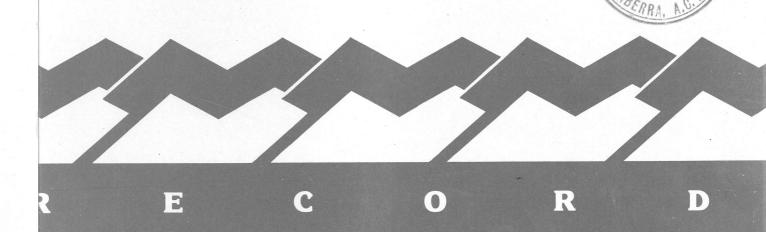


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BMR RECORD 1989/1

DEEP STRUCTURE OF THE GIPPSLAND AND BASS BASINS (PROJECT 9131.12)

OPERATIONAL REPORT FOR CRUISE 1 (SURVEY 82)

by

J.B. Willcox & J.B. Colwell

(with contributions by G. Heal, B. Jones, J. Mangion & C. Collins)



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#### SUMMARY

Petroleum exploration within the Gippsland Basin has been focussed on major anticlines at the Early Tertiary "top Latrobe" unconformity, and to a much lesser extent on "intra-Latrobe" traps. Little information exists on the petroleum potential deep within the basin. Similarly, in the adjacent Bass Basin, most of the exploration effort has been concentrated at or near the top of the Latrobe Group equivalent, the Eastern View Coal Measures.

Analysis of regional seimic data collected by BMR in 1982 suggests that the Bass and Gippsland Basins were initiated by NNE-SSW lithospheric extension, probably in the Early Cretaceous. A reactivation of these basin-forming extensional structures, particularly transfer faults, may have had a significant influence on petroleum migration and accumulation higher in the stratigraphic section.

This operational report describes the first of two cruises to be undertaken by the R/V <u>Rig Seismic</u> in the Gippsland/Bass region (Nov - Dec.1988 & March - April 1989). These cruises aim to:

- (i) improve definition of the deep structure of the Gippsland and Bass Basins using basin-wide deep seismic (12+ seconds) transects,
- (ii) evaluate models for basin evolution
- (iii) develop concepts for petroleum migration and entrapment from the regional data and by analogy with the similar basins worldwide, and
- (iv) through the provision of regional seismic data assist the petroleum industry in carrying out seismic correlations.

The cruises contribute to a number of studies by BMR of the structure, stratigraphy, evolution and resource potential of offshore basins along Australia's southeastern margin.

This first cruise (Survey 82) was broken into four parts:

(i) Equipment testing for future work: involving the measurement of drift on a HIfix radio navigation system, and testing IFP electronics for the deep recording objectives of the program,

- (ii) Recording of approximately 470 km of relatively deep-water reflection profiles in the eastern Gippsland Basin (12s records, 52.4 litre air-gun array for Line 82/001, 26.7 litre for lines 82/002 & 3).
- (iii) Recording of 1090 km of seismic reflection profiles in a grid over the Boobyalla Sub-basin of the Bass Basin (mainly 10s records, 26.7 litre air-gun array).
- (iv) Shooting of 2 x 200km refraction lines across the central part of the Gippsland basin from Deal Island to the Victorian coast.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Although the Gippsland Basin (Fig. 1), Australia's principal liquid petroleum province, has been extensively explored during the last twenty five years (see Figs. 2 and 3) little information has been obtained about deep structures within the basin. This is primarily because of the concentration of exploration activity at the relatively shallow "top Latrobe Group" levels and the dispersion of seismic energy caused by extensive Tertiary coal measures and channels. Likewise, exploration activity in the Bass Basin has been concentrated at the top of the basin's Latrobe Group equivalent, the Eastern View Coal Measures (Fig. 4).

In 1982, BMR undertook a regional survey (Survey 40) of Bass Strait aimed at the deeper parts of the Otway, Bass and Gippsland Basins. This survey (shot by GSI), when combined with selected company data, suggested a working model in which the three Bass Strait basins were initiated by north-northeast to south-southwest lithospheric extension, largely during the Early Cretaceous (Etheridge & others, 1985; Figs 5 and 6). The extensional stage was followed by a Late Cretaceous to Pliocene thermal subsidence stage and, in the case of the Gippsland Basin, by a late stage of tectonic overprinting (Fig. 7). The work also suggested that many of the Gippsland Basin's compressional structures, which contain oil and gas, were controlled by a reactivation of major early normal and tranfer faults (Etheridge & others, op. cit.).

The main aims of the proposed study (Surveys 82 & 90 by the <u>Rig Seismic</u>) are (i) to better define the deep structure of the Gippsland and Bass Basins and so to assist future exploration by providing new information on potential "deep" structural and stratigraphic plays; (ii) to evaluate tectonic models of the basins' evolution (e.g. Etheridge & others' 1985 model involving transfer faults and deep detachments) and to evaluate the geothermal consequences of such models in relation to the history of hydrocarbon generation and migration; and (iii) through the provision of regional seismic data in the Gippsland Basin, assist companies in carrying out seismic correlations within the basin.

During the two-cruise study it is proposed that approximately 2500-3500 km of high-quality 96-channel seismic reflection data together with ship-shore seismic refraction data be collected (Figs. 8 & 9). These data will complement data collected aboard the Rig Seismic over the eastern part of the Gippsland Basin in 1987 (Survey 68; Colwell & others, 1987) and over the adjacent Otway-West Tasmania margins in early 1988 (Surveys 78 & 79; Exon & Lee, 1988).

