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**Palynological analysis of sidewall cores
from Fenton Creek-1,
Port Campbell Embayment
Otway Basin.**

by

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Summary

Twenty-five sidewall core samples were analysed in Fenton Creek-1 with the focus of the palynological investigation concentrated on the Upper Cretaceous Sherbrook Group. Only two samples of Albian age ¹⁹⁹⁷ was analysed from the underlying Eumeralla Formation. The palynological zones, their ages and suggested correlations to established stratigraphic units are summarised in the following Table 1.

Additional interpretative data on all samples including zone identification and Confidence Ratings are recorded in Table 2, whilst basic data on sidewall core lithologies, visual residue yields, preservation and species diversity are recorded on Table 3. Counts of the assemblages are presented on Table 4 and distribution of all identified palynomorphs are presented on the accompanying range chart.

Materials and Methods

The palynological slides were prepared in the Santos Ltd palynological laboratory and received by the author in two batches on the 7th and 13th May 1997.

Provisional reports were submitted on the 8th and 15th May. For most samples the oxidised slides separated using 1.65 specific gravity zinc bromide were the only slides both scanned and counted. The counts were mostly made under a x40 objectives to be confident of picking up all specimens of the smaller palynomorphs. On some samples, where the residue were sparsely or unevenly distributed on the slides, it was necessary to partially count the slides using a x25 objective. The counts were all terminated when just over 100 specimens of spores and pollen had been counted. Only on the slides with the best preservation and concentration of specimens are significantly larger counts provided. The counts give a good approximation of the changes in the abundance of the major species groups in the assemblages but are only considered accurate to $\pm 5\%$.

Although the calculated yield from processing was mostly low the ^{visual} yield of residue on the palynological slides was overall moderate to high, certainly sufficient to record high diversity spore-pollen assemblages and moderate diversity microplankton assemblages from most of the samples. Palynomorph preservation was somewhat variable but mostly fair. Recorded spore-pollen diversity ranged from 17 to 44 species and averaged 29+ species per sample over the whole section, while recorded microplankton diversity ranged 4 to 21 species and averaged 10+ species per sample through the Sherbrook Group (Table 3).

Table-1: Palynological summary for Fenton Creek-1

AGE	LITHOLOGICAL UNIT	SPORE-POLLEN ZONES (Subzones)	MICROPLANKTON ZONES (Subzones)
EARLY EOCENE TO LATE PALEOCENE	PEMBER MUDSTONE 799-832.5m	NOT SAMPLED	NOT SAMPLED
LATE PALEOCENE	PEBBLE POINT FORMATION 832.5-851.5m	NOT SAMPLED	NOT SAMPLED
DANIAN TO MAASTRICHTIAN	K/T BOUNDARY SHALE 851.5-862m	NOT SAMPLED	NOT SAMPLED
MAASTRICHTIAN	WIRIDJIL FORMATION 862-893.5m	NOT SAMPLED	NOT SAMPLED
MAASTRICHTIAN to CAMPANIAN	Undifferentiated TIMBOON SAND and PAARATTE FORMATION 893.5-1198.5m	<i>N. senectus</i> and <i>F. sabulosus</i> Subzone 1118m	<i>N. aceras</i> 1118m
SANTONIAN	SKULL CREEK MUDSTONE 1198.5-1324m	Upper <i>T. apoxyexinus</i> 1320m	<i>I. cretaceum</i> and <i>I. rotundatum</i> Subzone 1320m
SANTONIAN	NULLAWARRE GREENSAND 1324-1417m	NOT SAMPLED	NOT SAMPLED
SANTONIAN to CONIACIAN	BELFAST MUDSTONE 1417-1524.5m	Upper <i>T. apoxyexinus</i> 1422m <i>P. mawsonii</i> 1498.5-1520m	<i>I. cretaceum</i> 1422m <i>I. balmei</i> Subzone 1498.5-1520m
TURONIAN	FLAXMAN FORMATION 1524.5-1552.5m including Banoon Member 1524.5-1527m	<i>P. mawsonii</i> 1524-1549m <i>G. ancorus</i> Subzone 1524-1543m	<i>P. infusorioides</i> 1524-1549m <i>K. polypes</i> Subzone 1524-1549m
TURONIAN	WAARRE FORMATION 1552.5-1655m Subdivided into Unit C 1552.5m-1612.5m Unit B 1612.5-1624m Unit A 1624-1655m	<i>P. mawsonii</i> 1566-1654m <i>L. musa</i> Subzone 1566-1567m <i>H. trinalis</i> Subzone 1622-1654m	<i>P. infusorioides</i> 1566-1654m <i>I. evexus</i> Subzone 1566-1567m <i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme 1622-1654m
LATE ALBIAN	EUMERALLA FORMATION 1655-1840m	<i>P. pannosus</i> 1790.5-1810m	Indeterminate Non-marine

T.D. 1840m

Geological Comments

1. The sequence sampled in Fenton Creek-1, with minor modifications, can be readily assigned to the Mesozoic spore-pollen and microplankton zones defined by Helby *et al.* (1987) with further resolution provided by subzones recognised by McMinn (1988) and Partridge (1997). The time interval sampled is from the Late Albian to Early Campanian.
2. The spore-pollen zones identified conform to the succession in the Otway Basin first established by Dettmann & Playford (1969), and modified by Helby *et al.* (1987), except that the *P. mawsonii* Zone can now be demonstrated to extend to the base of the Waarre Formation. The *A. distocarinatus* Zone originally established by Dettmann & Playford (1969) and subsequently redefined by Helby *et al.* (1987) is considered to be absent at the unconformity between the Waarre and Eumeralla Formations. This latter result confirms recent review work in the Port Campbell Embayment where the index species *Clavifera triplex* and *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* have been found in all examined wells to range to the base of the Waarre Formation (Partridge, 1996a;1997).

The implications of this discovery is that all sections assigned to the *A. distocarinatus* Zone in the Otway Basin actually belongs to the *P. mawsonii* Zone and consequently there are no sediments of proven Cenomanian age currently recognised in the Otway Basin. In manuscripts currently in preparation it is proposed to abandon the use of the *A. distocarinatus* Zone and replace it with the *Hoegisporis uniforma* Zone for the revised "Cenomanian" concept of the zone as redefined by Helby *et al.*, (1987).

In many wells in the Otway Basin the top of *A. distocarinatus* Zone, which has usually been picked at the youngest occurrence of *Appendicisporites distocarinatus*, approximates the top of the new *H. trinialis* Subzone. This stratigraphic level corresponds to about the last or youngest **consistent**, frequent to common occurrences of *A. distocarinatus*. Unfortunately, sporadic, inconsistent and rare occurrences of *A. distocarinatus* are recorded as high as the top of the new *G. ancorus* Subzone as has been recorded in this well. These latter records are the reason why the previously recorded tops for the *A. distocarinatus* Zone is often irregular or time diachronous with respect to log correlations and stratigraphic units. Many of these younger records are believed to represent reworked specimens.

3. Marine microplankton first appear in Fenton Creek-1 in the basal sample analysed from the Waarre Formation and thereafter are found in all samples analysed from the Sherbrook Group. It is therefore reasonable to conclude (with the exception perhaps of some of the sands) that the entire Sherbrook Group was deposited in marine environments. Except for the low diversity microplankton assemblage recorded at 1200m all samples from the Sherbrook Group were successfully assigned to microplankton zones.
4. Commencing from total depth the oldest unit penetrated in Fenton Creek-1 is the Eumeralla Formation at the top of the Otway Group. The two deep sidewall cores at 1790m and 1810m both gave typical Eumeralla assemblages which are assigned to the *P. pannosus* Zone. As no microplankton were identified in either sample both are considered to represent deposition in fluvial environments. The 12 sidewall cores recovered between 1790m and top of the formation were either barren or gave only low palynomorph recoveries and were not analysed for this report.
5. The log pick for the top of the Eumeralla Formation at 1655m lies immediately below the first good assemblage from the Waarre Formation at 1654m. The occurrence of marine dinoflagellates immediately above the top of Otway unconformity (in this case one metre above) is consistent with all other wells in the Otway Basin where there is close sampling across this unconformity. The final erosion on this surface, prior to deposition of the marine Waarre Formation, is therefore interpreted as a classic **plain of marine denudation** (Bates & Jackson, 1987; p.507).
6. The 102 metre thick Waarre Formation identified between 1552.5-1655m is subdivided into the three units recognised by Buffin (1989) using both electric logs and palynological data. Unit A, containing the basal sands is identified between 1624-1654m while Unit B is considered to be restricted to the shale between 1612.5-1624m. The palynomorph assemblages from these two units are dominated by spores with different species prominent in each of the samples. The samples also contain frequent to common marine dinoflagellate assemblages (average 7% of combined SP and MP counts) which are of low diversity. Overall the environment of deposition is marine but probably near shore and shallow water with possibly some lagoonal or estuarine environments near the base of the section. Units A and B belong to the new *H. trinalls* Subzone of the *P. mawsonii* spore-pollen Zone and the new *C. edwardsii* Acme of the *P. infusorioides* microplankton Zone both of which are assigned an early Turonian age.

