

# Aussie junior planning to peak in Tanzania

Rare earths were very much the flavour of the month during the September quarter, with many discussions and debates centred upon the demand and discovery of the commodity used so highly nowadays in technological advances such as smart phones, aircraft and light weight cars.

This kind of talk did nothing but encourage Western Australian-based junior Peak Resources Ltd, which has developed a diversified exploration portfolio over the past 18 months, recently turning its attention towards making an impact on the rare earths scene through its prospective Ngualla deposit in Tanzania.

The Ngualla licence was granted back in September of last year and covers a large carbonatite intrusion over which geochemical sampling has highlighted considerable potential for phosphate, rare earths and base metals – all of which have viable exploration pathways.

Needless to say, Peak's management is very buoyant about the manner in which the deposit has been advanced over the past 12 months.

"It was about this time last year that we were discussing exactly what we were going to do and we were sweating on getting the title granted," chairman Alistair Hunter explained.

"In 12 months Peak has taken this project from a hope and a prayer through to getting substantial intersections of rare earths both light and heavy, great phosphate intersections, and niobium intersections that some people would kill for."

Recent results generated by the emerging explorer from a four hole reconnaissance RC drilling program within the hard rock core zone of the Ngualla carbonatite – which is over 2.5 kilometres long – included 40 metres at

3.25% total rare earth oxide (TREO), 20m at 3.7% TREO and 30m at 0.38% niobium and 150 parts per million tantalum.

## Opportunities pursued

For such a burgeoning prospect, one may think that Peak went into Tanzania with precise plans to develop this promising rare earths find.

However, that was hardly the case.

Phosphate was the junior's first primary interest when initially chasing Ngualla.

Peak acquired Pan African Exploration in May 2008, assuming the latter's interest in a number of gold projects in Tanzania in a joint venture agreement with Tanzanian partner Zari Exploration Ltd.

The junior quickly moved on to look for additional Tanzanian opportunities, including Ngualla.

"It was a fortuitous deal," Hunter recalled.

"We spoke to Zari originally about being interested in phosphate in Tanzania because people in Australia were starting to madly scuttle about looking for phosphate.

"We felt that Africa needed phosphate, so that's where we should be finding it.

"While we were doing this regional carbonatite phosphate analysis, we decided that we would run three very widely spaced lines, a long line 50m sampling program, designed to cover strategic parts of the carbonatite.

"They were done for phosphate and rare earths, and we also ran niobium. The results came back and that was it – and it's fair to say that phosphate got shoved into the background, but it wasn't forgotten."

This degree of diversity appears to be one of the project's fundamental strengths,



*More drilling is planned for Ngualla.*

with the discovery of high grade rare earths – which are proving invaluable in the current market – on top of the option to pursue phosphate and base metals.

"The thing about this project is that it is a multi-element carbonatite, and with every piece of work we do on it we are discovering new aspects, and it just provides us with more and more encouragement," Peak executive director Mark Maine added.

With the recent round of aircore drilling on alluvial zones and shallow reconnaissance RC work within the central core, Peak is now looking to continue drilling in the coming months leading into Tanzania's wet season starting in December, with the ultimate view of having a resource estimate calculated in the coming year.

"At the end of the season, we want to have generated sufficient data so that through the first couple of months next year we can put all that data together and then, based on that knowledge, plan a resource definition campaign," Hunter said.

"I would like to think in the core we will have resource numbers, and maybe even in the alluvial area too."

**Sam Burns**