

THE FORAMINIFERAL SEQUENCE in BASKER # 1, GIPPSLAND BASIN.

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for: SHELL DEVELOPMENT (AUSTRALIA) PTY. LTD.

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FIGURE 1: INTERPRETED FORAMINIFERAL SEQUENCE for BASKER # 1.

 $\mathcal{M}(4 \text{ my})\mathcal{M}$ = hiatus with time span in parentheses.

To scale of lcm = 100m.

--?--?-= no data below deepest sample examined at 2115m.

INTRODUCTION.

Fifty three sidewall cores were submitted from BASKER # 1 between 519 and 2115 metres. All contained foraminifera, but no pre-Miocene faunas were found as the deepest sample (at 2115m) contained a Zone F assemblage which represents the uppermost part of the Early Miocene.

The following Figures and Tables constitute this report:-

FIGURE 1 : INTERPRETED FORAMINIFERAL SEQUENCE based on Tables 2 to 4.

FIGURE 2 : LATE NEOGENE PROGRADED and CANYON FILL SEQUENCES using
Hapuku #1, Basker #1, Flounder #5, Volador #1 and Hammerhead
#1 as examples.

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TABLE 1 : BIOSTRATIGRAPHIC DATA SUMMARY with reliability of zonal picks.

TABLE 2 : PLANKTONIC FORAMINIFERAL DISTRIBUTION.

TABLE 3 : SELECTED BENTHONIC FORAMINIFERAL DISTRIBUTION.

TABLE 4 : PALEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS based on Tables 2 & 3.

EARLY MIOCENE - ZONE F - 2115 to 2025m and EARLY/MID MIOCENE HIATUS at 2020m (E-Logs).

A deep water continental slope deposit which contains well developed Zone F assemblages.

A hiatus was apparent as 2025m contained *Globigerinoides bisphericus*, *Globorotalia miozea miozea*, *G. praescitula* and *G. zealandica*, whilst the sample at 2000m had a distinctly different planktonic assemblage with *G. miotumida*, *G. scitula* and *Globigerina nepenthes*, indicating a Zone C designation. Therefore the Early to Mid Miocene transition Zones E-2, E-1, D-2 and D-1 were absent. The time span of this hiatus was of the order of 4 million years. A similar Mid Miocene hiatus was recorded in other wells drilled along the eastern part of the Gippsland Basin Deep (refer Figure 2 - this report). In Hapuku #1 and Flounder #5, Zone C was directly above Zone D-2, with Zone D-1 absent, so that the extent of the hiatus was not as great as in Basker # 1.

MID MIOCENE to PLIOCENE - ZONES C, B-2, B-1, A-4 & A-3 - 2000 to 657m.

This sequence appears to have been a continuous one with all zones present, despite lack of biostratigraphic precision at some levels (e.g. Zone B-2/ B-1 boundary) due to poor preservation, resulting from carbonate diagenesis.

The sequence of biostratigraphic events are very close to those recorded by Kennett (1973) in the Tasman Sea. *Globorotalia margaritae* was more numerically frequent and more morphologically typical, than in other Gippsland sequences; this species was much rarer and less typical in Hapuku #1 and Flounder #5. This occurrence pattern suggests that Kennett's (1.c.) warm sub-tropical Pliocene faunas did reach Eastern Gippsland but these warm waters cooled rapidly in the western direction.

Biostratigraphically diagnostic species were absent at the top of the sequence from 640 to 519m, reflecting a combination of water temperature decline and a more sheltered, shallow shelfal location. Probably the Plio/Pleistocene boundary was within this interval, but Zone A-2 could not be identified.

LATE NEOGENE PROGRADATION - refer also to FIGURE 2.

Zones C & B-2 sediments (2000 to 1750m) were rich in planktonic foraminifera and the benthonic assemblages indicated the uppermost part of the continental slope as the depositional environment.