7. A 60 metre thick Unit C of the Waarre Formation is identified between 1552.5–1612.5m but only the two closely spaced claystone sidewall core samples at 1566m and 1567m were analysed for palynology. The recorded assemblages are assigned to the new *L. musa* spore-pollen Subzone and *L. evexus* microplankton Subzone and both are dominated by the enigmatic microplankton or algal cyst *Amosopollis cruciformis* which averages 37% of total assemblage count. This cyst has been found in abundance associated with both marine dinoflagellates in the Otway Basin and with the endemic non-marine algal cyst assemblages found in the Turonian large lakes of the Gippsland and Bass Basins (Marshall, 1989; Partridge, 1996b). In Fenton Creek-1 deposition of the shale unit between 1564–1568m is interpreted to have occurred in a very shallow marine to brackish marginal marine environment. Relative to the underlying Units A and B, and the overlying Flaxman Formation, Unit C is more regressive in character. This is consistent with its higher sand ratio.

It is also tentatively suggested that Unit C can be subdivided into Unit Ca between 1594–1612.5m and Unit Cb between 1552.5–1594m following Partridge (1997). If Fenton Creek-1 behaves like other wells the LAD of *Hoegisporis trinalis* n.sp. should occur in one or all of the thin shale beds at 1586m, 1603m and 1605m and a sequence boundary could be placed at 1585m.

8. A 28 metre thick Flaxman Formation is identified in Fenton Creek-1 between 1524.5–1552.5m. All samples gave palynological assemblages which are confidently assigned to the middle part of the *P. mawsonii* Zone and upper part of the *P. infusorioides* microplankton Zone. They can be more precisely assigned to the new *K. polypes* microplankton Subzone. The equivalent new *G. ancorus* spore-pollen Subzone is however only confidently identified between 1524–1543m. Both subzones provide confident biostratigraphic correlation to the recently reviewed and revised type section of the Flaxman Formation in Port Campbell-2 (Partridge, 1996a; Kelly & Partridge, 1997).
9. A 2.5 metre thick sandstone identified between 1524.5–1527m at the top of the Flaxman Formation, based on sidewall core lithology and the electric logs, is assigned to the Banoon Member recently proposed by Kelly & Partridge (1997). Palynology supports a correlation to the type section of the Banoon Member in Flaxman-1 based on the presence of the characteristic *Cupressacites* pollen spike (Kelly & Partridge, 1997). The sidewall cores at 1524m and 1526.5m which are described as "dark greenish

grey sandstone" will however need to be checked by petrology to confirm whether they contain authigenic chamosite and goethite considered diagnostic of this new member (Kelly & Partridge, 1997). The shallower sample at 1524m lies above the log pick for the top of the member. This may reflect a slight inaccuracy in the sampling depth or could be interpreted as reworking at the base the Belfast Mudstone. The latter is suggested by the mutual occurrence of *Kiokansium polypes* and *Valensiella griphus* in an assemblage dominated by *Trithyrodinium* sp., a species which is considered more typical of the overlying *I. balmei* Subzone.

10. A 107 metre thick Belfast Mudstone is identified between 1417–1524m based on biostratigraphic criteria established by Partridge (1996a). The three samples analysed confirm a Coniacian age at the base and a Late Santonian age at the top. In biostratigraphic terms the two deepest samples between 1498.5–1520m are assigned to the *I. balmei* Subzone of the *C. striatoconus* microplankton Zone as identified by McMinn (1988). Unfortunately the eponymous species for both the *C. striatoconus* Zone and the new *C. vultuosus* spore-pollen Subzone were not recorded in either sample. Above these two samples is a ~100m sampling gap before the sample at 1422m near the top of the formation which is assigned to the *I. cretaceum* microplankton Zone and Upper *T. apoxyexinus* spore-pollen Zone. The Upper subdivision of the latter zone is based on the increase in *Proteacidites* species abundance which is similar to that found in the type section of the Belfast Mudstone in Port Campbell-1 (Partridge, 1996a).

The Belfast Mudstone could not be confidently subdivided on the limited palynological sampling available, however it possible that the gamma/sonic spike at 1458m could represent a significant boundary in the formation which may correlate to the sequence boundary at the top of the informal Morum Member recognised in the Gambier Embayment (Partridge, 1997). The sonic spike and more subtle gamma change at 1452m may also be significant.

11. A 93 metre thick Nullawarre Greensand is identified on the electric logs between 1324–1417m but unfortunately was not analysed. This is overlain by a 125 metre thick Skull Creek Mudstone (GSV, 1995) between 1198.5–1324m which is sampled near its base and top. The occurrence of the new *I. rotundatum* microplankton Subzone of the *I. cretaceum* Zone at the base of the formation is consistent with current data in other wells. The base of the overlying *N. aceras* microplankton is also known from other wells to lie within the Skull Creek Mudstone but precisely where is uncertain. The

sample at 1200m unfortunately does not help as key species were not found in a moderate diversity spore-pollen assemblage. Overall very little detailed palynological work has been undertaken at this stratigraphic level in the Sherbrook Group within the Port Campbell Embayment because of a current emphasis on detailed sampling of the older formations.

12. The shallowest sample analysed in Fenton Creek-1 at 1118m is from within the Paaratte Formation and is Early Campanian in age (*N. senectus* and *N. aceras* Zones). Unfortunately lack of palynological control and the overall similarity in the electric log signature makes it difficult to distinguish the Paaratte Formation from the overlying Timboon Sand so therefore this interval is left undifferentiated.

Biostratigraphy

The zone and age determinations are based on the Australia wide Mesozoic spore-pollen and microplankton zonation schemes described by Helby *et al.* (1987) with further resolution provided by the subzones recognised by McMinn (1988) and Partridge (1997). Author citations for most spore-pollen species can be sourced from Helby *et al.* (1987), Dettmann (1963), Stover & Partridge (1973) or other references cited herein, whilst author citations for dinoflagellates can be found in the index of Lentini & Williams (1993). Species names followed by "ms" or "n.sp." are unpublished manuscript names.

SPORE-POLLEN ZONES

***Nothofagidites senectus* spore-pollen Zone**

***Forcipites sabulosus* spore-pollen Subzone**

Sample at: 1118.0 metres.

Age: Early Campanian.

This angiosperm dominated assemblage with abundant *Proteacidites* spp. (37%) is assigned to the *N. senectus* Zone on the frequent occurrence *Forcipites sabulosus* (~4%). The frequent to common occurrence of the latter species and absence of *Gambierina rudata* defines the *F. sabulosus* Subzone within the lower part of the *N. senectus* Zone.

The sample at 1200m unfortunately only gave a small residue yield. Although a moderate diversity spore-pollen assemblage was recorded the absence of key index species means the sample can only be assigned to the interval of the *N. senectus* to *T. apoxyxinus* Zones.

Environment of deposition of both samples is considered marine although probably shallow water and near-shore.

***Tricolporites apoxyexinus* spore-pollen Zone**

Interval: 1320.0–1422.0 metres.

Age: Late Santonian.

Two samples are assigned to this zone on the occurrence of *Tricolporites apoxyexinus* in both samples, presence of *Ornamentifera sentosa* in the shallower sample, and absence of younger index species. The significant abundance of *Proteacidites* spp. in both samples (average 10%) suggests a position high in the spore-pollen zone and this is confirmed by the associated microplankton which are assigned to the *I. cretaceum* microplankton Zone. Aside from being characterised by an overall increase in angiosperm pollen (average 25%) both samples have abundant bisaccate pollen assigned to *Podocarpidites/Alisporites* spp. (average 24%) and common *Gleicheniidites/Clavifera* spores (average 12%).

Both samples contain common microplankton of moderate diversity and are likely to have been deposited in an offshore marine environment in moderate water depths (~mid to outer shelf).

