their metamorphic facies, variety of rock types, and shear zone orientation.

The most endowed shear zone (BLSZ) strikes between N20-30W, and cuts through a rich variety of greenschist facies rock types, folded into relatively broad antiforms with good ability to focus fluid flow. The Zuleika Shear Zone, has intermediate gold endowment, and has many intermediate features between the BLSZ and the ISZ. It has a variety of rock types along its length, but these are very tightly folded in the vicinity of the shear zone (reducing fluid focusing ability). Metamorphic temperatures, though varied along strike, are higher than that at the BLSZ, straddling the boundary between greenschist and amphibolite facies. This leads to lower competency contrasts, with negative effects on gold mineralization. The strike of the ZSZ is

curved, varying from a similar strike to the BLSZ in the south, where the larger deposits are (e.g. Cave Rocks and Kundana), to a more westerly strike in the north, with a decrease in the size of deposits (Bullant and Ant Hill). Finally, the least endowed of the three shear zones, the Ida Shear Zone runs parallel to regionally continuous layers, which define a synform within a relatively narrow corridor of strongly attenuated layers of monotonous, amphibolite facies mafic-ultramafic rocks enclosed between more competent granitic batholiths, striking approximately N10-20W. Poor gold endowment results from the combined effects of low competency contrasts, strongly attenuated layers with little variation in attitude due to strong flattening, and amphibolite facies metamorphism.

Introduction

In *Sections 2.3* to *2.5* our study of the Ida, Zuleika and Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zones have been fully described. Fig. 2.6.1 summarizes our findings regarding shear zone kinematics as described in previous sections and compares them with previous interpretations. Detailed comparison will be carried out in Peter van der Borgh's thesis. In this section, the shear zones will be compared (Table 1) focusing on the influences of different shear zone characteristics on gold endowment.

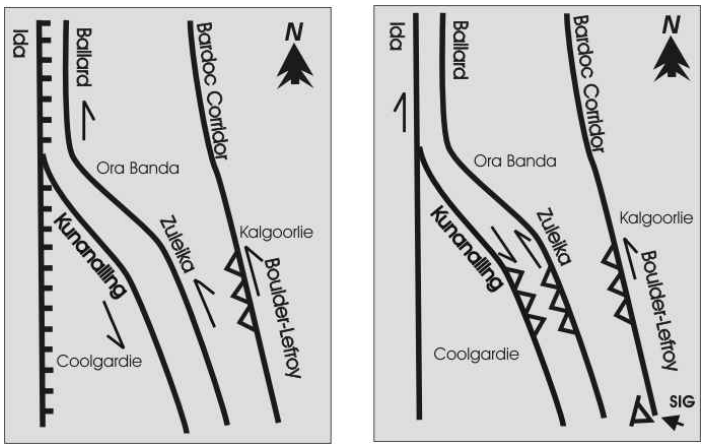


Fig. 2.6.1. a) Kinematics of major shear zones in the Kalgoorlie Terrane as previously reported (Hunter 1993, Swager 1989; Swager et al 1997); b) revised kinematics as detailed in this report and derived from mine-scale structural analyses. The Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zone has a composite history of thrusting and sinistral strike slip. Opposite thrusting directions at Kundana and Kunanalling suggest a pop-up structure. The Ida Shear Zone has a persistent gently plunging lineation but ambiguous sense of shear due to intense flattening and no evidence for normal faulting.

Spatial distribution of lithologies and variety in contact and structure orientation generally provide a positive environment for gold mineralization. This is because complexity provides increased possibilities of fluid focusing as a result of geometries and variety in rock

permeability and strengths, plus it provides a number of possible local chemical gradients that may saturate gold in the fluids. Our efforts to quantify complexity through fractal dimensions will be described in *Section 3*, here we focus first on the distribution of lithologies around the three shear zones, and subsequently we focus on the role of competency contrast on gold mineralization in creating zones of dilation and focusing fluids.

Competency Contrast

The role of competency contrast in gold mineralization is to increase rock permeability and focus fluid flow. Competency contrast results in strong variations in stress and strain gradients leading to heterogeneous flow close to lithological contacts, fracturing of competent rocks, development of strain shadows, boudin necks or the opening of foliation in incompetent rocks through rotation. In other words, competency contrast disturbs regional stresses giving rise to local zones of dilation and fluid focusing at or close to contacts.

Empirically, it was found that extreme competency contrast between rock types plays a very important role in gold deposition, with a majority of gold deposits in the Norseman-Wiluna Belt having within the mineralized structure either a strongly competent rock (e.g. porphyry dyke, dolerite/gabbro) or an obviously weak, low viscosity schist (e.g. talc schist, shale).

The importance of extreme competency contrast for mineralization should not be underestimated. A simple count of the number of deposits containing sheared ultramafic rocks in contact with more competent rocks in the immediate vicinity of gold mineralization yielded that >60% have ultramafic schist recorded as either the footwall or hangingwall to ore, while <20% record ultramafic as the principal host (n=68). This number increases further when incompetent shales are also counted. Similarly, competent granitic intrusions are so common in gold deposits of the Yilgarn that even a possible genetic relationship to gold has been proposed. In our view their role of either ultramafic rocks or granitic rocks in the mineralization is unrelated to the origin of fluids or gold, but directly related to the origin of high permeability pathways and fluid focusing.

