

Descriptions of rock specimens from the Burnie Quadrangle

by G. B. Everard

The following are descriptions of rock specimens collected by geologist A. B. Gulline from the Burnie Quadrangle.

68-124: Hellyer River

The hand specimen is a fine grained, greyish-brown, finely banded rock. It contains a small pebble around which the fine bands diverge on all sides, and small aggregates and sand grains having a similar effect. Otherwise the bands persist in number and thickness throughout the specimen with very few interruptions. They vary in colour from near white through yellow-brown and brownish-grey to dark grey, but it is difficult to single out any particular band because divisions and subdivisions occur down to the limit of visibility.

Similarly, in thin section, there is a complexity that makes difficult the isolation of any particular band. However in the whiter bands, which consist very largely of angular grains with some flakes of sericite and interstitial clay minerals stained by iron oxide, graded bedding can be distinctly seen. The size of the quartz grains at the sharp lower contact of the bed averages 0.02 mm whereas the grains in the upper part of the bed average 0.004 mm.

The rock is a banded mudstone.

68-125: Blackwells Road, Burnie

The hand specimen is a yellow-brown, fine grained, massive siliceous rock, somewhat friable and with scattered glistening minute flakes of white mica.

In thin section it is a mosaic of angular grains up to 0.5 mm across and averaging about 0.3 mm and comprises approximately 45% quartz, 40% lithics and 15% feldspar with a minor amount of cement composed of clay minerals stained with limonite.

The rock is a lithic sandstone.

68-126: Blackwells Road, Burnie

The hand specimen is a fine grained, yellow-brown, slightly friable rock with dark brown irregular bands and patches, particularly in bedding planes, due to iron oxides.

In thin section the rock consists of angular grains of quartz averaging about 0.05 mm across, often stained brown by oxides of iron which also cement the grains together. The rock is moderately porous and contains a very minor proportion of other minerals and rock fragments.

The rock is a quartz sandstone.

68-127: Blackwells Road, Burnie

This rock, both in hand specimen and thin section, is very similar to 68-126, being a little finer grained. It shows fine laminations due to current bedding.

The rock is a quartz sandstone.

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