***Phyllocladidites mawsonii* spore-pollen Zone**

Interval: 1498.5–1654.0 metres.

Age: Coniacian–Turonian.

Nineteen samples over an interval of 155+ metres are assigned to the *P. mawsonii* Zone in the lower third of the Sherbrook Group in Fenton Creek–1. The index species *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* is very rare and recorded from only the lowest 2 of the 5 deepest samples, but is consistent, varying from rare to common, in the 14 shallowest samples. *Clavifera triplex* the index species originally proposed by Dettmann & Playford (1969) for this zone interval is also recorded from 2 of the 5 deepest samples and 9 of the next 14 samples. It tends to be rarer than *P. mawsonii* in the assemblages. Further details of these assemblages are discussed under the new subzones.

***Gleicheniidites ancorus* spore-pollen Subzone**

Interval: ?1498.5m to 1524.0–1543.0m to ?1549.0 metres.

Age: Late Turonian to Coniacian?.

The *G. ancorus* Subzone is the interval between the last consistent and frequent occurrence of *Laevigatosporites musa* n.sp. (which is also approximately the local FAD of *Gleicheniidites ancorus* n.sp.) to the FAD of *Clavifera vultuosus* n.sp. This new subzone is confidently recognised in the Flaxman Formation between 1524–1543m on the presence of the *Gleicheniidites ancorus* n.sp. The eponymous species was not found in the three deepest samples from the between 1544.5–1549m and

it is dubious whether the two samples from the basal Belfast Mudstone which contain *G. ancorus* but lack *Clavifera vultuosus* n.sp. should be assigned to this zone. The upper part of the subzone between 1524–1530m is also characterised by an common *Cupressacites* pollen (7% to 14%). The continued presence of *Rugulatisporites admirabilis* ms and rare specimens of *Appendicisporites distocarinatus* are considered as secondary features characteristic of this subzone. The rare occurrences of *Laevigatosporites musa* ms at 1533.5m, 1543m and 1548m are considered atypical.

The composition of all assemblages from the upper part of the *P. mawsonii* Zone between 1498.5m to 1549m is also distinctive. With exception of low yielding sample at 1538m all samples are dominated by gymnosperm pollen (average 64%). The most conspicuous increase is in the abundance of *Araucariacites* and *Dilwynites* pollen which combined average 26% of the spore-pollen count through this interval. Based on work in the Gippsland Basin were high counts of *Dilwynites* pollen correlate directly to high microplankton abundances (Partridge, 1989) it is empirically deduced that high *Dilwynites* and *Araucariacites* abundances in marine or lacustrine assemblages are a manifestation of a "Neves Effect" on the assemblages (Traverse, 1988: p.413). This suggests that the Flaxman Formation and basal Belfast Mudstone in Fenton Creek-1 have been deposited in distal offshore environments, which may also have been fairly deep. These observations are consistent with the higher microplankton abundances and species diversities over this interval in Fenton Creek-1.

***Laevigatosporites musa* spore-pollen Subzone**

Interval: 1566–1567.0 metres.

Age: Mid? Turonian.

The *L. musa* Subzone is defined as the interval between the LAD for *H. trinalis* ms and the last consistent appearances of *Laevigatosporites musa* ms within the *P. mawsonii* Zone. In Fenton Creek-1 only the two closely spaced samples at 1566m and 1567m are assigned to the subzone. The assemblages are dominated by *Podocarpidites/Alisporites* spp. (~27%), *Cyathidites* spp. (19%) and *Gleicheniuidites* spp. (11%). Contrast also the dominance of gymnosperm pollen in these two samples (average 57%) with the dominance of spores (average 68%) in the count of the samples from the underlying *H. trinalis* Subzone (Table 4).

In the Port Campbell Embayment this zone is found in the upper part of the Unit C of the Waarre Formation. Unfortunately definition of the top of the subzone is somewhat problematical as it is obscured by poor sampling associated with the unconformity and major facies change between the Waarre and Flaxman Formations.

Hoegisporis trinalis* spore-pollen Subzone*Interval: 1622.0–1654.0 metres.****Age: Early? Turonian.**

The *H. trinalis* Subzone is defined as the interval from the LAD of *Hoegisporis uniforma* to the LAD of *H. trinalis* ms. It is recorded in the five deepest samples from the Sherbrook Group in Fenton Creek-1 over an interval of 32 metres. The zone is characterised by the rare but consistent occurrences of the eponymous species in each sample together with consistent occurrences of *Appendicisporites distocarinatus* (in all samples), *Rugulatisporites admirabilis* ms (in 4 of 5 samples) and *Laevigatosporites musa* ms (in 3 of 5 samples). The presence of very rare specimens of *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* at 1650.5m and 1654m and *Clavifera triplex* at 1650.5m and 1635m confirms that the interval still belongs to the *P. mawsonii* Zone.

The assemblages have similar compositions on counts being dominated by the species groups *Gleichenioidites* (average 20%), *Cyathidites* (average 18%), *Podocarpidites/Alisporites* (average 11%) and *Araucariacites/Dilwynites* (average ~9%). The consistent high abundance of *Gleichenioidites* (from 6% to 44%) is a key compositional feature which distinguishes assemblages from the basal Sherbrook Group from those of the underlying Eumeralla Formation. Average spore-pollen diversity in the subzone is 35+ species with a total species diversity of 50+ species.

The *H. trinalis* Subzone has previously been documented from Units A, B and basal part of Unit C of the Waarre Formation (Partridge, 1994).

Pimopollenites pannosus* spore-pollen Zone.*Interval: 1790.5–1810.0 metres****Age: Late Albian.**

The two sample analysed from the Eumeralla Formation gave very low yield, spore dominated residues in which *Cyathidites* spp. (34%), and *Baculatisporites/Osmundacidites* spp. (25%) were the dominant species complexes. The gymnosperm pollen were dominated by *Alisporites/Podocarpidites* spp. (17%) with *Corollina* spp. showing a secondary but distinct abundance averaging ~4%. This latter species abundance has proved to be a key difference in distinguishing between assemblages from the Eumeralla and Waarre Formation even in spore dominated assemblages like those found near the base of the latter formation in Fenton Creek-1. In this well fortunately the samples can be confidently assigned to the *P. pannosus* Zone on the rare presence of the eponymous species.

MICROPLANKTON ZONES***Nelsoniella aceras* microplankton Zone.****Sample at 1118 metres.****Age: Early Campanian.**

The shallowest samples analysed can be assigned to the *N. aceras* Zone on the presence of a single specimen of the eponymous species. Other species in the low diversity microplankton assemblage are not considered zone diagnostic. The underlying sample at 1200m also contains a low diversity microplankton assemblage which potentially could belong to this zone.

Isabelidium cretaceum* microplankton Zone.*Interval: 1320.0–1422.0 metres.**

Samples 1320.0 -

Age: Late Santonian.

Multiple specimens of the eponymous species recorded from both samples confirm the zone assignment. The samples also contain a variety of morphologically related types many of which have been assigned to new subspecies by Marshall (1984). Most significant is *Isabelidium belfastense* subsp. *rotundatum* which is here considered to be a separate species whose FAD defines the base of the new *I. rotundatum* Subzone. This subzone has previously been recorded from the Nullawarre Greensand and base of the overlying Skull Creek Mudstone (eg. Partridge, 1994), as is the case in Fenton Creek-1. Other subspecies recorded were *I. cretaceum* subsp. *contractum* and *I. cretaceum* subsp. *elongatum*, which were both found in the deeper sample. Although the *Isabelidium* species show the most diversity, *Heterosphaeridium* species tend to dominate the assemblages counts.

Isabelidium balmei* microplankton Subzone.*Interval: 1498.5–1520.0 metres.****Age: Coniacian.**

The *Isabelidium balmei* Interval Subzone was erected as a subzone of the *C. striatoconus* Zone by McMinn (1988) for the interval from the FAD for *I. balmei* to the FAD for *Gillinia hymenophora* and was considered to lie within the total range of *C. striatoconus*. In Fenton Creek-1 the two samples assigned to this zone contain *I. balmei* but lack *C. striatoconus* even though all slides from the two samples were searched. The samples may therefore be considered equivalent to the *C. striatoconus* Zone or may represent a previously unrecorded and slightly older interval in the Otway Basin between the FAD of *I. balmei* to the FAD *C. striatoconus*. Supporting the latter proposition is the lack of the spore *Clavifera vultuosus* n.sp. which on recent work in the Otway Basin appears to have a similar FAD to *C. striatoconus*. In Dunbar-1 the nearest well to Fenton Creek-1,

containing the *C. striatoconus* Zone, the eponymous species of the latter zone occurs with both *C. vultuosus* and *I. balmei* in a lower sample but *I. balmei* is missing from the association in an upper sample (Partridge, 1995). These differences in species associations may represent real range differences, or may just reflect serendipitous factors of sampling and palynology processing. Because of this uncertainty it is considered best to refrain from assigning the two samples in Fenton Creek-1 to the *C. striatoconus* Zone.

***Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides* microplankton Zone.**

Interval: 1524–1654.0 metres.

Age: Turonian.

Although the seventeen samples assigned to this zone only showed low diversity in the Waarre Formation (average 6+ species per sample) and moderate diversity in the Flaxman Formation (average 14+ species per sample) the total diversity over the interval is high with 40+ species recorded.

The zone was originally defined on negative criteria of the absence of the index species for the underlying and overlying zones (Helby *et al.*, 1987; p.62). In Fenton Creek-1, as in other wells in the Otway Basin, the characteristic species of the underlying Cenomanian *D. multispinum* Zone are not found. Such species looked for and not found included *Diconodinium multispinum*, *Pseudoceratium ludbrookiae*, *Litosphaeridium siphoniphorum* and *Canninginopsis denticulata*. The top of the zone is usually better defined as *Conosphaeridium striatoconus*, the index species for the overlying zone, has been recorded from wells in the Otway Basin, although not in this well. Within the *P. infusorioides* Zone in Fenton Creek-1 three subzones are recognised as described below:

***Kiokansium polypes* microplankton Subzone.**

Interval: 1524.0m? to 1526.5m–1549.0 metres.

Age: Late? Turonian.

In the Otway Basin this subzone is defined as the interval between the FAD of *Valensiella griphus* to the LAD of *Kiokansium polypes* which is usually concurrent with the LAD of *V. griphus*. In the Port Campbell-2 well this zone conforms exactly with the type section of the Flaxman Formation (Partridge, 1996a) and therefore its identification is used as a key method for confirming the presence of that formation. The zone is recorded from ten samples in which the index species are usually prominent components of the microplankton assemblages. *Valensiella griphus* ranges in abundance from 4% to 17% (average ~17%), and *Kiokansium polypes* ranges in abundance from <1% to 14% (average ~10%) of MP count. The most abundant marine dinoflagellate however is *Heterosphaeridium* spp. ranging in abundance from 4% to 38% (average ~17%). Although overall the

) microplankton are common to abundant through the zone (10% to 59%; average 39% of total SP and MP count) a significant component of this abundance is the algal cyst *Amosopollis cruciformis* which varies from <1% to a maximum of 37% (average ~12%) of total SP and MP count. In what are otherwise relatively homogeneous microplankton assemblages, through the Flaxman Formation, this variation in abundance of *A. cruciformis* is interpreted to reflect some type of cyclical phenomenon. As *A. cruciformis* has been observed to occur in abundance in both non-marine and marine environments the changes in abundance in this instance could be reflecting influxes of fresh or brackish water containing *A. cruciformis* into the basin.

) The top sample at 1524m is described as a greenish grey sandstone. This contrasts with its log character which appears to indicate a shale or claystone. The sample also lies just half a metre above the top of the Banoon Member picked at 1524.5m. It is therefore possible the recorded depth at which this sidewall core was shot may be slightly in error. Alternatively, the sample may represent a reworking and mixing event at the flooding surface at the base of the Belfast Mudstone. Supporting this latter interpretation is the high abundance of *Trithyrodinium* sp. cf *T. sp. A* of Marshall 1990 which represents 50% of the microplankton count. This species is not recorded in the underlying samples but is common in younger samples and therefore is potentially indicating the sample at 1524m should be assigned to the Belfast Mudstone.

Overall the Flaxman Formation assemblages have the highest abundance and diversity of microplankton of all the stratigraphic units analysed in Fenton Creek-1. The marked change in both abundance and diversity of marine microplankton compared to the underlying Waarre Formation is the reason the formation is interpreted to represent the base of the major flooding event as well as the base of the regional seal within the Port Campbell Embayment (Partridge, 1997). The environment of deposition at Fenton Creek-1 is interpreted to be outer shelf in fairly deep water.

***Isabelidinium evexus* microplankton Subzone.**

Sample at: 1566.0 metres.

Age: Late? Turonian.

) This subzone is defined as the interval between the FAD of *Isabelidinium evexus* n.sp. to the local Otway Basin FAD of *Valensiella grifhus*. The zone represents the oldest appearance in the Sherbrook Group succession of a small *Isabelidinium* species with a faint but distinct intercalary archeopyle (Type 2I). In Fenton Creek-1 this species is recorded in the shallowest sample analysed from the Waarre Formation, and from a few samples in the Flaxman Formation. The zone

is thought to be partly equivalent to the *Ascodinium parvum* Zone of Evans (1966, 1971). *Ascodinium parvum* although having a similar outline, is distinguished by its characteristic combination archeopyle involving both intercalary and apical paraplates. Unfortunately, this latter species has not been identified in any palynological studies on new wells drilled in the Otway Basin during the last five years. It is therefore concluded that the early records of *A. parvum* in the Otway Basin are all misidentifications. Another morphologically similar species is *Isabelidinium acuminatum* which can be distinguished from *I. evexus* by the presence of a small but distinct apical horn on the endocyst. Although *I. acuminatum* has been recorded in the Otway Basin by various palynologists I have never seen, nor can I confirm that any of the previously identified specimens actually have this apical horn which is so characteristic of the type specimens of *I. acuminatum*. In the absence of this distinguishing characteristic the option followed here is to assign all similar but distinct specimens to the new species *Isabelidinium evexus*. The zone based on such morphological criteria may then be partly equivalent to the *Isabelidinium acuminatum* Interval Zone of McMinn (1988), because small specimens of *Isabelidinium*, without a distinct apical horn on the endocyst, are included within McMinn's (1985) concept of *Isabelidinium acuminatum*.

The low diversity and abundance of marine dinoflagellates associated with abundant *Amosopollis cruciformis* in the samples at 1566m and 1567m is interpreted to indicate a shallow marine inner-shelf depositional environment.

***Cribroperidinium edwardsii* microplankton Acme Subzone.**

Interval: 1622.0-1654.0 metres.

Age: Early? Turonian.

The *Cribroperidinium edwardsii* Acme Subzone was established for marine dinoflagellate assemblages found in the lower part of the Waarre Formation which are of relatively low diversity and low abundance, yet contain a dominance of the eponymous species (Partridge, 1994). In the five samples in Fenton Creek-1 referred to this zone average microplankton abundance is only ~7% and average diversity 7+ species per sample. In these assemblages *C. edwardsii* has an abundance ranging from 7% to 50% (average ~30%) of the total MP in what are very low assemblage counts (see Table 4). Although rarely dominant in the total palynomorph assemblages *C. edwardsii* is certainly the most conspicuous and often the dominant dinoflagellate, thereby justifying the use of the term Acme Zone. The LAD for *C. edwardsii* in the Port Campbell Embayment appears to be within or at the top of the Flaxman Formation, but as its occurrence in the latter formation is both rare and sporadic it is considered highly likely that most of these younger occurrences represent reworking. Because of this significant

) difference between total range versus dominance in the assemblages the weight given to the records of *C. edwardsii* in early palynological reports in the Otway Basin should be treated with extreme caution unless there is some indication of the relative abundance of the species.

Environment of deposition during this zone in Fenton Creek-1 is interpreted to be shallow marine to marginal marine. The low abundance and diversity of the microplankton associated with coaly laminations and unusual high abundances of *Gleicheniidites* spores suggest that some deposition occurred landward of the palaeoshoreline in lagoons or estuaries (eg. SWC at 1650.5m which is an interbedded coal and claystone with 44% *Gleicheniidites*).