Metamorphic facies has an important effect in decreasing the relative competency contrast of rocks. This is due to the combined effects of the marked weakening of quartz- and plagioclase-dominated rocks (such as granites and dolerites/gabbros) as temperatures rise from 300 ^{o}C to 500 ^{o}C; and the strengthening of schists by the metamorphism of phyllosilicate minerals into amphibole or plagioclase rocks. The strengthening of ultramafic rocks may be exemplified

by comparing the highly sheared and stretched ultramafic rocks common in greenschist facies deposits, with boudinaged layers of ultramafic rocks in amphibolite facies exposures (Fig. 2.6.2; e.g. at Chadwin, northern ZSZ; Iguana, ISZ).

Thus, we argue further that the reduced endowment of regions dominated by amphibolite facies rocks may be directly related to decreased competency contrasts leading to more homogeneous flow, with decreased opportunity for the creation of high permeability dilational zones during deformation.

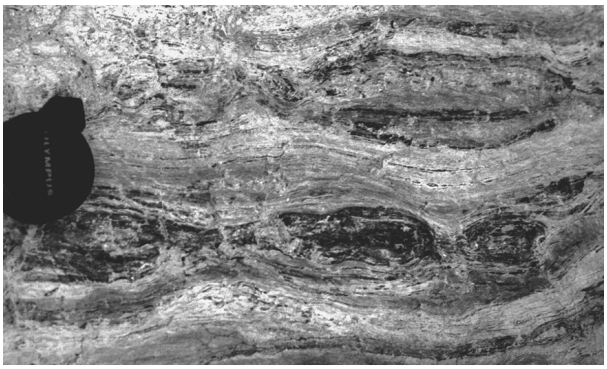


Fig. 2.6.2. Boudinaged narrow layer of ultramafic rock within amphibolite at Iguana on the immediate vicinity of the ISZ.

Lithological Complexity

The ISZ is the least endowed of the three shear zones (Table 2.6.1). It runs parallel to a relatively simple and continuous stratigraphic sequence, composed of monotonous mafic and ultramafic rocks. The stratigraphy is highly attenuated through intensive flattening, so that at the scale of regional maps, complexities are erased (Fig. 2.6.3a). Also through intense flattening, any primary angular discordances have been rotated towards parallelism with the regional trend. In contrast, the Zuleika and Boulder-Lefroy Shear Zones have a wide variety of lithologies in its surroundings, and there are both jogs along strike, plus a number of internal angular discordances, such as caused by cross-cutting intrusions, and folds cut by shear zones.

While all three shear zones have numerous granitic dykes (porphyries) and differentiated mafic sills, the sills are more voluminous and locally fractured and brecciated in the vicinity of the ZSZ and BLSZ, and smaller and sheared along the ISZ. Another significant difference is the lack of carbonate alteration along the ISZ in contrast to extensive alteration along the BLSZ. This difference could be an effect of the higher temperatures of metamorphism and alteration within the Ida Corridor and the decreased stability fields of carbonate minerals in equilibrium with basalts and metamorphic fluids.

In contrast to the ISZ, the better endowed shear zones include significant volumes of volcano-sedimentary rocks (Black Flag Group or Kurrawang Sequence) in their vicinity or within the shear zone. As discussed in *Section 3*, the presence of sedimentary rocks could conceivably be related to gold endowment if they have lower bulk permeability than other rock types. Black Flag Group rocks bound one side of the BLSZ through most of its length, and also crops out immediately north of Kalgoorlie along strike of the BLSZ. If these sedimentary rocks acted as low permeability seals for rising fluids, they would have focused more fluids towards the high permeability neighbouring BLSZ. For the case of Black Flag rocks along strike of the shear zone, lower permeability of the shear zone within these rocks could conceivably have caused deflection of fluids towards other high permeability zones within the shear zone further focusing regional fluids.

Metamorphic facies

Amphibolite facies rocks worldwide tend to be less prospective for gold than greenschist facies rocks (Phillips et al. 1996). This difference is likely to be a compounded result of 1) leaching of gold during prograde metamorphism, 2) less favourable P-T conditions for gold saturation, 3) less voluminous fluids (Powell et al. 1991) and 4) lower rock permeability with increasing depth (Manning and Ingebritsen 1999). To this list, we added above the more homogeneous rock flow at amphibolite facies temperatures as a result of decreased competency and behaviour contrast.

Ultramafic Rocks

Despite the relatively low volumes of komatiites and other ultramafic rocks in the terrane as a percentage of the total, their presence increases in the vicinity of the ZSZ and BLSZ (Fig. 2.6.4). At greenschist facies conditions ultramafic rocks are generally metamorphosed to talc-chlorite schists or serpentinites, both very weak rocks, which tend to focus strain. The abundance of ultramafic rocks along the trace of the shear zones probably results from a combination of strain partitioning to these rocks and them being tectonically emplaced as wedges along the shear zone.

We postulated above that ultramafic rocks, by their low viscosity compared to other rocks at greenschist facies, plays an active role in gold deposition through creating strain gradients and zones of dilation and increased permeability. This very same conclusion can be derived from Fig. 2.6.3 which suggests that ultramafic rocks localize shear zones, which in turn localize regional fluid flow and gold mineralization.