This report outlines the operations for Cruise 1 (Survey 82) which departed from Adelaide on 9th November 1988 and finished in Melbourne on 8th December 1988.

#### GEOLOGICAL SETTING

## Offshore Gippsland Basin

The geology, regional setting, and evolution of the offshore Gippsland Basin, Australia's most prolific oil and gas province, have been discussed by numerous authors, including Weeks & Hopkins (1967), Hocking (1972), Gunn (1975), Threlfall & others (1976), Partridge (1976), Robertson & others (1978b), Smith Willcox (1984), Davidson & others (1984), Stainforth (1984), Etheridge & others (1985), Bodard & others (1986), Thompson (1986), Clark & Thomas (1988) and Rahmanian & others (in press). Although its early history is unclear, the basin forms the eastern extremity of a complex rift system which extended along the southern margin of Australia during the Jurassic and Early Cretaceous as a precursor to the post-Mid Cretaceous seafloor spreading between Australia and Antarctica. It may also be partly a "failed arm" of a triradial rift or another feature associated with the Late Cretaceous (anomaly 33) to Eccene (anomaly 24) separation of Australia from the Lord Howe Rise and New Zealand (Weissel & Hayes, 1977; Shaw, 1978, 1979; Jongsma & Mutter, 1978; Roeser & others, 1985).

Except on its eastern flank, the basin is surrounded by Paleozoic rocks of the Tasman Geosyncline (Geological Society of Australia, 1971). Up to 3500 m of greywacke, sand, shale, and minor coal of the Strzelecki Group were deposited in interlocking alluvial-fan and alluvial-plain complexes during the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous infra-rift and syn-rift stages of the basin (sometimes referred to as the Strzelecki Basin). These were followed during the Late Cretaceous and Eocene by deposition of up to 5000 m of predominantly fluvio-deltaic sand, shale, and coal of the Latrobe Group. Deposition of these rocks was initially accompanied by volcanism that moved westwards with time. The volcanism was most common in the central basin deep, and was associated with basement fault blocks. During the Eocene, the upper surface of the Latrobe Group was eroded and several large-scale channels of various ages developed.

Marine conditions were established over the basin in the Early Oligocene, although shallow-marine conditions and westerly prograding shorelines existed prior to this in places, particularly in the east (e.g., top Latrobe barrier sands and Gurnard Formation). Sediment type changed from the mainly coarse-grained clastics of the Latrobe Group to calcareous shale

and marl of the Lakes Entrance Formation. The marine shale was mainly deposited in a narrow wedge around the basin margins with only a thin veneer being laid down in the basin centre. During the late Early Oligocene a drop in sea level caused erosion of the shale on the margins, over structural "highs" and perhaps in the youngest of the Eocene channels. With a renewed rise in sea level deposition of shale and marl continued into the Early Miocene onlapping structural "highs" and the basin margins, and providing a good regional seal.

During the Miocene, the Lakes Entrance Formation shales and marls were gradually replaced by the bryozoan limestones and marls of the Gippsland Limestone which form much of the present-day shelf and slope. A series of submarine channels was cut into the Miocene surface of the Gippsland Limestone prior to the deposition of up to 350 m of marine calcarenite of Pliocene and Recent age.

Tectonically, the Gippsland Basin has undergone several major phases of deformation. Two structural styles appear to be present: (i) commonly poorly-defined, basin-forming, normal rotational, and transfer faults active principally during extension and basin subsidence (Early Cretaceous to Early Eocene); and (ii) en echelon anticlines and shear faults generated by compression during the Late Eocene-Early Oligocene and Middle-Late Miocene, and possibly related to a reactivation of major early normal and transfer faults (Threlfall & others, 1976; Etheridge & others, 1985; Thompson, 1985). Many of the anticlinal structures contain large hydrocarbon accumulations within coarse clastics at the top of the Latrobe Group. All of these major structures have now been drilled forcing explorationists to increasingly concentrate on intra-Latrobe fault- dependent and combined structural/stratigraphic traps.

Recently, Lowry (1987, 1988) has suggested that the uconformity which is interpreted on the northern margin of the basin as separating the Latrobe and Strzelecki Groups may be an intra-Latrobe feature (Lowry, 1987). This raises the possibility that the prospective Latrobe Group may extend to greater depths within the basin than previously thought, particularly in areas transitional between the "central deep" and flanking "platforms".

## Bass Basin

Aspects of the geology and petroleum potential of the intracratonic Bass Basin have been discussed by Weeks & Hopkins (1967), Richards & Hopkins (1969), Robinson (1974), Brown (1976), Robertson & others (1978a), Moore & others (1984), Smith (1986), Williamson & others (1985, 1986, 1987,1988) and Williamson & Pigram (1986). Like the adjacent Gippsland Basin, the basin appears to have formed by extensional tectonics during the Late Jurassic to Early Cretaceous. It contains up to 7 km of nonmarine sediments of (?) Late Jurassic to late Eocene age and up to 3.5 km of Upper Eocene to Holocene marine sediments. Cainozoic volcanics occur in places. Sedimentation in the basin was dominated initially by Cretaceous flood-plain, alluvial-fan,

and lacustrine deposition, then Late Cretaceous and early Tertiary flood-plain deposition, and finally, Cenozoic shallow marine deposition.