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Sample Type	Depth (m)	Spore-Pollen Zone (and Subzone)	CR	Microplankton Zone (and Subzone)	CR	MP%	Ac%	Key Species Present
SWC 48	1118.0	<i>N. senectus</i>	B2	<i>N. aceras</i>	B3	~4%	1%	FAD of <i>Forcipites sabulosus</i> at ~4% <i>Proteacidites</i> spp. abundant at 37%.
SWC 47	1200.0	<i>N. senectus</i> to <i>T. apoxyexinus</i>				~6%	NR	Low yield sample without key species. <i>Proteacidites</i> spp. common at 11%.
SWC 46	1320.0	<i>T. apoxyexinus</i> (Upper)	B1	<i>I. cretaceum</i> (<i>I. rotundatum</i>)	B2	7%	2%	FAD of <i>Isabeldinium rotundatum</i> ms. <i>Proteacidites</i> spp. common at 9%
SWC 45	1422.0	<i>T. apoxyexinus</i> (Upper)	B1	<i>I. cretaceum</i>	B2	13%	1%	FAD of <i>Tricolporites apoxyexinus</i> <i>Proteacidites</i> spp. common at 12%
SWC 44	1498.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i>	B1	<i>I. balmel</i>	B2	24%	14%	<i>Cupressacites</i> pollen decreasing at ~3% <i>Proteacidites</i> spp. rare at <1%.
SWC 43	1520.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i>	B1	<i>I. balmel</i>	B3	11%	9%	FAD of <i>Isabeldinium balmel</i> <i>Cupressacites</i> pollen spike of 14%
SWC 42	1524.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	20%	<1%	LAD of <i>Klokansium polypes</i> <i>Cupressacites</i> pollen spike of ~8%
SWC 41	1526.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B2	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	10%	2%	<i>Cupressacites</i> pollen spike of 13% <i>Dilwynites</i> spp. abundant at 50%
SWC 40	1530.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B3	12%	3%	FAD of <i>Tanyosphaeridium salpinx</i> <i>Cupressacites</i> pollen spike of 7%.
SWC 39	1533.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	49%	23%	LAD of <i>Laevigatosporites musa</i> ms <i>Cupressacites</i> pollen increasing at ~3%
SWC 38	1535.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	43%	15%	<i>Cupressacites</i> pollen not recorded in count.
SWC 37	1538.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B2	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B3	44%	10%	Low yield sample with poor assemblage. LAD of <i>Rugulatisporites admirabilis</i> ms
SWC 36	1543.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>G. ancorus</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	52%	37%	FAD of <i>Gleichenioides ancorus</i> ms
SWC 35	1544.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i>	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	51%	19%	Maximum MP diversity of 21+ species. <i>Heterosphaeridium</i> spp. 24% of MP count.
SWC 34	1548.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i>	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	58%	5%	Maximum MP diversity of 20+ species. <i>Heterosphaeridium</i> spp. 22% of MP count.

Table-2: Interpretative Palynological Data for Fenton Creek-1								
Sample Type	Depth (m)	Spore-Pollen Zone (and Subzone)	CR	Microplankton Zone (and Subzone)	CR	MP%	Ac%	Key Species Present
SWC 33	1549.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i>	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>K. polypes</i>)	B2	46%	12%	<i>Heterosphaeridium</i> spp. 38% of MP count. Base of marine flooding event.
SWC 31	1566.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>L. musa</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>I. evexus</i>)	B3	45%	40%	LAD of consistent <i>Laevigatosporites musa</i> ms FAD of <i>Isabelidium evexus</i> ms.
SWC 30	1567.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>L. musa</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i>	B3	36%	33%	Oldest occurrence of <i>Phyllocladites mawsonii</i> in count at ~4%.
SWC 22	1622.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>H. trinalls</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme)	B3	12%	1%	LAD of <i>Hoegtsports trinalls</i> ms LAD of consistent <i>A. distocarinatus</i> .
SWC 21	1635.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>H. trinalls</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme)	B3	9%	1%	Maximum SP diversity of 42+ species. LAD of <i>Paleoperidium cretaceum</i> .
SWC 19	1646.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>H. trinalls</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme)	B3	~5%	NR	<i>Cyathidites</i> spp. dominant at 34%. <i>H. trinalls</i> ms frequent at ~3%.
SWC 18	1650.5	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>H. trinalls</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme)	B3	7%	1%	<i>Glechniidites</i> spp. at 44% dominant. FAD of <i>Clavifera triplex</i> .
SWC 17	1654.0	<i>P. mawsonii</i> (<i>H. trinalls</i>)	B1	<i>P. infusorioides</i> (<i>C. edwardsii</i> Acme)	B3	~3%	NR	FADs of <i>P. mawsonii</i> , <i>Hoegtsports trinalls</i> ms and <i>Appendicisporites distocarinatus</i> .
SWC 4	1790.5	<i>P. pannosus</i>	B2			NR	NR	<i>Cyathidites</i> spp. dominant at ~30% Rare <i>Phimopollenites pannosus</i> present.
SWC 2	1810.0	<i>P. pannosus</i>	B2			NR	NR	FAD of <i>Phimopollenites pannosus</i> . <i>Corollina</i> spp. conspicuous at 6.5%.
Abbreviations:								
CR = Confidence Ratings								FAD = First Appearance Datum
MP% = Microplankton as percentage of total MP and SP count								LAD = Last Appearance Datum
Ac% = <i>Amosopollis cruciformis</i> as percentage of total SP and MP count.								NR = Not Recorded

Confidence Ratings

The Confidence Ratings assigned to the zone identifications on Table 2 are quality codes used in the STRATDAT relational database developed by the Australian Geological Survey Organisation (AGSO) as a National Database for interpretive biostratigraphic data. Their purpose is to provide a simple relative comparison of the quality of the zone assignments. The alpha and numeric components of the codes have been assigned the following meanings:

Alpha codes: Linked to sample type

- A** Core
- B** Sidewall core
- C** Coal cuttings
- D** Ditch cuttings
- E** Junk basket
- F** Miscellaneous/unknown
- G** Outcrop

Numeric codes: Linked to fossil assemblage

- 1 Excellent confidence:** High diversity assemblage recorded with key zone species.
- 2 Good confidence:** Moderately diverse assemblage recorded with key zone species.
- 3 Fair confidence:** Low diversity assemblage recorded with key zone species.
- 4 Poor confidence:** Moderate to high diversity assemblage recorded without key zone species.
- 5 Very low confidence:** Low diversity assemblage recorded without key zone species.

Species Diversity

The use of relative diversity terms equate to the following number of species. Both spore-pollen and microplankton diversity excludes reworked or caved species in the samples

Very low	=	1-5	species
Low	=	6-10	species
Moderate	=	11-25	species
High	=	26-74	species
Very high	=	75+	species

Table-3: Basic Sample and Palynomorph Data for Fenton Creek-1							
Sample Type	Depth (m)	Lithology	Visual Yield	Palynomorph Concentration	Preservation	Number SP Species	Number MP Species
SWC 48	1118.0	SANDSTONE, light grey (60%) inter-bedded with dark grey CLAYSTONE (40%).	Moderate	Low	Fair-good	18	4
SWC 47	1200.0	SANDSTONE, light grey.	Very low	Very low	Poor-fair	25	4
SWC 46	1320.0	CLAYSTONE, dark brownish grey.	High	High	Poor-good	44	11
SWC 45	1422.0	CLAYSTONE, brownish black with common glauconitic.	High	High	Poor-fair	41	12
SWC 44	1498.5	CLAYSTONE, brownish black.	High	Low-high	Poor-fair	40	14
SWC 43	1520.0	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	Moderate	Moderate	Poor-fair	34	9
SWC 42	1524.0	SANDSTONE, dark greenish grey.	High	Moderate	Poor-fair	30	16
SWC 41	1526.5	SANDSTONE, dark greenish grey.	Very low	High	Fair-good	19	10
SWC 40	1530.0	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	Moderate	Low-moderate	Poor	21	8
SWC 39	1533.5	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	High	Moderate	Poor-fair	28	19
SWC 38	1535.5	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	High	High	Poor-fair	23	14
SWC 37	1538.0	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	Very low	Low	Poor	14	8
SWC 36	1543.0	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	High	High	Poor-fair	32	21
SWC 35	1544.5	CLAYSTONE, dark grey.	High	High	Poor-good	32	20
SWC 34	1548.0	CLAYSTONE, dark brownish grey.	High	High	Poor-good	33	17
SWC 33	1549.0	CLAYSTONE, dark brownish grey.	High	High	Fair	37	16
SWC 31	1566.0	CLAYSTONE, brownish black, carbonaceous.	Moderate	Moderate	Poor-fair	27	5
SWC 30	1567.0	CLAYSTONE, brownish black, carbonaceous.	Moderate	Moderate	Poor-fair	27	4
SWC 22	1622.0	CLAYSTONE, dark brownish grey.	Moderate	Low-Moderate	Fair-good	31	8
SWC 21	1635.0	CLAYSTONE, dark brownish grey with off-white SANDSTONE laminations.	Moderate	High	Fair-good	42	12
SWC 19	1646.0	CLAYSTONE, brownish black.	High	Low-high	Fair-good	41	5
SWC 18	1650.5	Interbedded COAL and brownish black CLAYSTONE.	High	High	Fair-good	31	8
SWC 17	1654.0	CLAYSTONE, brownish grey with COAL microlaminations.	High	Low-high	Fair-good	34	5
SWC 4	1790.5	SILTSTONE, medium green-grey.	Low	Moderate	Poor	25	NR
SWC 2	1810.0	SANDSTONE, very light grey.	Low	High	Poor	17	NR
					Averages:	29.8	10.9

