

Oil drillers plumb Kotuku seep



PICTURE: Nicholas McBride

Mosman Oil and Gas director John Young, left, country manager Graeme Alexander, chairman John Barr and technical director Andy Carroll check over some core samples at their oil drilling site near Kotuku, in the Lake Brunner area, yesterday. The drill, seen in the background, will be sunk only 300-400m at this site, famous over the past century for the surface oil seeps. Samples retrieved are analysed for traces of hydro carbon, but it is not yet known if there is enough oil in the area to justify commercial extraction. "It's too early to tell, we're halfway through the first of three wells," Mr Barr said. Work got under way a week ago.