

## A long memory is a miner's best friend

TWENTY or so years ago, a grader doing road work northeast of the old gold rush town of Marble Bar took the top off a small ridge, exposing copper. Lang Coppin, who owns adjoining Yarrie station, had done a fair bit of prospecting, and took samples.

A lab report showed good grades. But the area was covered by an existing exploration licence, so Coppin kept the news to himself. Earlier this year, the rising copper price made him think again about the samples, and he returned to the area in his helicopter and took some more rock. Again, a good assay result, grades up to 19 per cent copper.

More good news: the previous tenement owner had let the licence lapse, so Coppin quickly pegged it. Then he heard that old mate Denis O'Meara was floating a new company with Terry Grammar and Inky Cornelius. The Coppin tenement became part of the **Montezuma Mining Co IPO** in return for shares.

This week Montezuma reported more rock chip assays from Coppin's tenement, now called Callawa. They came in up to 28.7 per cent copper with associated gold and silver — the precious metals suggesting this was not just secondary copper.

It's early days, because these are chip samples only. The area had not been explored previously for metals. When De Beers held the tenement, its interest was confined to diamonds.