Table-4: Fenton Creek-1								
Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs								
	SWC 48	SWC 47	SWC 46	SWC 45	SWC 44	SWC 43	SWC 42	SWC 41
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1118.0	1200.0	1320.0	1422.0	1498.5	1520.0	1524.0	1526.5
SPORES								
Aequitriradites spp.								
Appendicisporites spp.								
Baculatisporites spp.		5.0%		0.9%	2.1%	0.9%		0.6%
Cicatricosisporites spp.			0.6%	0.9%	1.4%		1.9%	0.6%
Clavifera spp.		2.0%	1.7%	0.9%	2.8%			1.2%
Cyathidites (large) >40 μ m	1.8%	3.0%	1.1%	1.8%	2.1%	5.6%	1.9%	0.6%
Cyathidites (small) <40 μ m	1.8%	7.9%	3.4%	3.6%	4.9%	5.6%	2.9%	3.7%
Dictyophyllidites spp.		1.0%	1.7%	0.9%	3.5%			
Foveogleicheniidites confossus								
Gleicheniidites spp.	0.9%	6.9%	6.9%	14.5%	14.8%	5.6%	4.9%	4.3%
Herkosporites & Ceratosporites spp.			2.9%	1.8%			1.9%	
Laevigatosporites spp.	1.8%	2.0%	2.3%	3.6%	1.4%	1.9%		
Marratisporites scabratus						0.9%	1.9%	
Osmundacidites spp.		1.0%	1.1%	0.9%		0.9%	1.0%	
Peromonolites spp.								
Retitriletes spp.	1.8%	1.0%	0.6%		1.4%	0.9%	2.9%	0.6%
Rugulatisporites spp.								
Stereisporites spp.		1.0%				0.9%	1.0%	
Triletes undiff.	0.9%	3.0%	2.3%	0.9%	2.1%	3.7%	1.0%	0.6%
Triporetetes reticulatus								
Total Spores	9%	34%	25%	31%	37%	27%	21%	12%
GYMNOSPERMS								
Araucariacites australis		1.0%	1.1%	1.8%		1.9%	1.0%	1.2%
Corollina spp.						2.8%		
Cupressacites sp.			0.6%	0.9%	2.8%	13.9%	7.8%	13.4%
Dilwynites pusillus		1.0%	4.0%	2.7%	3.5%	9.3%	13.6%	15.9%
Dilwynites spp.		2.0%	0.6%	3.6%	4.9%	9.3%	24.3%	34.1%
Hoegisporis trinalis ms								
Lygistepollenites florinii		2.0%						
Microcachrydites antarcticus	4.5%	3.0%	6.3%	4.5%	15.5%	7.4%	11.7%	5.5%
Phyllocladidites eunuchus ms								
Phyllocladidites mawsonii	14.5%	6.9%	6.3%	2.7%	2.1%	4.6%	2.9%	2.4%
Podocarpidites spp.	20%	20%	26%	23%	27%	17%	12%	12%
Podosporites microsaccatus	2.7%	5.0%	1.7%	8.2%	5.6%	5.6%	2.9%	3.0%
Vitreisporites signatus			0.6%		0.7%		1.0%	0.6%
Total Gymnosperms	42%	41%	47%	47%	62%	71%	77%	88%
ANGIOSPERMS undiff.								
Asteropollis asteroides			1.7%					
Australopollis obscurus	0.9%	8.9%	10.3%	2.7%	0.7%		1.0%	
Forcipites sabulosus	3.6%	2.0%						
Forcipites spp.	2.7%	2.0%		0.9%				
Liliacidites spp.					0.7%			
Nothofagidites senectus								
Proteacidites spp.	37%	11%	9%	12%		0.9%		
Tricolpites/Tricolporites spp.	4.5%	3.0%	5.1%	4.5%		0.9%	1.0%	
Triporopollenites spp.		1.0%		0.9%				
Total Angiosperms	49%	26%	28%	22%	1%	2%	2%	
TOTAL SPORE-POLLEN COUNT:	110	101	175	110	142	108	103	164

Table 4: Fenton Creek-1								
Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs	SWC 48	SWC 47	SWC 46	SWC 45	SWC 44	SWC 43	SWC 42	SWC 41
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1118.0	1200.0	1320.0	1422.0	1498.5	1520.0	1524.0	1526.5
MICROPLANKTON % of MP COUNT								
Microplankton undiff.	40%		23%	6%	11%	21%	31%	33%
Amosopollis cruciformis	20%		31%	6%	59%	7%		17%
Chatangiella spp./Isabelidium spp.		14%		29%	7%			
Chlamydochorella nyei								
Cleistosphaeridium ancoriferum							4%	
Cribopteridium edwardsii								
Cyclophelium spp.								
Heterosphaeridium spp.	40%	57%	8%	41%	23%	14%	8%	
Kallosphaeridium spp.								
Kiokansium polypes							4%	6%
Lecaniella spp.								
Microdinium spp.								17%
Nummus spp.		14%						
Odontochitina spp.		14%	8%	6%				
Oligosphaeridium spp.						7%		
Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides			23%					
Palambages spp.				12%				6%
Sigmopollis spp.								6%
Spiniferites spp.								
Trithyrodinium spp.			8%			50%	50%	
Valensiella griphus							4%	17%
TOTAL MICROPLANKTON COUNT:	5	7	13	17	44	14	26	18
Microplankton as % of total SP & MP	4%	6%	7%	13%	24%	11%	20%	10%
A. cruciformis as % of total SP & MP	1%		2%	1%	14%	1%		2%
TOTAL SP and MP COUNT:	115	108	188	127	186	122	129	182
Other fossils as % of Total Count								
Fungal fruiting bodies								
Fungal spores	1.7%		0.5%	0.8%		0.8%		
Fungal hyphae			1.0%	1.5%	0.5%	2.4%	3.0%	0.5%
Total Fungi	2%		2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%
Reworked Fossils			1.0%	3.0%	0.5%	0.8%		
TOTAL COUNT:	115	108	192	133	188	126	133	183

