



## Multi commodity approach drives junior

By Tania Winter

BY JUNE, VENTURE Minerals Ltd should have realised the first step in its ultimate strategy of developing a stand alone, multi commodity operation at its Mount Lindsay magnetite project in Tasmania with the release of a maiden resource statement.

Venture Minerals managing director Andrew Radonjic said the group would be looking to spend \$7 million on its exploration efforts over the coming year.

Currently, drilling has focused on an infill program at the Number 2 Zone and the Main Zone, but Radonjic said other zones would be drilled over the next 12 months, hopefully growing the resource base even further.

More recently, tungsten assays have been returned from the project, which also has a significant tin credit.

"When the first resource comes out we will start marketing a bit harder," he said.

At this stage however, the group has had no official off-take enquiries or discussions.

### Location

According to Radonjic the two aspects which really set Mount Lindsay apart are its location, nestled between the Renison Bell tin mine and Savage River iron ore operation, as well as its access to infrastructure.

"The project could get up and running on the basis of it having a low capital cost, short lead time and a multi commodity focus which spreads the downside risk of the project even further," he explained.

"It is a pretty boutique-type scenario."

While the company had earlier flagged the possible treatment of some of its material through the Savage River plant, Radonjic said it was not really the group's preference given the high tin credit.

"To go through Savage River we would probably lose a tin concentrate opportunity and, consequently, we haven't had any firm discussions with the Savage River owners (Jiangsu Shagang Group Co Ltd)," he said.

Initial testwork on the Mount Lindsay material has shown that the magnetite can

be liberated with a relatively coarse grind size, pointing to a low cost operation.

Preliminary test work by ProMet Engineers has indicated that the ore will only need to be ground to 150 microns in size.

According to Radonjic, this is a coarse grind size in comparison to other magnetite projects and will lead to cost savings, particularly electricity and grinding media.

Standard Davis Tube recovery results have confirmed a high quality concentrate product with 69% iron, 1.5% silica, 0.02% phosphorus and 1.9% sulphur.

The coarse grind will also be beneficial for the recovery of tin.

Magnetite ore is a well-known, viable alternative to hematite ores and can produce high grade concentrate suitable for either pellet or sinter production.

Current drilling utilising three diamond core rigs will see the completion of 10,000 metres by June.

Recent drilling results have included 46m averaging 43.3% iron.

The area was previously explored for tin and lies within a region that includes the Mt Bischoff, Cleveland and Renison Bell deposits.

### Tin zones

The historic tin zones at Mount Lindsay (Number 2 Zone and the Main Zone) have been shown to contain significant iron ore mineralisation. In addition to the current drilling program, the company has reassayed historical drill holes for both iron and tin.

Significant results from the historic tin assaying include 16.1m at 1.55% tin, 10.9m at 1.72% tin, 23m at 0.79% tin and 36.2m at 0.49% tin.

Five new diamond core holes also recently returned 46m at 36.9% iron, including 32m at 41.1% iron, 38m at 31.8% iron (including 12m at 41.1% iron) and 28m at 30.1% iron.

The holes all targeted the Number 2 Zone which has now been defined over a strike length of 900m.



Radonjic said the zone typically demonstrated excellent continuity, with broad zones of magnetite encountered in 95% of the established drill holes.

“To date, a total of 18 new holes have been drilled in the Number 2 Zone with all but one of them intersecting the magnetite rich material within zones predicted by our geological model,” he said.

All of the new drill intersections are within 170m of surface.

Venture Minerals’ tenure covers the western and southern flanks of the Meredith Granite, with the Mount Lindsay mineralised skarn, located off the southern tip of the granite.

A recent helimag survey has outlined a 22 km strike length of potential mineralised skarn of which only 4 km has been drill tested.

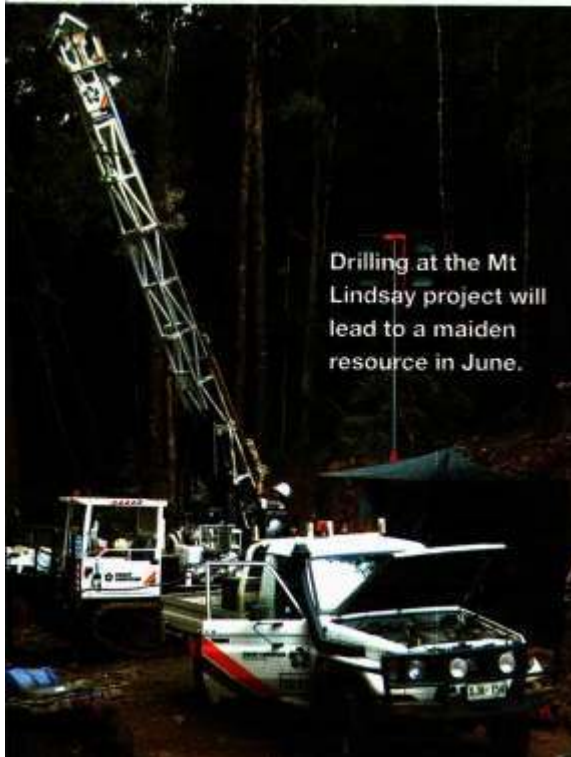
Radonjic said the company was also investigating other opportunities in

Tasmania to grow its business even further.

Outside of Tasmania, the group also has three projects in South Australia that are separately targeting iron oxide-copper-gold-uranium (IOCGU) mineralisation, shear hosted gold and sedimentary uranium mineralisation styles and epithermal gold-silver and stratiform lead-zinc mineralisation.

Last year, Venture Minerals completed drilling its third hole at its Churchill Dam IOCGU project, which was restricted to a depth of 1,168m with the hole ending in strongly altered Gawler Range Volcanics. The first two into the large (170 sq km) gravity anomaly have intersected at least 150 metres of alteration consistent with mineralised IOCGU systems.

Churchill Dam is located 80 km south west of the world class Olympic Dam deposit and is also 95 km west of the Carrapateena prospect.



Drilling at the Mt Lindsay project will lead to a maiden resource in June.