



Geology and Mineralisation of the Lachlan Fold Belt

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The Lachlan Fold Belt conference was held by the Geological Society of Australia Specialist Group Investigating the Genesis of Ore Deposits (SGIGOD) at Macquarie University, December 8-10 1975. The main purpose of the Conference was to bring together Government, University and private groups currently working in the area. The response was good — nearly 200 people registered for the conference — but the papers presented showed that our understanding of the fold belt is still rudimentary and fragmented. The distribution of areas discussed was far from even (more than half the papers referred to the Hill End Trough and its margins). However, there was no intention of emulating the comprehensive guide to the mineral deposits of NSW recently published (1974) by the NSW Geological Survey. The serious reader of these Proceedings should refer constantly to the mineral deposits volume.

This special issue of the Bulletin covers the present geological understanding of the framework in which several types of economic deposit have formed. In complex regions such as the Lachlan Fold Belt, accurate geophysical interpretations depend on a good understanding of the geology; it is to be hoped a series of geophysical investigations will eventuate from the geological work which will form the basis for a similar conference.

During the conference, repeated reference was made to the similarity between many deposits in the Lachlan Fold Belt and stratiform deposits in younger rocks elsewhere, and from the detailed comparisons attempted, one might have been excused for thinking that many of the Lachlan Fold Belt deposits are preserved in their pristine

condition. Yet, more than half the photographic illustrations in the Geological Survey's mineral deposits volume show highly deformed rocks, and we suspect that much more structural and geophysical work is required before the shape and orientation of the deposits can be described with confidence.

In compiling this issue, we were faced with a strict page limitation. All papers were reviewed by scientific referees, and, with their advice, we have reduced the length of some papers, and listed others by title only. We encourage all authors to publish fuller accounts of their work elsewhere. The references quoted in individual papers have been collected at the back of the volume since many of the references are common to a large number of the papers.

Reference

MARKHAM, N.L. and H. BASDEN (ED.), 1974. The Mineral Deposits of New South Wales, Geol. Surv. NSW, 682pp.