

Kalgoorlie Miner

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First-aid

Paint job for Ambulance



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Mine Talk

Paratrooper back in region



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Sport

Juniors set for semifinals



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GOLD \$US1138.20 ▼ \$AU1597.35 ▲

NICKEL \$US4.3174 ▲

ASX 5172.8 ▲

CURRENCY \$AU1 = US 0.71284 ▼ EU 0.62074 ▼ UK 0.45406 ▲



Phosphate Australia geologist Michael Denny during a reconnaissance trip to the Laverton gold project. Picture: Phosphate Australia

Troops rally for gold raid

■ Jarrod Lucas

A former British Army paratrooper turned geologist, Phosphate Australia's executive chairman Jim Richards has landed back in the Goldfields on ground next door to one of WA's most productive gold mines.

Mr Richards, in his third year as executive chairman at Phosphate Australia, previously worked in the region for Resolute Mining but made a name for himself as chief executive at United Minerals Corporation.

He led the technical team which discovered the Railway iron deposit in the Pilbara before UMC was acquired by BHP Billiton in 2010 through a \$204 million takeover.

Mr Richards was back in the spotlight this week after Phosphate Australia completed a successful raid on ground just 2.3km east of Gold Fields' 6.7Moz Granny Smith operations.

Geologist Michael Denny and commercial manager Yaxi Zhan pegged two tenements covering 44.6sqkm at what Phosphate Australia is now calling the Laverton gold project.

The Perth-based exploration company, which successfully fought off a takeover bid by Mercantile Investment Company in May, has been focused on its Highland Plains phosphate project in the Northern Territory since listing on the ASX in 2008.

But the Laverton venture shows Mr Richards, who served as an officer in the famous Parachute Regiment, is open to thinking outside the box at a time gold sentiment is much rosier than phosphate, an essential component in fertiliser.

"Out of the mining busts there have come some real opportunities," Mr Richards said.

"We're good at pegging—it's what we do and we pay good money to have the most up-to-

date information. With all the ground changing hands, I'd say it's just a matter of time before somebody finds that next big gold mine and we're off to the races again."

Mr Richards said Phosphate Australia is no stranger to gold, describing the company name as an "historic accident", with exposure to the precious metal via a 20 per cent interest in a tenement at Alloy Minerals' Horse Well project near Wiluna.

Phosphate Australia also sold its Tuckanarra gold asset in the Murchison for \$4 million last year.

There is little recorded historic drilling at the Laverton project, but Phosphate Australia is wasting no time after completing a field reconnaissance trip and submitting a program of works to the Department of Mines and Petroleum.

A number of undercover gold targets have been identified, namely the Granny

Smith East, Mt Lucky and Lily Pond Well prospects, with a maiden drilling program expected before the end of the year.

Mt Lucky could be the pick of the bunch.

It sits astride a major fault contact which contains the historic Little Queen, Independence and Comet gold mines, which produced a combined 391oz at an average grade of 58.25g/t.

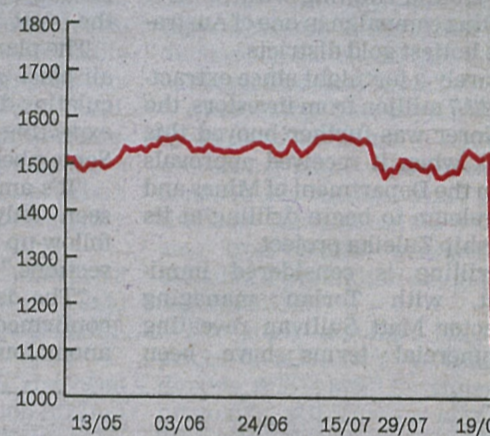
Mr Richards said drilling and assay rates are "extremely competitive" and for a modest outlay, the Laverton project provides an "excellent opportunity" to gain 100 per cent exposure to a potential gold discovery. Critically the project is near an operating mill.

"We're not going to be doing deep, expensive drilling, we don't have the money for that," he said.

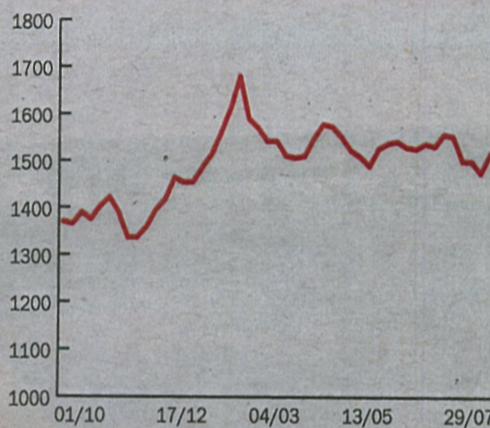
"We're looking for something shallow.

"If there's nothing there, we will walk away."

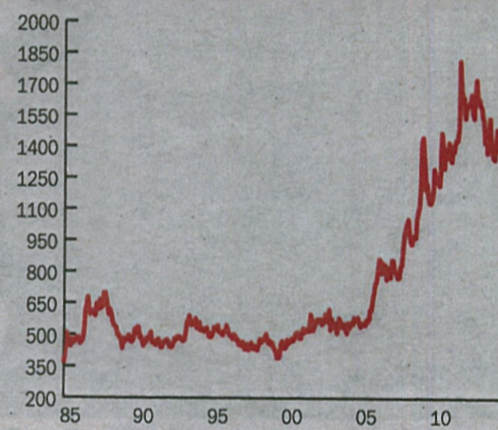
DAILY GOLD PRICE \$AUS PER OUNCE



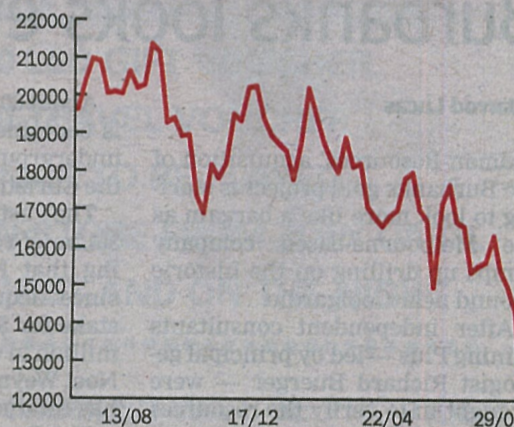
WEEKLY GOLD PRICE \$AUS PER OUNCE



MONTHLY GOLD PRICE \$AUS PER OUNCE



WEEKLY NICKEL PRICE \$AUS PER TONNE



All prices are NY close. Information courtesy of Patersons Securities.

Attention Miners and Prospectors: are you sick of having to transport your gold to Perth, only to lose control of the process and wait too long for your money...

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