

# New gold drill sites

By ERIN McFADDEN

A STAWELL exploration company will start testing new potential gold sites after drills near Tatyoon were unsuccessful.

Navarre Minerals has been investigating a 60-kilometre stretch of the prospective 'Stawell corridor' between Great Western and Tatyoon.

Part of the Stawell Corridor Gold Project is the Grange gold prospect on the company's Tatyoon exploration licence.

Navarre managing director Geoff McDermott said the company had completed test drills on the western side of the Grange basalt dome.

"We were looking for sulphides, which are typical gold mineralisations," he said.

"We saw the sulphide as predicted but unfortunately it didn't contain the gold we were hoping for."

Mr McDermott said the company did discover sulphide-bearing quartz channels in the eastern part of the Grange basalt dome.

"So we tested the western flank and didn't come up with any chocolates, now the eastern flank is our prime focus moving forward," he said.

"We had technical success with the western flank – all our geophysical models were right, there was sulphide there as predicted, but it's just the luck of the draw that we couldn't find anything significant."

Navarre Minerals will also start exploring a new area between Ararat and Great Western.

"Historically, the Ararat goldfield was worked by Chinese miners, but they never mined the hard rock that was the source to the gold," Mr McDermott.

"When we mapped the area and analysed rock samples, we managed to pick up about eight grams of gold at surface level.

"That got us very excited."

Mr McDermott said out of 71 rock chip samples, more than half came back with more than 0.1 grams of gold.

"About 20 per cent were more than one gram of gold," he said.

"For context, Stawell is being mined underground, and miners are finding about 2.5 to three grams of gold.

"For us to find, in a 1.5-kilometre stretch, gold from one gram up to 8.3 grams – it's pretty exciting."

Mr McDermott said it was still early days of the exploration.

"Our mapping is showing us the rocks in that area look almost exactly the same as rocks at the Stawell gold mine," he said.

"We will now do more rock chip sampling and start talking to stakeholders and working up our ideas."