

The IKN Weekly

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Bellhaven (BHV.v) does high sulphidation 101

One of the things I took away from my meeting with Paul Zweng, now CEO of BHV, back in April this year was his enthusiasm for explaining more about geology, economic geology etc to the duffer laypeople of this world such as I (it was such an interesting afternoon that I nearly missed my plane). So it was great to see "the new BHV" under Zweng release this NR last week that, along with outlining the news and what it meant to BHV, also offered up a crash course in several geological issues including high sulphidation epithermal deposits and the oft-resulting friend of ours, 'vuggy silica'. Here's one short extract from Thursday's press release:

High-sulphidation epithermal deposits result from fluids (dominantly gases) channelled directly from a magma source into overlying wall rocks. These gases alter the country rocks, producing widespread acid-sulphate alteration. The fluids interact with ground water, forming strong acids, which dissolve the surrounding rock and leave behind a residuum of silica (this wall-rock alteration is commonly referred to as "vuggy silica"). Metal-rich brines that also ascend from the magma may then precipitate gold, copper, and other metals within the vuggy-silica bodies as well as the feeder structures.

Your opinion may be different, but from where this author is sitting, this is a very smart marketing move by BHV. In the space of 85 words we get a nice, potted didactic on what the devil these geologist types are talking about when they tell us about high-sulphidation epithermal deposits. We also get a decent gist about why metal-searching geologists like it when they find vuggy silica targets, as the process that created this type of rock is also a prime place to find metals such as gold.

Yes for sure there's a whole literature that can't be encapsulated inside 85 words and there are very smart people who spend years studying these things who will tell you (and have told me straight to my face) that they're only scratching the surface of full understanding about these systems. But for an 80/20 type of guy such as I* who needs a handle on a subject that's useful to open a door that can be used for further study at a later date, I'm going to walk away from a news release such as BHV's latest effort with a positive, "thanks for that" feeling about BHV. Good marketing.

*i.e. attempts to capture 80% of a subject in 20% of the time