Although the Bass Basin is not to date a petroleum producer, seismic reflection studies (Williamson and others, 1987) suggest that significant structural and stratigraphic prospects for petroleum exploration occur at Paleocene, Cretaceous, and probably Jurassic levels. Source rock studies combined with depositional models indicate that suitable source and reservoir rocks probably occur in the Upper Cretaceous to Paleocene non-marine sequences. Overall, the best potential for petroleum discoveries appears to be at mature levels within the Upper Cretaceous to Paleocene Eastern View Coal Measures (EVCM) (Williamson and others, 1985, 1986, 1987).

Mapping of the deep structure in this basin suggests that major Early Cretaceous extensional normal faults segmented by contemporaneous transfer faults under lie the central and northwestern parts of the basin (Etheridge & others, 1984, 1985, Fig. 6).

## Boobyalla Sub-basin

This feature forms the southeastern part of the Bass Basin (Figs. 1 & 6) and extends onshore in northeastern Tasmania (Moore & others, 1984). The normal-fault and postulated transfer-fault orientations of the Gippsland and central and northwestern Bass Basins, which appear to indicate a common extensional azimuth of 027 degrees, are largely absent or obscured in the sub-basin. In the Bass Basin, a major transfer fault zone at about 146 30'E defines the the western edge of the Boobyalla Sub-basin: southeastward of this zone, the fault trends and basin boundaries (Fig. 6) indicate that the extensional azimuth is approximately 080 degrees. This azimuth is considered to be more a product of rifting in the Tasman Sea, whereas the Gippsland Basin and Bass Basin proper appear to be related largely to southern margin rifting.

Sediments encountered within the Durroon-1 exploration well in the Boobyalla Sub-basin are similar to those in the central part of the Bass Basin except that a more proximal facies of the Eastern View Coal Measures is present in the sub-basin. Further towards source areas, Late Cretaceous sediments consisting mainly of poorly-sorted conglomerates occur in the Boobyalla Plains area of northeast Tasmania (Moore & others, 1984).

Seismic facies studies suggest that sequences additional to or different from those of the central Bass Basin may be present in some parts of the sub-basin (Pickering, pers. comm.). This is presently the subject of investigation by a petroleum exploration company.

#### CRUISE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Gippsland/Bass program are:

- . To test and develop models for the formation of the Gippsland and Bass Basins by obtaining an improved understanding of their deep structure. In particular, to test and refine an extensional model for formation of the basins, the direction of extension, and the nature and distribution of detachment and transfer faults.
- . To determine the degree of crustal thinning associated with formation of the basins as well as the velocity structure of the crust beneath the basins and their margins, and allow positive identification of boundaries such as the Moho. Velocities constrain the petrological interpretation of crustal and upper-mantle layers, and by comparison with adjacent regions may point to changes in physical conditions at depth, such as temperature.
- To compare and contrast the deep structure of the Gippsland and Bass Basins and relate them to extensional basins in general.

In addition, the following objectives are more closely related to hydrocarbon exploration in the Gippsland Basin:

- To provide industry with a grid of regional seismic profiles within the Gippsland basin, with a depth of penetration sufficient to determine relationships between deep structure and hydrocarbon production. To obviate the problem of individual companies obtaining regional data beyond their lease boundaries.
- . To tie seismic profiles to key wells in the basin in order to identify formation tops, velocity variations and facies variations.
- If operational time permitted, to study the relationship of the southeastern margin of the basin to the basin proper. In this area, the basin trends appear to be more closely related to the Tasman Sea margin.
- . To make a regional study of the key seismic horizons, isopachs and facies variations throughout the basin.

#### CRUISE PLAN

#### Seismic Reflection Work Planned for Cruises 82 and 90

#### Gippsland Basin

It was proposed to record eight regional lines (Fig. 8) across the strike of the basin, and three tie-lines along strike, within the basin depocentre. Total coverage planned for the Gippsland Basin, excluding positioning and 'link lines', was about 1600 km.

The planned cross-strike ('dip') lines trend 027 degrees parallel to the presumed direction of extension, and extend beyond the limits of the Latrobe Group and the basin-boundary faults. The nominal line-spacing was approximately 15 km; however, this was modified in many areas to enable effective well-ties, avoid production platforms, and to position lines within extensional compartments between presumed transfer faults.

#### Bass Basin

It was planned to record six dip lines across the main basin-forming structures (Fig. 9). The lines were to cross five of the major fault-bounded compartments mapped by Etheridge & others (1984, 1985). In addition, one NW - SE tie-line was to be run along the central axis of the basin, and one tie-line in the Boobyalla Sub-basin.

Total coverage within the basin, excluding link lines, was to be about 900 km.

## Reflection Cable Geometry and Recording Parameters

The recording geometry and parameters were discussed at length in Willcox & others (1988). It was concluded that the cruise objectives could best be met by use of a 3600m, 96-channel, 37.5m-group cable, used for 48-fold recording with a 2 or 4 millisec sampling interval to give a record length of up to 16 seconds. Record lengths of about 12 seconds would probably be appropriate in the in the Gippsland Basin, whilst a record length of 10 seconds could be used in the Bass Basin - the basin-forming tilt-blocks occurring at about 3 - 4 seconds record time.