Above 1750m, rapid progradation was evident with decrease in paleo-water depth. A feature of the benthonic foraminiferal assemblages was the sporadic presence of detrital specimens, misplaced from their inner shelf habitat, out onto a prograding shelf edge. Another phenomena recognised in some assemblages was the dominance of the lens shaped *Cassidulina leavigata* and spherical *Lagena* spp. Also there tended to be a dominance of one size range; for example, very small globigerinids recorded on Table 2 as *G'ina & G'alia* indet (<.2mm). This size and shape sorting is evidence of winnowing by high energy bottom currents. The pyritic infilling of many foraminiferal tests is indicative of rapid burial, associated with the high energy transport and progradation.

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The Virgulina and Euuvigerina bassensis Biofacies within the Pliocene Zone A-3 interval in both Basker #1 and Hapuku #1, contains a high percentage of Buliminacea, reflecting low oxygenation. Most of these buliminids, as listed on Table 3, occur within the Pliocene Jemmys Point Formation near Lakes Entrance (Nicholls, 1968). However, they are not as frequent at Lakes Entrance or other Gippsland Pliocene localities (e.g. Flounder #5) as they are are in Basker and Hapuku (refer Figure 2).

The misplaced shallow water species in Basker #1 (refer Table 3) and in Flounder #5 (refer Figure 2) are infrequent, compared with their occurrences in shallow water deposits in the Lakes Entrance area (Nicholls, 1968). Above 640m in Basker #1, a few of these shallow water species occur without evidence of misplacement. They are associated with rich accumulations of bryozoal debris of fresher appearance than the worn skeletal material lower in the section. A decline in planktonic specific diversity, and thus biostratigraphic control, at 640m has been discussed. These observations may be evidence of the termination of progradation and establishment of a mid shelfal platform situation, in the Late Pliocene, with the water depth slightly shallower than at present, due to the Late Pliocene regression. A similar situation occurred at Flounder #5 (refer Figure 2).

Neither the misplaced shallow water species or the bryozoal-rich mid shelf facies of Basker #1 and Flounder #5 were present in the Pliocene of Hapuku #1. However, Hapuku #1 has a well developed *Virgulina* and *Euuvigerina bassensis* Biofacies in common with Basker #1, although it commences slightly later in Hapuku. This distribution pattern of biofacies in the three sequences (refer Figure 2) shows that Hapuku #1 was in a deeper water location and Flounder #5 in a slightly shallower one relative to Basker #1 during the late Neogene shelfal progradation phase.

The relative thicknesses of the late Neogene Zones in the three sections reflect a seaward progression of the shelf edge:-

- i) the oldest Zone in the prograding sequence (Zone C) is thickest in Flounder #5;
- ii) Zones B-1 and B-2 are thickest in Basker #1;
- iii) substantial accumulation took place in the mid Pliocene Zone A-4 in Hapuku as the shelf edge prograded out to this deeper water situation.

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The Volador #1 and Hammerhead #1 sequences are also plotted on Figure 2, but these sections contain a totally different set of depositional environmental characteristics, compared with Basker #1, Hapuku #1 and Flounder #5. Canyon fill carbonates accumulated in both Volador and Hammerhead, rather than the prograded sequences of the other three wells. Also Zone D-1 was represented in Volador and Hammerhead, but was absent in the other three wells, suggesting that D-1 sediment may have been removed from some localities to provide canyon fill in others.

The shelf edge regime during the Late Neogene of the Gippsland Basin appears to have been as complex then as it is now with sediment removal in one place, canyon filling in a second and progradation in a third. This confused attempts at arranging Figure 2 as a geographic section.

REFERENCES.

- KENNETT, J.P., 1973 Middle and Late Cenozoic Planktonic Foraminiferal Biostratigraphy of the Southwest Pacific - DSDP Leg 21. Burns, R.E., Andrews, J.E., et al, Initial Reports Deep Sea Drilling Project, 21; 575-639.
- NICHOLLS, D.R., 1968 Studies in Victorian Foraminifera from Above the Orbulina universa datum, unpublished Thesis, University of Melbourne.

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Basker Report David Taylor, August 10, 1983.

