

Peak body's summit to dig out information on lesser-known projects in the region

Mining's silver lining

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THE future of what is regarded as the world's richest silver mine, Montalbion – 100km southwest of Cairns – will be revealed at a summit in Cairns next week.

The Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy Far North Queensland's annual technical session will highlight some of the lesser-known mining projects in the region.

Session organiser Brett Duck said the history and "new approaches" of the Montalbion prospect (associated with Monto Minerals, now renamed ShareRoot) will be outlined by Brisbane industry entrepreneur Denis Reinhardt. He said the area near Irvinebank was rich in silver and in need of fresh exploration.

The revival of mining on Horn Island in the Torres Strait will be unveiled by Kauraru Gold chief geologist Brian Kay at the Pacific Hotel Cairns session on May 18.

Mr Duck said there had been drilling on the island, new gold resources had been found and he believed the mine would be restarted.

Alice Queen Holding and the Kaurareg Aboriginal Land Trust formed a joint venture company Kauraru Gold Pty Ltd to explore for gold resources within the Kaurareg Archipelago.

Horn Island (Ngurupai) comprises an existing known mineral field and abandoned gold mine that was only previously explored to a shallow depth and only a small part of

the known mineralised area. Kauraru Gold intends to ex-

pand the scope of exploration and understanding of the extent of the mining.

Mr Duck said the first shipments of iron ore from Mt Ruby in the Mt Garnet area were expected to be announced at the session by Ben

Emery of the Tablelands Mining Group.

Two years ago Ports North and Developed Mining Services struck a deal to export up to 400,000 tonnes of iron ore worth about \$50 million a year through the Port of Mourilyan,

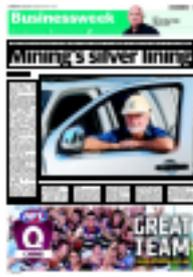
south of Cairns. Mr Duck said Green Coast Resources were expected to soon start exporting bauxite at Hey Point, 10km south from Weipa.

Updates will be given on the Agate Creek gold mining project 50km southwest of For-

sayth, Vital Metals' Watershed tungsten project 35km northwest of Mt Carbine, Consolidated Tin's tin operations at Mt Garnet, Queensland Bauxite's bauxite venture near Innisfail, Metallica Minerals' Cape York heavy mineral sand and

bauxite project near Weipa and the Esmeralda graphite project near Croydon.

The institute's head office is hosting its annual congress in Cairns after the summit from May 20-22 at the Pacific Hotel Cairns.



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FINGER ON PULSE: Cairns geologist Brett Duck organised the session for the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy of Far North Queensland. Picture: BRENDAN RADKE