#### Onshore Refraction Recording

As vertical reflection profiling may not unequivocally resolve the deeper structure under the basins, we planned to record longoffset seismic refraction/wide-angle reflection data concurrently with the conventional reflection program. This was expected to provide information on the lower crust and upper mantle, both below and beyond the boundaries of the survey.

It was planned to locate digital instruments to record the ship's 3200 cubic inch airgun source in Gippsland and on Deal Island at the ends of Line 'E', and on Wilson's Promontory and northwest Tasmania off the ends of Line 'M' (Figs.8 & 9), giving reversed refraction traverses of approximately 200 km length. As much data as possible would be recorded from the other lines. Other recorders were planned to be deployed elsewhere on land to extend the range of the refraction traverses and provide additional data at different offsets and azimuths.

Digital recorders were developed to record the air-guns semicontinously while the ship completed each traverse.

As the noise level was expected to be high, the development of special processing techniques to enhance the signal-to-noise was considered. The large number of shots recorded at each recording site, and close shot spacing, would allow various stacking techniques to be applied.

#### **OPERATIONS**

The actual work carried out varied considerably from that in the cruise plan, however the overall objectives were the same. Firstly, the Gippsland/Bass Basin operation was reprogrammed to occupy two cruises - to enable approximately 2 weeks to be taken up with the testing of equipment needed to meet the requirements of precision navigation (particularly over well sites) and deep seismic recording. This testing included:

- . Measurement of the 'drift' on three HIFIX stations installed on the Victorian coast, by coming alongside for 48 hour periods at Barrys Beach and Port Welshpool.
- . Complete inflation of the seismic streamer with SOL-T (cable fluid) and accurate leading, in order to induce positive buoyancy and minimise noise levels.
- Comparison of IFP (instantaneous floating point) and Integer (fixed gain) recording electronics, by duplicating recording along two seismic lines (82/001 v 101 and 82/002 v 102) in the easternmost deepwater part of the Gippsland Basin (Figs. 10, 11 & 12).

Secondly, while the Integer/IFP testing was still in progress, two 'refraction only' lines (201 & 202; Figs. 10-12) were shot between Deal Island and the Victorian coast, spaced approximately 10 km apart, on either side of a major transform fault zone. This was followed by completion of Line 82/003 using Integer Mode.

The failure of two of the four compressors on board after completion of lines 001 and 101 resulted in the use of only a single air-gun array of 1600 cubic inch (26 litre) capacity for the remainder of the survey. The reduced power output of the seismic source was considered insufficient for the continuation of deep-penetration seismic work in the central part of the Gippsland Basin, and consequently operations were moved to the southeastern part of the Bass Basin (Boobyalla Sub-basin), where the sedimentary section was known to be thinner and where the basin-forming tilt-blocks were well within range of the seismic system. A ten line program of high-quality seismic acquisition was completed in this area (Figs. 13, 14 & 15).

Details of all lines, including recording parameters, are given in Appendices 3 - 5.

#### SYSTEMS PERFORMANCE

### by G. Heal, B. Jones & J. Mangion

#### Non-seismic

The non-seismic data acquisition system (DAS) ran for the duration of the survey with only six short breaks in data collection, caused by computer overload. This downtime totalled 71 minutes.

## Navigation

Positioning of the ship is derived from three largely independent systems; Global Positioning System (GPS), dead reckoning with updates from the Transit Satellite System, and radio navigation using Hifix. All onboard navigation is done within the WGS coordinate system, as this is the system used by the Transit Satellites.

## - Global Positioning System

Under optimum conditions a GPS Magnavox T-set receiver should give continuous absolute positioning within about 20 metres r.m.s.. However, the system is in the experimental stage with only seven of the proposed 24 satellites in orbit. This severely limits it's usefulness and reliability.

Tests performed with the GPS receiver while berthed at Adelaide revealed that the receiver was not navigating correctly. For those periods of four satellite coverage, the receiver was calculating a very large frequency bias. This may indicate problems with the local oscillator within the receiver. This fault resulted in the GPS being unreliable and consequently it was not used at any stage during the survey for navigating.

#### - Dead-reckoning System

The primary dead reckoning system consists of a Robertson gyro compass, Magnavox MX610D sonar-doppler and MX1107RS satnav receiver. A lower grade system of Robertson gyro, Raytheon DSN450 sonar-doppler, and MX1142 satnav receiver is used as a backup.

In general, the system performed well, with most dead-reckoning positions being in close proximity to the Transit satellite fixes. The exceptionally good weather conditions and the shallowness of the survey areas contributed to the good results.

#### - Hifix

The Decca Hifix radio navigation system was operated for the entire survey with varying results. BMR Marine has been

experimenting for some time to extend the effective range of the system by operating it in circular mode with all stations slaved to their own atomic standard. Such a system is affected by individual drift of the rubidium standards. One of the aims of Survey 82 was to determine the drifts. This was to be done at Barry's Beach. However, on arrival at the berth only very weak signals were received. This was probably due to the geographical position of the ship in relation to the shore stations and to the presence of large steel structures near the ship.

Another drift test was attempted at Port Welshpool. The drifts observed over a period of four days were unexpectedly variable. They ranged from 4.7 to -0.7 centilanes per ten minutes. The only observable trend was that the variation in drift rate appeared to decrease with time. By the third day, the drift rate for stations at Seaspray and Point Hicks began to stabilise. The ship then set sail for the eastern part of the Gippsland Basin, and the drift for the other two stations (Golden Beach and Lake Tyers) was derived while navigating from the two calibrated stations. In general, the positions derived from the Hifix chain during the Gippsland leg of the survey were acceptable. A combination of favourable shore-station geometry, low atmospheric noise, stable drift rates and short ranges to the shore stations all contributed to the accuracy of the positioning. Comparison of the Hifix positions to Transit satellite positions typically showed differences of less than 200m.