BASIN:	GIPPSLAND
WELL NAME.	DICKED # 1

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ELEVATION: KB:25.3m GL:-162m

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WEL	VELL NAME: BASKER # 1 TOTAL DEPTH:											
			HIGHEST DATA				LOWEST DATA					
A	ЗE	FORAM. ZONULES	Preferred Depth	Rtg	Alternate Depth	Rtg	Two Way Time	Preferred Depth	⇒ Rig	Alternate Depth	Rig	Two Way Time
-SI:		A ₁										
ЧĞ		A2										
1		A 3	657	1				892.5	0			
LIO		A ₄	912	1	929	0		1150	1	1013	0	
<u> </u>	61	^B 1	1250	2	1450	0		1500	1			
	LATI	^B 2	1800	0				1900	0			
		С	1950	0				2000	0			
ш	ш Ц	D ₁										
z		D ₂										
ш U		^E 1										
0	Σ	^E 2										
Ξ		F	2025	1	2050	0			٥			
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	ជ	^H 1										
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COMMENTS: Deepest sidewall core submitted was at 2115.

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CONFIDENCE	ε	0.	SWC or Core	- Complete assemblage (very high confidence).
RATING		Ŀ	SWC or Core	- Almost complete assemblage (high confidence).
		2:	SWC or Core	- Close to conule change but able to interpret (low confidence).
		3.	Cuttings	- Complete assemblage (low confidence).
		4 -	Cuttings	 Incomplete assemblage, next to uninterpretable or SWC with depth suspicion (very low confidence).
NOTE	lí ra	an entry	is given a 3 or 4 o ld he entered, if r	confidence rating, an alternative depth with a better confidence
	th	en no ent	rv should be made	unless a range of zones is given where the highest possible
	li	mit will a	ippear in one zone	and the lowest possible limit in another.

DATA	RECORDED BY:	David Taylor	DATE :	10/8/1983.
DATA	REVISED BY:		DATE :	

PLANKTONIC FORAMINIFERAL -BIOSTRATIGRAPHY (<.2mm) G'oides bisphericus G'oides trilobus G'oides trilobus G'ina woodi woodi G'ina woodi woodi G'alia vella continuosa G'alia bulloides (S.S.) G'alia bulla continuosa G'alia praescitula G'alia miozea miozea G'alia miozea miozea G'alia miozea miozea G'alia miozea miozea G'alia miozea G'alia miotunuda G'alia miotunuda G'alia miotunuda G'alia miotunuda G'alia miotunuda G'alia miotunida G'alia musea G'alia musea G'alia musea G'alia musea G'alia nusea G'oides condiobeu (s.s.) SIDEWALL CORES Depth in metres Depth ZONE AGE at Base 519.0. 538.0. × x × х • D x x 555.0. 570.0. x x x x x x x x 500.0 • ? ? 605.0. x x x x × x 627.5 . D **** ***** 640.0. 657.0. . . D x x 640.0 • X X X • x x x x x х 674.0. . × • 691.0. D x x x 708.0, . x D × • 748.0 × 758.0. 776.0. A-3 . . LATE • x x X X • × × x x × x 790.0. . to 810.0, 827.0, . D ° x x × × × × × × 344.0. • . • MID x х 861.0. ٠ x • ٠ ? 878.0₊ 892.5₊ x x • x x x PLIOCENE . x 892.5 • 912.0. x x • D . 929.0_ . x x • 945.0. • x x x x x D X X X n63. 0., • ٠ D A-4 • • • 900.0, 993.0. × × × • x 1013.0. x • x 9 х 1150.0. 1150.0 D D 1200.0. ? 1200.0 1250.04 . D x x EARLY 1300.0. 1350.0. ٠ x × x D ٠ PLIOCENE • X D D B-1 . 1400.0. : to . . 1450.0. x ٠ ٠ . D x 1500.0. LATE × × × хx x × 2 1500.0 1550.0. . D x MIOCENE 1600.0. x × D 1650.0. ? D 1700.0 • . x D 1750.0. • . x . D 1750.0 1800.0. хх × X X 1050.0. x x x x B-2 × 1900.0. × 1900.0 X x x x x MID 1950.0. х x MIOCENE С × × × * 2000.0 × ······ ~~~~ 2000.0 2025.0. 2050.0, x хx EARLY 2070.0. F × × × × × × MIOCENE 2000.0. . 2115.0. * * * * * * хx хх x 2115.0 KEY: * = <20 specimens x = >20 specimens

