



CENTRAL QUEENSLAND GEMFIELDS

# GLENALVA FOSSICKING AREA

*Glenalva* is one of five Fossicking Areas on the central Queensland sapphire fields which were set aside in 1985 for recreational and tourist fossicking. Such fossicking is also possible on another six areas of Designated Fossicking Land, but on those certain commercial mining tenures are also allowed. Another brochure describes the general background to the field.

*Glenalva* is close to the Capricorn Highway, but at the same time it is secluded, and relatively large and self-sufficient, as it comprises 497ha under light to medium bushland cover.

## Access

The turn off to *Glenalva* from the sealed Capricorn Highway is sign-posted to the south 62km from Emerald, or 20km from Anakie. An unsealed road leads for 1km to the boundary of the Fossicking Area and continues through the centre of the area along a ridge crest. Minor tracks lead from the road to various diggings; one near the western side leads south to a campsite and diggings. The boundaries are fenced.

## Water

As there is no permanent water supply in the area, water must be carried by visitors. The nearest supply is at Anakie. Water for treating the wash may be seasonally available from Blackboy Creek.

## Requirements

Fossicking requires a Fossickers Licence under the Fossicking Act 1994. Individual, family, club, educational organisation and commercial tour operator licences can be obtained for periods between one and twelve months, with fees varying accordingly. They can be obtained from the Mining Registrar

at Emerald, selected local businesses, or the Department's other offices throughout the State. Hand tools only are permitted.

## Camping

Camping is allowed for a maximum period of 3 months. A camping permit is required, which can be obtained for the payment of a small fee from the Emerald, Rockhampton, Mackay and Brisbane offices of the Department or the local businesses that issue the Fossickers Licences. No facilities exist in the area, but there are plenty of spots along the lightly timbered ridges. The main camping area is near the western boundary.

## Sapphire occurrence

Good quality sapphires have been obtained from shallow wash which may be up to 1m deep but which rarely exceeds 500mm. Shallow diggings are spread over a wide area, but the main localities are near the western boundary on either side of the road.

There, workings have exposed 300mm of grey, soily wash containing pebbles and cobbles of chert and silicified sandstone. This overlies a thin layer of light grey clayey material, described locally as decomposed volcanic ash, which is reportedly a good indicator of sapphires. The wash rests on a clay bottom which overlies a basement of sandstone and siltstone.

There are separate digging areas, chiefly near the western boundary south of the road, at

Paceys Ridge on the north side, and on McCauleys Hill to the east; each has a large number of shallow excavations.

*Glenalva* has produced a wide variety of stones, predominantly greens or blue-greens and yellows, with occasional black star sapphires, particolours, blues and pinks. The rare blues, and a fair proportion of the greens are of high quality.

Although much of *Glenalva* has been hand-mined to some extent, there is still sufficient virgin wash to provide opportunities for fossickers. Areas which may yield sapphires are in the tops of gullies that drain off the central wash-capped ridge. These areas are good for specking, particularly after rain.

## Code of Conduct

- Use only safe working practices. Holes deeper than 2m or undermined overhangs **are not permitted**.
- Workings should be left in a safe, tidy condition so as not to endanger other persons or stock.
- Dismantle any structures upon vacating a campsite.
- **Remove all rubbish** and bury human waste at least 20cm deep.
- Do not interfere with any vegetation, stock or wildlife. Shooting is prohibited.
- Minimise inconvenience to others by limiting noise and control pets at all times.
- Be careful with campfires, particularly in dry times. Clear a 2m space around them.

## For further information:

*The Mining Registrar  
Clerana Centre  
29-31 Clermont Street  
Emerald Qld 4720  
Telephone (07) 4982 4011  
Facsimile (07) 4982 4230*