Table 4: Fenton Creek-1								
Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs								
	SWC 40	SWC 39	SWC 38	SWC 37	SWC 36	SWC 35	SWC 34	SWC 33
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1530.0	1533.5	1535.5	1538.0	1543.0	1544.5	1548.0	1549.0
SPORES								
Aequitriradites spp.								
Appendicisporites spp.								
Baculatisporites spp.	3.8%	2.7%		4.3%	1.9%	3.7%	1.8%	1.0%
Cicatricosisporites spp.		0.9%	3.8%	2.9%	2.9%	2.8%		1.9%
Clavifera spp.				1.4%	1.0%			1.0%
Cyathidites (large) >40µm	1.9%	4.5%	3.8%	18.8%	3.8%	5.6%	4.5%	
Cyathidites (small) <40µm	9.6%	13.4%	10.5%	8.7%	12.5%	11.2%	13.6%	11.7%
Dictyophyllidites spp.	1.9%	0.9%	1.0%	2.9%		1.9%	3.6%	
Foveogleichenioidites confossus								
Gleichenioidites spp.	1.0%	6.3%	10.5%	10.1%	6.7%	5.6%	5.5%	10.7%
Herkosporites & Ceratosporites spp.								
Laevigatosporites spp.	1.9%	4.5%	3.8%		2.9%	1.9%	5.5%	3.9%
Marratisporites scabratus								
Osmundacidites spp.	1.9%		1.0%	2.9%			0.9%	1.0%
Peromonolites spp.								
Retitriletes spp.	1.9%		1.9%			1.9%	1.8%	1.0%
Rugulatisporites spp.				1.4%	2.9%	0.9%		
Stereisporites spp.		1.8%			1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Triletes undiff.	6.7%	5.4%	2.9%	4.3%	1.0%	5.6%	7.3%	4.9%
Triporetetes reticulatus			1.0%				0.9%	
Total Spores	31%	40%	40%	58%	37%	42%	46%	38%
GYMNOSPERMS								
Araucariacites australis	3.8%	6.3%	2.9%	5.8%	1.9%	6.5%		1.9%
Corollina spp.						1.9%	1.8%	
Cupressacites sp.	6.7%	2.7%						2.9%
Dilwynites pusillus	9.6%	4.5%	4.8%		12.5%	8.4%		5.8%
Dilwynites spp.	17.3%	21.4%	23.8%	10.1%	22.1%	8.4%	11.8%	10.7%
Hoegisporis trinalis ms								
Lygistepollenites florinii								
Microcachrydites antarcticus	6.7%	7.1%	8.6%	4.3%	5.8%	14.0%	14.5%	18.4%
Phyllocladidites eunuchus ms								
Phyllocladidites mawsonii	1.0%	1.8%	1.0%	4.3%	1.0%	0.9%	3.6%	1.9%
Podocarpidites spp.	13%	13%	14%	17%	13%	16%	14%	16%
Podosporites microsaccatus	5.8%		1.9%		3.8%	0.9%	1.8%	2.9%
Vitreisporites signatus		0.9%			1.0%			
Total Gymnosperms	64%	57%	57%	42%	62%	57%	47%	60%
ANGIOSPERMS undiff.								
Asteropollis asteroides								
Australopollis obscurus	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%		1.9%		0.9%	
Forcipites sabulosus								
Forcipites spp.								
Liliacidites spp.	1.9%		1.0%			0.9%		
Nothofagidites senectus							0.9%	
Proteacidites spp.							0.9%	
Tricolpites/Tricolporites spp.		0.9%					3.6%	1.9%
Triporopollenites spp.								
Total Angiosperms	5%	3%	3%		2%	1%	6%	2%
TOTAL SPORE-POLLEN COUNT:	104	112	105	69	104	107	110	103

Table-4: Fenton Creek-1 Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs								
	SWC 40	SWC 39	SWC 38	SWC 37	SWC 36	SWC 35	SWC 34	SWC 33
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1530.0	1533.5	1535.5	1538.0	1543.0	1544.5	1548.0	1549.0
MICROPLANKTON % of MP COUNT								
Microplankton undiff.	21%	10%	8%	15%	6%	12%	14%	12%
Amospollis cruciformis	21%	47%	34%	22%	71%	38%	8%	27%
Chatangiella spp./Isabelidium spp.		5%	13%		1%			
Chlamydotheca nyei		2%	6%			2%	3%	6%
Cleistosphaeridium ancoriferum		5%				5%		
Cribopteridium edwardsii								
Cyclophelium spp.						1%		
Heterosphaeridium spp.	21%	8%	6%	36%	4%	24%	22%	38%
Kallosphaeridium spp.		1%	1%				31%	
Kiokansium polypes	14%	8%	4%	5%		3%	4%	6%
Lecaniella spp.								
Microdinium spp.								
Nummus spp.								
Odontochitina spp.			3%	4%	1%	1%	6%	2%
Oligosphaeridium spp.								
Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides		8%	10%		2%	3%		
Palambages spp.		1%	4%		1%			
Sigmopollis spp.				2%				
Spiniferites spp.			10%		1%			
Trithyrodinium spp.								
Valensiella griphus	21%	5%	3%	16%	13%	12%	12%	9%
TOTAL MICROPLANKTON COUNT:	14	108	80	55	113	110	154	86
Microplankton as % of total SP & MP	12%	49%	43%	44%	52%	51%	58%	46%
A. cruciformis as % of total SP & MP	3%	23%	15%	10%	37%	19%	5%	12%
TOTAL SP and MP COUNT:	118	220	185	124	217	217	264	189
Other fossils as % of Total Count								
Fungal fruiting bodies		0.4%						
Fungal spores					0.5%		0.4%	
Fungal hyphae	0.8%	3.9%	1.1%	0.8%		0.5%	0.4%	0.5%
Total Fungi	1%	4%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Reworked Fossils		0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.5%		0.7%	
TOTAL COUNT:	119	230	188	126	218	218	267	190

Table-4: Fenton Creek-1 Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs	SWC 31	SWC 30	SWC 22	SWC 21	SWC 19	SWC 18	SWC 17	SWC 4	SWC 2
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1566.0	1567.0	1622.0	1635.0	1646.0	1650.5	1654.0	1790.5	1810.0
SPORES									
Aequitriradites spp.							7.1%		
Appendicisporites spp.		0.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.7%	0.8%			
Baculatisporites spp.	0.9%	3.8%	2.8%	2.0%	0.9%	3.4%	0.8%	16.8%	20.1%
Cicatricosisporites spp.			0.9%	3.3%	1.7%	0.8%	12.7%	2.0%	1.4%
Clavifera spp.	0.9%			0.7%					
Cyathidites (large) >40µm	4.7%	3.8%	4.7%	5.3%	8.7%	2.5%	4.0%	3.0%	6.5%
Cyathidites (small) <40µm	8.4%	11.3%	18.9%	10.0%	25.2%	3.4%	4.0%	26.7%	31.7%
Dictyophyllidites spp.	0.9%	4.7%	6.6%	2.7%	1.7%	1.7%	0.8%		
Foveogleicheniidites confossus	1.9%		0.9%	0.7%					
Gleicheniidites spp.	10.3%	12.3%	18.9%	17.3%	6.1%	44.1%	11.1%	5.0%	1.4%
Herkosporites & Ceratosporites spp.				1.3%		0.8%			0.7%
Laevigatosporites spp.	0.9%	1.9%		3.3%	2.6%	13.6%	12.7%		
Marratisporites scabratus				0.7%					
Osmundacidites spp.		0.9%	1.9%		1.7%			6.9%	6.5%
Peromonolites spp.						0.8%			
Retitriletes spp.				0.7%	3.5%		0.8%	4.0%	
Rugulatisporites spp.	6.5%	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%	6.1%	0.8%			
Stereisporites spp.				1.3%	0.9%	0.8%		2.0%	
Triletes undiff.	0.9%	3.8%	8.5%	7.3%	8.7%	5.1%	4.0%	3.0%	4.3%
Triporoletes reticulatus					0.9%		4.8%		
Total Spores	36%	44%	67%	60%	70%	79%	63%	69%	73%
GYMNOSPERMS									
Araucariacites australis	9.3%	6.6%	4.7%	6.0%	6.1%	0.8%	4.8%	3.0%	3.6%
Corollina spp.	0.9%				0.9%		0.8%	2.0%	6.5%
Cupressacites sp.	1.9%	3.8%	2.8%	2.0%					
Dilwynites pusillus	4.7%	2.8%	9.4%	6.7%		0.8%	0.8%		
Dilwynites spp.	4.7%	2.8%	0.9%	6.0%					
Hoegisporis trinalis ms			0.9%	1.3%	2.6%	0.8%	0.8%		
Lygistepollenites florinii									
Microcachryidites antarcticus	7.5%	4.7%	0.9%	5.3%	2.6%	3.4%	6.3%	5.9%	1.4%
Phyllocladidites eunuchus ms					0.9%				
Phyllocladidites mawsonii	2.8%	3.8%							
Podocarpidites spp.	28%	27%	13%	9%	15%	11%	8%	20%	14%
Podosporites microsaccatus		0.9%		1.3%	0.9%	3.4%	15.9%		1.4%
Vitreisporites signatus	0.9%					0.8%			
Total Gymnosperms	61%	53%	33%	38%	29%	21%	37%	31%	27%
ANGIOSPERMS undiff.		1.9%							
Asteropollis asteroides					0.9%				
Australopollis obscurus	1.9%								
Forcipites sabulosus									
Forcipites spp.									
Liliacidites spp.				2.0%					
Nothofagidites senectus									
Proteacidites spp.									
Tricolpites/Tricolporites spp.	0.9%	0.9%							0.7%
Triporopollenites spp.									
Total Angiosperms	3%	3%		2%	1%				1%
TOTAL SPORE-POLLEN COUNT:	107	106	106	150	115	118	126	101	139