The Bass Basin portion of the cruise required the relocation of a station to improve geometry. The station from Golden Beach was transferred to Cape Liptrap. The moving of this station resulted in no Hifix navigation being available for the first four days of the Bass Basin program. However, once the moved station began transmitting, the Hifix navigation resumed with high precision. Minor problems were encountered with occasional signal "jumps" or "shifts".

#### Bathymetry

Bathymetric data were derived from the Raytheon 12 kHz echo sounder. This echo sounder produced excellent results for the duration of the cruise, with continuous soundings along all lines.

#### Gravity

Gravity data were obtained using the Bodenseewerk KSS-31 Gravity Meter. The system was reliable with gravity data being recorded throughout the survey.

## Seismic

#### Software:

The need to have a 37.5 metre shot interval meant that it was

necessary to quicken the software used for the gun controller and the signal level calculations. New gun controller software was implemented without problem and worked well for the duration of the cruise. The new signal-level calculation software was developed prior to and during the cruise.

While the ship was berthed at Adelaide, the new Syntron bird controller CUS 8301 was interfaced to the seismic system. The software to read the values from the controller was written during the transit from Adelaide to Barry's Beach. The software worked well, reading in depth and wing angles from twenty two birds in 364 milliseconds.

The seismic shooting undertaken during the survey fully tested the robustness of the new software. During fifteen days there were 45 system crashes. Each of these resulted in approximately 15 to 20 shots being lost.

Examination of system registers after each crash indicated that many were caused when the the next shot interrupt occurred while the previous shot had not fully been processed and written to tape. By changing recording parameters to 10 second record length with 4 msec sampling rate the incidence of system crashes dropped sharply.

#### Hardware

The use of an instantaneous floating point (IFP) amplifier was a key element in the planned mapping of the deep basement structures in the Gippsland Basin. However, prior to the cruise, the electronic noise levels within the IFP were found to be far higher than acceptable. Also, timing errors were preventing sufficient settling time for full data analysis.

After intensive examination, testing and modification of the IFP card and associated amplifiers and power sources during the early part of the cruise, it was revealed that card's noise levels were at least partly inherent in it's design. As a result, only two short test lines were shot using the IFP; the remainder of the lines were shot with a set binary gain integer converter combination.

During the last week of the cruise, an intermittent fault developed in the first bank of pre-amplifiers, corresponding to channels 1 to 24. The fault caused an internal oscillator used for pre-amplifier calibration to turn on while data recording was in progress. The problem was finally traced to a faulty power board which was replaced.

Only minor problems occurred with the gun arrays and seismic cable. The new depth controllers worked extremely well. Several firing lines on the starboard gun bundle needed to be switched out. Six active sections were replaced due to electrical problems or fish bites during, or at the end of the survey. One adaptor section was found to be faulty resulting in channels 92 - 96

being reversed for the first part of line 001.

Prior to the cruise, new clutches were fitted to two of the four diesel motors which power the seismic compressors. Both units failed partway through the survey necessitating the relocation of the seismic operations to the Boobyalla Sub-basin.

#### REFRACTION RECORDING

## by C. Collins

The refraction study was undertaken jointly by BMR and the Department of Earth Sciences, Monash University. Seismic recorders were deployed on land to record long offset wide-angle reflection and refraction data using the ship's air guns as the energy source. The study was designed to yield information on crustal thickness and velocities, the total thickness of sediments in the basins, and the relationship between the deep structure of the basins to that of Victoria and Tasmania.

#### Location of recording traverses and stations

Two main refraction traverses were recorded across the Gippsland Basin from Deal Island to the Victorian coast near Orbost (Fig. 10; lines 201 & 202). They were separated by about 10 km and ran either side of an inferred major transfer-fault zone (Fig. 12). Other lines (including some run in the Boobyalla Sub-basin), although not shot as refraction profiles, were also received by the land stations.

A digital recorder was deployed on Deal Island, and two others deployed near Orbost at different offsets from the coast. Two analogue recorders were placed near Orbost, one on the coast and the other about 30 km inland. Three others were deployed along a 30 km-long line perpendicular to the coast between Seaspray and Rosedale. The sixth was deployed at the southern tip of Wilsons Promontory as a backup in the south should the Deal Island recorder fail.

#### Energy source

The ship's 3200 cubic inch (52.4 litre) airgun array operating at 2000 psi was used as the energy source. The firing rate and ship speed were selected so as to give a shot interval of 50 metres for lines 201 and 202 ( 20 sec at 4.85 knots, 17.7 sec at 5.5 knots ). On all other lines, the shot interval was 37.5 metres ( 18.2 sec at 4 knots in the Gippsland Basin, 16.2 sec at 4.5 knots and 18.2 sec at 4 knots in the Bass Basin ). Most of these lines were shot with a 1600 cubic inch array. The firing times of the airguns were obtained in Universal Time by synchronising the ship's DAS system clock with time signals derived from the VLF Omega Navigation broadcast.