TABLE 2: MIOCENE/PLIOCENE PLANKTONIC FORAMINIFERAL DISTRIBUTION - BASKER # 1.

David Taylor 9/8/1983.

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	CONTINENTAL SLOPE	SHELF EDGE ++ MID SHELF MID-IN	NER SHELF
SIDEWALL CORE Deoth in metres	Oridorsalis tenera Reophar spp. Rhabdammina abyssorum Discammina abyssorum Martinotiella communis Ammobaculies calcareus Bathysiphon spp. Stilostomella antillea Bulimina marginate Ammodiscus incertus Mamodiscus incertus Frachisiphon corbiformis Karreriella bradyi Siphouvigerina proboscidae Gyroidinodes tenera Monionella spp. Pleurostommala tenera "Cycolammina" spp. Pyrgo depressa	Oridorsalis umbonatus Cassidulina levigata Discorbina berthelott Cibicides mediocris & temperatus Trifarina bradyi Cibicides psuedoungerianus Rectoglandulina comatula Cibicides subhaidingeri Sipbouvigerina comatula Cibicides subhaidingeri Sipbouvigerina contriensis Lagena spp. (spherical) Bolivina pseudobeyichi Marginulina pseudobeyichi Gyroidina soldani Marginulina pseudobeyichi Anomalina pseudobeyichi Sighina soldani Margina pseudobeyichi Bulimina ci pupoides Bulimina submasis Bulimina submasis Bulimina duarila elegantissima, Buliminalla elegantissima, Buliminalla elegantissima, Buliminalla elegantissi Cassidulinoides sp. Monosilia baseensis Cassidulinoides sp. Motorotalia clathrata Karreta vyonoum	Discoanomalina mitchell: Cibicides refulgens & lobatulus Discorotalia E Cribrotalia Herconalina lingulata Quinqueloculina agglutiana AN
519.0.		x x x x * *** * * * * * * * * *	
555.0.		x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x x	
570.0 ₊ 590.0 ₊		x * * * *	?
605.0 ₊ 627.5 ₊		D x * x x x x * * * * * * * * * * * * *	;
640.0		D * xxx xx x * x *	
674.0+	t	x•• • x x x x *• ξ	
691.0 _→ 708.0 _→		x x x * * x x * *	
727.0. 748.0.		x * x x x * x x * x *	Ę
758.0.			:
790.0	•	D • • • •	A-3
810.0 ₊ 827.0 ₊	1	D * x * x * • •	
844.0_	Ì	•• X• •••	
878.0→			ξ -
892.5. 912.0.		x x x x x x * x x D *	ξ
929.0. 945.0.		• <u>x</u> • •	ξ
963.0.		x x x x x D F	
993.04		* x x * D * ξ	ξ Α-4
1150.0.	indet	× ×××*×*× ξ	
1200.0+ 1250.0+		D * x	ε <u>-</u>
1300.0_ 1350.0		•	r l
1400.0.	indet	-	B-1
1500.04	×	ι.	د د
1550.0 ₊ 1600.0 ₊		x • x • • •	
1650.0.	•		?
1750.0	indet	×	
1800.0. 1850.0.	• ×	•	B~2
1900.0 _→ 1950.0.	•	•	
2000.0.			С
2025.0.	• • • •	***************************************	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
2070.0.	• • • • • • • • • • •		F
2090.0. 2115.0.	• • • · .		
	KEY: • = <20 specimens x = >20 specimens	ξ = environmentally misplaced specimens νν = definite hiatus	

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D = Dominant >60% specimens indet = specifically indeterminate due to diagenesis.

TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED BENTHONIC FORAMINIFERA IN BASKER # 1. David Taylor, 9/8/1983.

	GROSS FORAMINIFERAL ASSEMBLAGE			RESIDUE GE LITHOLOGY (>. MINOR COMPONENTS (excl. forams)	1PALEO- ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (refer also Table 3))					
RES tres				ets ragments fragments	<pre>(): bryozoa f: foramin. y: recrystall</pre>	Cm) m) OOm) Oom) 0-250m)	CHANGE	:	PLA FORAM BIOSTR	NKTONIC MINIFERAL RATIGRAPHY	
SIDEWALL CO Depth in me	Total foram cou Planktonic fo	ASSEMBLAGE FEAT ENERGY RDCIME	OXYGENATION	pyrite limonitic clay c-m ang qtz ovoid clay pell glauconite sponge spicules echinoid spines ostracods worn bryozoal f fresh bryozoal f	micrite m: micrite, marls calcareous siltst. P: pyrite oo: c-m ang subrd qtz	INNER SHELF (<4 MID SHELF (<100 OUTER SHELF <2 SHELF EDCE (<25 UPPER SLOPE (40)	E-LOG CHARACTER	ZONE	Depth at Base	AGE	
519.0. 538.0. 555.0. 570.0. 500.0. 605.0. 627.5. 640.0.	1000 50 500 60 250 30 700 70 100 60 1500 60 200 50 500 60	S HIGH		λ λr λ λ λλ λ λ λ λ λ λ rrλλ λr rrλ	() () EE YYYYYY () () YYYYYYYYY YYYYYYYYYYYYY YYYYYYYYYY			?		7	
657.0+ 674.0+ 691.0+ 708.0+ 728.0+ 748.0+ 758.0+ 758.0+ 750.0- 310.0+ 527.0+ 327.0+	1000 60 500 60 1000 60 50 50 250 40 250 40 20 90 1000 70 250 40 20 90 500 50 250 50	PROG S HIGH	POOR POOR	A rC A A A A rr r A				A-3	- 640.0	LATE to	
861.0. 878.0. 372.5. 312.0. 729.0. 945.0. 363.0. 370.0. 373.0.	7 7 1000 70 E 500 80 E 500 75 E 500 80 75 E 500 80 60 E 500 40 F	PROG PROG PROG	POOR POOR POOR POOR	λ λ λ r r r r t ξ λλ	YYYYYYYYYYYYYY ffffffffff yyyyyyyyyyyy ffffffff			A-4	- 892.5	PLIOCENE	
1013.0, 1150.0, 1200.0, 1250.0, 1300.0, 1350.0, 1400.0, 1450.0,	1000 70 E 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7	PROG S HIGH PROG PROG		AAArr AA AA C AA Ar				<u> </u>	_1150.0 -1200.0	EARLY PLIOCENE to	
1500.0+ 1550.0+ 1650.0+ 1650.0+ 1700.0+ 1750.0+ 1300.0+ 1850.0+	500 90 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 1000 95 500 90		POOR	λ ΓΓ λ Γ Γ	££ manarunavanarun YYYYYYYYYYYYYYY YYYYYYYYYYYYY YYYYYYYY		21730	? 	-1500.0 -1750.0	LATE MIOCENE	
1900.0, 1950.0, 2000.0, 2025.0, 2050.0, 2070.0,	1000 95 2000 98 2000 95 2000 95 2000 95 1000 98 1000 98 500 95	~~~~	m	A C A A A T M M A A A T A A A	fffffffff mann fffffffff mann ffffffffff fffffffff fffffffff mann ffffffffff fffffffff fffffffff ffffff		-2020	C VVVVV F	-1900.0 ~2000.0	MID MIOCENE EARLY MIOCENE	

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TABLE 4: PALEOENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS - BASKER # 1. (refer also to Benthonic Foraminiferal Distribution on Table 3).

David Taylor, August 10, 1983.

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