Table 4: Fenton Creek-1									
Range and Abundance Chart for Palynomorphs									
	SWC 31	SWC 30	SWC 22	SWC 21	SWC 19	SWC 18	SWC 17	SWC 4	SWC 2
Sample Type & Depth (m)	1566.0	1567.0	1622.0	1635.0	1646.0	1650.5	1654.0	1790.5	1810.0
MICROPLANKTON % of MP COUNT									
Microplankton undiff.	3%	3%	36%	43%		22%	25%		
Amosopollis cruciformis	90%	90%	7%	7%		11%			
Chatangiella spp./Isabelidinium spp.	1%								
Chlamydotheca nyei									
Cleistosphaeridium ancoriferum									
Cribrasperidium edwardsii			14%	7%	50%	33%	50%		
Cyclophellium spp.		2%			50%				
Heterosphaeridium spp.	5%	5%	7%						
Kallosphaeridium spp.									
Kiokansium polyopes			7%						
Lecaniella spp.	1%						25%		
Microdinium spp.									
Nummus spp.									
Odontochitina spp.						22%			
Oligosphaeridium spp.			21%	43%		11%			
Palaeohystrichophora infusorioides									
Palambages spp.									
Sigmopollis spp.									
Spiniferites spp.			7%						
Trithyrodinium spp.									
Valensiella griphus									
TOTAL MICROPLANKTON COUNT:	87	60	14	14	6	9	4		
Microplankton as % of total SP & MP	45%	36%	12%	9%	5%	7%	3%		
A. cruciformis as % of total SP & MP	40%	33%	1%	1%		1%			
TOTAL SP and MP COUNT:	194	166	120	164	121	127	130	101	139
Other fossils as % of Total Count									
Fungal fruiting bodies	1.0%								
Fungal spores	0.5%	1.7%		0.6%					
Fungal hyphae	2.5%	3.5%	0.8%	0.6%			0.8%	1.0%	
Total Fungi	4%	5%	1%	1%			1%	1%	
Reworked Fossils				1.2%	4.0%	0.8%		1.0%	0.7%
TOTAL COUNT:	199	172	121	167	126	128	131	103	140

PALYNOMORPH RANGE CHART FOR FENTON CREEK-1, OTWAY BASIN.

Format: Relative Abundance by Lowest Appearance

Key to Symbols

- D = CONTAMINATION
- W = REWORKING
- X = PRESENT
- I = SINGLE SPECIMEN
- R = RARE <1%
- F = FREQUENT >1% TO <5%
- C = COMMON >5% TO <20%
- A = ABUNDANT >20%
- H = VERY ABUNDANT >33%
- ? = Questionably Present
- . = Not Present

Depth (m)	Sample	SWC	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44									
1118.0	M	SWC 48																																																					
1200.0	M	SWC 47																																																					
1320.0	M	SWC 46																																																					
1422.0	M	SWC 45																																																					
1498.5	M	SWC 44																																																					
1520.0	M	SWC 43																																																					
1524.0	M	SWC 42																																																					
1526.5	M	SWC 41																																																					
1530.0	M	SWC 40																																																					
1533.5	M	SWC 39																																																					
1535.5	M	SWC 38																																																					
1538.0	M	SWC 37																																																					
1543.0	M	SWC 36																																																					
1544.5	M	SWC 35																																																					
1548.0	M	SWC 34																																																					
1549.0	M	SWC 33																																																					
1566.0	M	SWC 31																																																					
1567.0	M	SWC 30																																																					
1622.0	M	SWC 22																																																					
1635.0	M	SWC 21																																																					
1646.0	M	SWC 19																																																					
1650.5	M	SWC 18																																																					
1654.0	M	SWC 17																																																					
1790.5	M	SWC 04																																																					
1810.0	M	SWC 02																																																					

SPECIES LOCATION INDEX

CHART COLUMN SPECIES

26	AEGUITRIRADITES SPINULOSUS
18	AEGUITRIRADITES VERRUCOSUS
114	AMOSPOLLIS CRUCIFORMIS
158	ANTULISPORITES VARIGRANULATUS
27	APPENDICISPORITES DISTOCARINATUS
141	APTEODINIUM SPP.
1	ARAUCARIACITES AUSTRALIS
56	ASTEROPOLLIS ASTEROIDES
75	AUSTRALOPOLLIS OBSCURUS
2	BACULATISPORITES SPP.
67	BALMEIOSPIS LIMBATA
80	BALMEIOSPORITES GLENELGENSIS
28	BALMEIOSPORITES HOLODICTYUS
29	BALMEIOSPORITES TRIDICTYUS
57	BIRETIRILETES SPECTABILIS
142	CALLAIOSPHAERIDIUM ASYMMETRICUM
117	CALLALASPORITES SPP.
45	CAMAROZONOSPORITES AUSTRALIENSIS
82	CAMAROZONOSPORITES BULLATUS
46	CAMAROZONOSPORITES HESKERMENSIS
158	CANNINGIA ROTUNDATUM
3	CERATOSPORITES EQUALIS
122	CHLAHYDOPHORELLA NVEI
103	CIBOTIUNSPORA JURLENSIS
4	CICATRICOISPORITES AUSTRALIENSIS
30	CICATRICOISPORITES CUNEIFORMIS
31	CICATRICOISPORITES HUGHESII
58	CICATRICOISPORITES PSEUDOTRIPARTITUS
76	CICATRICOISPORITES RHODANUS MS
5	CICATRICOISPORITES SPP.
47	CLAVIFERA TRIPLEX
95	CLAVIFERA VULTUOSUS MS
131	CLEISTOSPHAERIDIUM ANCORIFERUM
178	CONTIGNISPORITES BURGERI
175	COPTOSPOA PARADOXA
32	COPTOSPOA PILEOLUS MS
59	COROLLINA SIMPLEX
6	COROLLINA TOROSA
119	CORONIFERA OCEANICA

ANALYSIS BY: Alan D. Partridge 27 May 1997

Line No.	Species Name	Code	Quantity	Unit	Weight	SWC
151	TRITHYRODINIUM SPP.					
161	TRITHYRODINIUM VERMICULATA					
138	VALENSIELLA GRIPHUS					
17	VELOSPORITES TRIQUETRUS					
145	VERYHACHIUM SPP.					
44	VITREISPORITES SIGNATUS					
167	botryococcus					
165	fungus fruiting bodies					
163	fungus hyphae					
164	fungus spores					
166	microforaminiferal liners					
154	ISABELIDINIUM ELONGATUM MS					
155	ISABELIDINIUM SPP.					
156	ISABELIDINIUM SPP.					
157	ODONTOCHITINA PORIFERA					
158	CANNINGIA ROTUNDATUM					
159	DINOZYMIUM ACUMINATUM					
180	ISABELIDINIUM ROTUNDATUM MS					
181	TRITHYRODINIUM VERMICULATA					
182	NELSONIELLA ACERAS					
183	fungus hyphae					
184	fungus spores					
185	fungus fruiting bodies					
186	microforaminiferal liners					
187	Botryococcus					
188	ANTULISPORITES VARGRANULATUS					
169	DICTYOSPORITES SPECIOSUS					
170	GRANULATISPORITES TRUSINUS					
171	MICROBACULISPORIA SPP.					
172	PICATIPOLLENITES SPP.					
173	PROTODIPLAZIA SPP.					
174	PSEUDORETICULATISPORIA PSEUDORETICULATA					
175	COPTOSPORIA PARADOXA					
176	MATONISPORITES COOKSONIAE					
177	CALLIALASPORITES SPP.					
178	CONTIGIISPORITES BURGERI					
179	CRYBELOSPORITES SITLOSUS					
180	DIDECITRILETES SUCIANUS					
1118.0		M	SWC	48		
1200.0		M	SWC	47		
1320.0		M	SWC	46		
1422.0		M	SWC	45		
1498.5		M	SWC	44		
1520.0		M	SWC	43		
1524.0		M	SWC	42		
1526.5		M	SWC	41		
1530.0		M	SWC	40		
1533.5		M	SWC	39		
1535.5		M	SWC	38		
1538.0		M	SWC	37		
1543.0		M	SWC	36		
1544.5		M	SWC	35		
1548.0		M	SWC	34		
1549.0		M	SWC	33		
1566.0		M	SWC	31		
1567.0		M	SWC	30		
1622.0		M	SWC	22		
1635.0		M	SWC	21		
1646.0		M	SWC	19		
1650.5		M	SWC	18		
1654.0		M	SWC	17		
1790.5		M	SWC	04		
1810.0		M	SWC	02		