## Recording Equipment

The six analogue recorders were run continuously during the survey; the three digital recorders were operational only for the main Gippsland Basin traverses (lines 201 and 202). The analogue recorders were four-channel tape-recording systems with a maximum recording period of about 16 days. The output from a single

Willmore Mk II seismometer with a period of 0.75 seconds was amplified at two gain levels and band-pass filtered 0.01-20 Hz before frequency modulation and recording. Also recorded were a coded clock signal and Omega radio time signals.

The digital recorders were developed at Monash University, and are based upon a portable PC/AT with a 20 megabyte hard disc and analogue-to-digital converter. The signal from a Willmore Mk III seismometer of 0.75 sec period was amplified and band-pass filtered 0.01-20 Hz before digitizing at 20 msec sample interval. The gain level of the amplifier was set by monitoring the signal so that maximum gain without saturation was maintained. Timing was derived from the internal clock of the PC synchronised with Omega radio time signals. Data were transferred from disc to magnetic tape periodically.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We acknowledge the co-operation and assistance of Henry Foreman (Master) and the crew of the  $\underline{\text{Rig Seismic}}$  during this cruise.

Co-operative arrangements with the School of Earth Sciences, Monash University, enabled successful completion of the refraction experiment.

We thank Esso Australia Ltd for permission to berth the ship at Barrys Beach.

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#### APPENDIX 1: List of Geophysical Equipment

## Seismic System

Streamer: 3600m Teledyne hydrophone analogue streamer configured as 96 x 37.5m groups.

- 10 hydrophones per 12.5m group
- ~15 microvolts noise; maximum ambient at 5 knots
- Syntron RCL-3 individually adressed cable levellers

#### Source Array:

- 52.4/73.4 litre (3200/4480 cubic inch), 28-element tuned Texas Instruments air-gun array; 20 elements (3200 cubic inch) equally divided into two strings in use at any one time.
- Teledyne gun signature phones, gun depth sensors, and I/O SS-8 shot sensors
- 4 x Price A 300 compressors, each rated at 300scfm @ 2000 psi

## Recording

- BMR designed and built seismic acquisition system based on Hewlett-Packard minicomputers
- 96 channel digitally controlled preamp/filters
- bit accuracy
  - 12 bit floating point with 4 bit dynamic accuracy
  - 15 bit integer card
- 6250 bpi Telex tape drives
- data read after write in demultiplexed SEG-Y format
- 2 or 4 msec sampling with 96 channels
- streamer noise, leakage, and individual group QCsource array timing QC
- recording oscillator and 4 seismic monitor QC

## Bathymetric System

- Raytheon deep-sea echo-sounder; 2 kW output at 12 kHz

## <u>Gravity Meter</u>

- Bodenseewerk Geosystem KSS - 31 marine gravity meter

#### Navigation Systems

GPS System - Magnavox T-Set GPS navigator

## Prime Transit System

- Magnavox MX1107RS dual channel satellite receiver
- Magnavox MX610D dual-axis sonar doppler speed log
- Robertson gyro-compass

## Secondary Transit System

- Magnavox MX1142 single channel satellite receiver
- Raytheon DSN450 dual-axis sonar doppler speed log
- Robertson gyrocompass

## Radio Navigation

- Decca HIFIX-6

## Data Acquisition System

- data acquisition system built around Hewlett-Packard 2117 F-Series minicomputer, with tape drives, disc drives, 12" and 36" plotters, line printers and interactive terminals

## SURVEY 82 CABLE

96 CHANNEL, 3600M ALTIVE, 37.5M GROUPS

- FRONT OF SHIP A6 112 1 13 141 15 116 1330 ADAP 114 AIL 24/8 33 1 34 1 35 2138 2340 2542 ABAP A19 AIR AZO ALL A23 AZY DT 48//6 491 50 151 1521 531 541 25 1 26 461 47 148 3248 819 3552 2744 2546 3350 3652 A30 A25 A26 A29 A31 A32 AZB A27 3906 3956 3754 TAIL BUOY 4256M . A3 6 921 93 1

Al : Active section (100m long)

Str : Stratch section (50m long)

ADAP: Adaptor section (2m long)

: Depth controller, bird

DT/WB: Depth transducer / waterbreak section (2m long)
DT: Depth transducer section (2m long)

The: Tow leader

Offsets with 108m leader out over stern: Channel 1: 231 m behind this, 206 m behind gons Channel 96: 3835 on behind ship, 3810 m behind gins.

Active 31  $\frac{1}{(88/002)} = \frac{1}{1} = \frac{1}{1}$ 

CRUISE : 82- GIPPSLAND BASIN

DATE : 200. 88

TOTAL ACTIVE LENGTH: 3600 m. Number of Chans = 96 (37.5 m GAOUPS)

LENGTH	(m)				(37.5 M C	, R 6 U
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150+	Stretch # 2	1287-1531-c		<u> </u>		<u>.</u>
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1 -	1					<u> </u>
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1 2	: Adaptor 8 >33	188/104		3767 BD	/ /	P6
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1 2	ABAP. STR. TH	hu. 1041	Į.	3770 (06)		<u> </u>
1/00	⊯Active#5		2x/ 4x2=14/kg			<u> </u>
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<u>: -</u>	; 1	<u> </u>	<u>!</u>	!		<u>:</u>
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Record every cable section

Record leads as n X wt. (e.g.  $5 \times 1$ ,  $7 \times 1/2$ )

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# GECO Skirt.

