

MYSTERY ROCK C

01 *Description of Location*

A garden rock in the backyard. Not *in-situ*. Original location unknown.

02 *Picture / Photo*



03 *Colour*

Grey and white

04 *Texture*

Smooth

05 *Hardness*

Very hard

06 *Lustre*

Dull grey with some sparkles and with white stripes

07 *Streak*

Too hard to make streaks on anything else in the garden. And too heavy to lift it even test it

08 *Fracture/Cleavage*

Too hard to break with hands so don't know

09 *Other*

Found in parts of the Upper Waitaki area as well as Dunback and Macraes area.

SOLUTION

WHAT DO THESE OBSERVATIONS TELL US?

The grey and white stripes tell us this rock is a metamorphic rock. Metamorphic means that it has changed under heat and pressure. That means that it wasn't always a hard-grey rock with white stripes...but was something else originally.

KNOW WHAT IT IS?

Yes, it's schist!

WHAT IS SCHIST?

This schist started out life as sands and muds (schists can start out as different types of sediments). They were metamorphosed (changed under heat and pressure) to become greywacke and then more heat and pressure to become schist. The sparkly mineral is called mica. Mica has many uses from cosmetics to electronics!

The white stripes are the mineral quartz. Quartz is very hard!

WHERE CAN WE SEE SCHIST IN THE WAITAKI WHITESTONE GEOPARK?

- Nenthorn Goldfield
- Huttons Bridge
- Golden Point Battery