

TR9-20-21

## 4 NATONE MANGANESE DEPOSIT

by R. Jack.

Road widening operations near the junction of the Burnie-Natone and Camena roads led to the exposure in the road cutting of manganiferous iron ore. This was noted by D. J. Price of Ulverstone who obtained a 5 acre lease (635 P/M) and requested a geological survey of the area. The manganiferous deposits occur on the northern end of the Natone iron deposits, the most recent reports on this area being by Blake (1958) and Thomas and Henderson (1943). In 1959 the Bureau of Mineral Resources reported the results of a magnetometer survey of the area but no anomalies were found in the vicinity of the manganiferous iron outcrop (Keunecke, 1959).

The deposit is situated a fifth of a mile south of the Natone Post Office on the western side of the junction of the Burnie-Upper Natone road and the Camena road. A sealed road connects the deposit with the port of Burnie 10 miles to the north.

The manganiferous iron ore probably occurs as irregular replacement bodies in Cambrian or Precambrian mudstone but more detailed geology of the area is given in the above mentioned reports. The surface outcrop of the manganiferous ore is poor except in the road cutting; manganiferous scree covers approximately one tenth of the leased area and about half of this scree-covered area is probably outcrop. The manganese is not evenly distributed throughout the outcrop as some of the rocks are highly manganiferous while others are mainly ferruginous with only a very small percentage of manganese present. The results of the Bureau of Mineral Resources magnetometer traverses do not show any high magnetic intensity over the area of outcrop. This suggests that the outcrop is hematite and does not alter to magnetite in depth as do the nearby iron deposits and other deposits in a similar environment at Hampshire and Highclere. This lack of alteration to magnetite in depth suggests that this is a small near surface orebody originally mainly magnetite but now almost completely oxidized to hematite and earthy manganese dioxide.

Assays of a grab sample of the surface scree gave 16% Mn and 36% Fe. Two channel samples in the road cutting gave 24% Mn and 38% Fe over 18 feet and 22% Mn and 39% Fe over 22 feet.

The deposit is thought to be derived from the oxidation of a small shallow manganiferous iron ore body. If this assumption is correct then the reserves of ore are most likely small.

### References

- BLAKE, F., 1958.—Rutherfords Iron Area, Natone. *Tech. Rep. Dep. Min. Tas.*, 2, 19-22.
- KEUNECKE, O., 1959.—Magnetic Survey of the Natone, Blythe River-Cuprona and Highclere Iron Ore Deposits, North-Western Tasmania. *Rec. Bur. Miner. Resour. Aust.*, 1959/11. (Unpublished).
- THOMAS, D. E. and HENDERSON, Q. J., 1943.—Some Iron Deposits in the vicinity of Burnie. *Rep. Dep. Min. Tas.* (unpublished).

5 cm

FIGURE 6.