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The rest from S. Perth II.

86/004 Clanger out low besound on clannel.

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100	Active# 30		115×1.7×2 (8.8)	}	Section skin pool	
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Record every cable section

Record leads as n X wt. (e.g.  $5 \times 1$ ,  $7 \times 1/2$ )

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N.B. Actives 19 to 36 (exclusing 31) from S. P. Baint cruis.

## APPENDIX 3: Shooting and Recording Parameters

## (A) Lines 82/001 & 101, Gippsland Basin , reflection data

Source: 2 x 1600 cubic inch air-gun array

Shot spacing: 37.5m

Shot interval: 18.2 seconds at 4 knots

Cable length: 3600m active; 4200m to tail buoy

Group interval: 37.5m No. of channels: 96

Near offset: 231m behind stern; 206m behind guns Far offset: 3835 behind stern; 3810 behind guns

Cable depth: 10m Recording fold: 48

Record length: 12 seconds

Sample rate: Initially 2 ms, changed to 4 ms after SP 1700 on

Line 82/001

Filter settings: 8 Hz low cut

128 Hz high cut; 64 Hz after SP 1700

Amplifier gain: 128 - 1024 on Integer system for Line 82/001

IFP on Line 82/101

Field tape density:

6250 bpi

Tape format: SEG-Y

## (B) Lines 82/002,003 & 102, Gippsland Basin, reflection data

As above, except:

Source: 1 x 1600 cubic inch array

Amplifier gains: 256 - 512 on Integer system for Line 82/002

IFP on Line 82/102

128 - 512 on Integer system for Line 82/003

## (C) Lines 82/201 & 202, Gippsland Basin, refraction data

Source: 2 x 1600 cubic inch array

Shot distance: 50m

Shot interval: 20 seconds at 4.85 knots, 19.4 seconds at 5 kts,

17.7 seconds at 5.5 knots

Recorders: Digital and analogue. Sited on Victorian coast

and Deal Island.

# (d) Lines 82/301 - 310, Bass Basin (Boobyalla Sub-basin), reflection data

Source: 1 x 1600 cubic inch array

Shot spacing: 37.5m

Shot interval: 16.2 seconds at 4.5 knots; 18.2 seconds at 4.0

knots

Cable length: 3600m active; 4200m to tail buoy

Group interval: 37.5m

No. of channels: 96

Near offset: 231m behind stern; 206m behind guns Far offset: 3835m behind stern; 3810m behind guns

Cable depth: 10m Source depth: 10m Recording fold: 48

Record length: 12 seconds for Line 82/301 10 seconds for all others

Sample rate: 2 ms for Lines 82/302 - 306 (SP 2200)

4 ms all others

Filter settings: 8 Hz low cut

128 Hz high cut for Lines 82/302- 306 (SP 2200)

64 Hz all others

Amplifier gains: 128 - 256 Integer system

Field tape density:

6250 bpi

Tape Format: SEC

SEG-Y

APPENDIX 4: Line Details

	Start ) Time		Data Collected					Mode
(A) Gippsland Basin:								
001	325.1802	327.0005	48f,b,g	001-053	183	99	Sole Pisces	I
002	331.1933	332.0258	11	074-085	47	25	H'head Chimaera	I
003	332.1609	333.1726	11	098-123	105	57	Chimaera Chimaera Basker Hapuku	I
102	327.0650 332.0636 Repeat of	332.1319	11	086-097			Sole H'head Chimaera	IFP
201 328.2319 330.0158 Refract. Shore 195 105 202 330.0519 331.0130 " monitors 193 104 (NB. Refraction experiment with Monash University)								
Total Gippsland Basin reflection data: 469 km, 253 nmi refraction data: 388 km, 209 nmi								
(B) Bass Basin (Boobyalla Sub-basin):								
301 302	334.0823 335.0652		48f,b,g	124-152 153-193		82 85		I I
303	336.0531	336.1747		194-219	100	54		I
304 305	336.2024 337.1036	337.0612 338.0120	11 11	220-241 242-274	75 118	40 63	Chat	I I
305	338.0709	338.1826	11	275-298	94	51	Durroon	I
307	338.2119	339.1001	11	299-319	111	60		I
308 309	339.1430 340.0923	340.0340 340.2141	11 11	320-342 343-362	110 104		Chat	I I
310	341.0033	340.2141	11	363-377	66	56 36	Durroon	I

