ISA GEOTOUR 2011
Sunday 21 August to Saturday 27 August
Tour Guide Geoff Derrick (G M Derrick Geology)

Arguably the Mt Isa Inlier is Australia’s premier base metal powerhouse, and exploration results show that it has the potential to keep renewing the resource base that already exists. Dugald River Zn-Cu is under construction (MMG), as is the underground development of XStrata’s Ernest Henry Cu-Au and it’s new magnetite stream. Ivanhoe keeps exciting all of us with its Merlin, Starra, Mt Elliott and Osborne plays plus extraordinary exploration potential. Chinalco Yunnan Cu and Syndicated Metals have significant projects in basement rocks previously considered of low potential, and CYCu also are drilling near Mary Kathleen, with great results so far. There is so much to see and so little time to cover everything—this year we have been unable to find time to visit much of the Western Succession, so our theme will be to

Go East Young Man!!

PROGRAM
Day 1 Sunday 21 August: Arrive 3pm; quarter day Mt Isa environs – mainly geology of Eastern Creek Volcanics and Mt Isa Group – Mt Isa overnight

Day 2: Monday 22 August: Mt Isa to Cloncurry: am: In Mt Isa, examine drillcore from Mt Dorothy prospect (Chinalco Yunnan Copper) and, basement-cover relationships re transgressive Mary Kathleen Group 1755-1750Ma over 1860 to 1780Ma basement. Examine tuff beds and contact relations between Argylla Fm and overlying Bllara Gt zle grt/lkqz. Return to more highway geology of Corella Fm. . Overnight Cloncurry.

Day 3: Tuesday 23rd August: am: Drive direct Cloncurry to Dugald, via Quambly: Visit to Dugald River deposit, examine host rocks, gossan, and drill core as construction continues of MMG’s next Zn mine. Depart late am and examine Altona Cu-Au at Little Eva Cu-Au project. Return to Cloncurry – Inspect massive calc-silicate mineralogy and calcite at Quambly Queen deposit. Afternoon, 3.30pm to 5.30pm: examine detailed geology of Overhang Jaspilite and environs at Butcher Bore – world-class exposures of BIF and jaspilite, stromatolitic and Ba-bearing limestone (host to Cudeco Rocklands project), plus thrust contact with overlying 1610Ma sequence of high-grade garnet-ferruginous metamorphics in Tommy Creek Beds. Overnight Cloncurry to end of week

Day 4 Wednesday 24 August: Visit to Ernest Henry, arrive 8am; induction, discussion of project examine drillcore and ROM material etc. Lunch at minside Depart 12.30pm approx. Drive to Fort Constantine – volcanic host rocks to Ernest Henry. Return to Cloncurry PM: drive to Eloise minisite, 60km SE of Cloncurry’ examine drillcore of Alita project of Breakaway Resources/BHP. Depart Eloise minisite 3.30pm or so. Examine Hot Rocks BIF and garnet-apatite ‘sandstone’, plus drillcore of Monakoff if available, and Lorena Au

Day 5: Thursday 25 August: Possible Selwyn area visit, plus Florence Bore hematite brecias etc., local geology en route. Early start Drive direct Cloncurry to Selwyn: arrive 9.30am: hosted by Ivanhoe – no program details, but possible overview of project plus possible core. Depart 1pm.?? Return to Cloncurry via Hampden project, and visit Florence Bore hematite brecias in granite.

Day 6: Friday 26 August: Wonga belt: spectacular geology of Mary Kathleen, possibly new projects at Mt Collin (Exco/XStrata??) and Elaine Dorothy (Chinalco Yunnan Cu), world-class skarn and low P-highT marbles, geology of open pit at Mary K: drive north to Cameron River and world class pillow basalt exposures etc etc. overnight Cloncurry

Day 7: Saturday 27 August Depart Cloncurry for Mt Isa; depart Mt Isa noon approx

COST: $2,200 per person based on 7 persons; includes all fees, guidebook, meals, twin-share accommodation, vehicles, ex-Mt Isa.

Registration: Add name(s), affiliation and contact details below, and re-scan or fax to Geoff Derrick of G M Derrick Geology email: geoffd@powerup.com.au; Phone 07 3379 2655; fax 07 3379 2375; mobile 0408 796 148; Payment by GMD invoice.

Go on.... you know you want to. Details next page....
The program presented is an excellent and exciting mix of high-quality field locations of various geological units in the Stratigraphic column, mainly in the Eastern Succession, and visits to a number of operating and/or developing mining projects, including Dugald River, Ernest Henry, Selwyn region, Altia, Mt Dorothy, Elaine and Mary Kathleen. I would like to acknowledge the co-operation and preparedness of all the companies involved to make possible the visits to their respective operations. So much is happening in the Mt Isa Inlier currently that it has been difficult to frame a week-long program to cover all bases, so reluctantly this Geotour is focused mainly on basement-Eastern/Succession geology and deposits. My hope is that there is no compromise on quality of the geological experience.

I have noticed a steady increased in costs over the past few years, and the costs quoted are for a minimum of 7 persons. I hope that I can achieve this level of interest so that the Geotour can proceed. With more numbers attending (say 10), there will be scope to REDUCE the overall individual cost of the trip; discounts are also negotiable should companies wish to use their own vehicle for the tour.

I recommend this Geotour 2011 to you.

CAPTIONS to brochure photos are as follows, from the top: Airmag of Altia, just south of Eloise, in Soldiers Cap Group; Molybdenite in fractured siltstone, Merlin; Sulphide breccia (pyrrhotite, sphalerite), Dugald River, with milled pyrite clasts and dark quartz and silicified shale clasts; Mary Kathleen open pit; BIF and jaspilite from Overhang Jaspilite; dated pinkite tuff, Mary Kathleen Group, 1755Ma.

Geoff Derrick

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