Total Bass Basin reflection data: 1087 km, 586 nmi

###

Notes: 48f = 48 fold seismic data

b = bathymetric data

I = integer recording mode

IFP = instantaneous floating

g = gravity data

point mode

APPENDIX 5: Way Points

Way Poin		Well Tie	Line
(A) Gippsland Ba	asin:		
39 29.5 39 03.632 38 07.051 37 58.5	148 30.776 149 02.134	- Pisces - 1 Sole - 1 -	) ) 82/001 (S-N) ) 82/101 (N-S), ) part repeat of 001
	148 50 055 148 43.386		) ) 82/002 (S-N) ) 82/102 (N-S), repeat of 002
38 15.973 38 18.476 38 33.368 39 07.5	148 43.386 148 41.955 148 33.006 148 13.0	Chimaera - 1 Basker -1 Hapuku -1 -	) ) 82/003 )
39 25.0	147 22.5	-	)
38 18.0	148 10.5	-	) 82/201
37 50.0	148 22.0	-	)
38 24.5	148 15.5	-	)
	147 58.5	-	) 82/202
	147 16.0	-	)
(B) Bass Basin	(Boobyalla Sub-	oasin):	
39 35.0	146 09.81 Tasm	-	)
40 44.30		manian Devil - 1	) 82/301
40 50.5		-	)
40 46.0	145 49.0	<del>-</del>	) 82/302
40 15.0	147 33.0		)
40 07.0	147 25.0	-	) 82/303
40 25.0	146 23.0	-	)
40 17.0	146 18.5	-	)
40 10.91	146 41.98	Chat -1	) 82/304
40 03.0	147 08.0	-	)
39 51.5	146 59.0	<del>-</del>	) 82/305
40 51.0	146 30.0	-	)
40 39.5	146 47.0	_	)

	32.09 21.0		12.85 .49.0	Durroon - 1	)	82/306
	30.0 51.1		57.0 42.8	<del>-</del> -	)	82/307
40	50.0 10.91 55.0	146	01.5 41.98 32.5	- Chat - 1 -	)	82/308
40	00.0 32.09 52.5	147	57.0 12.85 23.0	Durroon - 1	)	82/309
	48.0 15.0		33.5 16.0	<u>-</u> -	)	82/310

Note: All positions have been adjusted to World Geodetic System 1972 (WGS72) from Australian Geodetic.

## APPENDIX 6: Crew List

## **BMR**

Co-chief scientist J.B. Willcox J.B. Colwell Co-chief scientist Systems specialist G. Heal Systems specialist B. Jones R. Whitworth Systems specialist (part of survey only) P. Napier Scientist/observor A. Moore Scientist/observor C. Collins Scientist/observor K. Revill Science technician M. O'Connor Science technician J. Bedford Science technician Science technician J. Mowat D. Pryce

Science technician Science technician L. Hatch J. Mangion Electronics technician Electronics technician G. Burren

P. Harris Mechanical technician J. Roberts Mechanical technician Mechanical technician C. Dyke

I. Patterson Field Hand A. Mellick Field Hand

## DOT

H. Foreman Master S. Johnson Chief Engineer Chief Officer D. Harvey T. Walters Second Officer

T. Ireland Second Engineer

W. Hanson Electrician

L. Clarke E.A./seaman A.B. 1 J. Fraser

G. Pretsel A.B. 2 J. Kemp A.B. 3

B. Fowler Chief steward/cook G. Conley Cook

J. Caminiti Steward M. Cumner

Steward/seaman

APPENDIX 7: HIFIX Station Locations

		Lat (deg S)*	Long (deg E)*
(1)	Point Hicks	37 48.095	149 16.454
(2)	Lake Tyers	37 51.888	148 04.078
(3)	Golden Beach	38 13.570	147 22.857
(4)	Seaspray	38 22.919	147 10.943
(5)	Cape Liptrap	38 53.570	145 55.308

Note: Stations 1 -4 used for Gippsland Basin Stations 4 & 5 used for Bass Basin

<sup>\*</sup> Corrected to WGS 72 from Australian Geodetic

## APPENDIX 8: Non-seismic Data Channels

The data is saved on magnetic tape every 60 seconds in blocks of  $128 \times 6$  floating point words.

.HHMMSS from RTE clock 2. .HHMMSS from master clock 3. 4. Latitude Longitude 5. 6. Speed 7. Course 8. not used not used 9. 10. Depth 1 11. Depth 2 12. F/A Magnavox sonar-doppler 13. P/S Magnavox sonar-doppler 14. F/A Raytheon sonar-doppler 15. P/S Raytheon sonar-doppler 16. Paddle log 17. not used Instrument room gyro 18. 19. Bridge gyro 20. not used 21. not used 22. not used 23. not used 24. not used 25. Hifix Fine A Hifix Fine B 26. 27. Hifix Fine C Hifix Coarse A 28. 29. Hifix Coarse B 30. Hifix Coarse C 31.) - ) not used 50.) Latitude calc. from Mag s.d. 51. 52. longitude calc. from Mag. s.d. 53. Speed calc. from Mag. s.d. Course calc. from Mag. s.d. 54. 55. Latitude calc. from Ray. s.d. 56. Longitude calc. from Ray. s.d. 57. Speed calc. from Ray. s.d. 58. Course calc. from Ray. s.d. 59. Latitude calc. from spare log 60. Longitude calc. from spare log 61. Speed calc. from spare log 62. Course calc. from spare log 63. Latitude calc. from radio nav.

SS.DD from RTE clock

1.

- 64. Longitude calc. from radio nav.
- 65. Speed calc. from radio nav.
- 66. Course calc. from radio nav.
- 67. GMT from MX1107 sat. nav.
- 68. Dead reckoned time from 1107
- 69. Latitude 1107
- 70. Longitude 1107
- 71. Speed 1107
- 72. Heading 1107
- 73. GMT from MX1142 sat. nav.
- 74. Dead reckoned time 1142
- 75. Latitude 1142
- 76. Longitude 1142
- 77. Speed 1142
- 78. Heading 1142
- 79. Gravity (mGal \* 100)
- 80. ACX (m/s/s \* 10000)
- 81. ACY (m/s/s \* 10000)
- 82. Sea state
- 83. not used
- 84. not used
- 85. not used
- 86. Shot time HHMMSSD
- 87. Shot point number

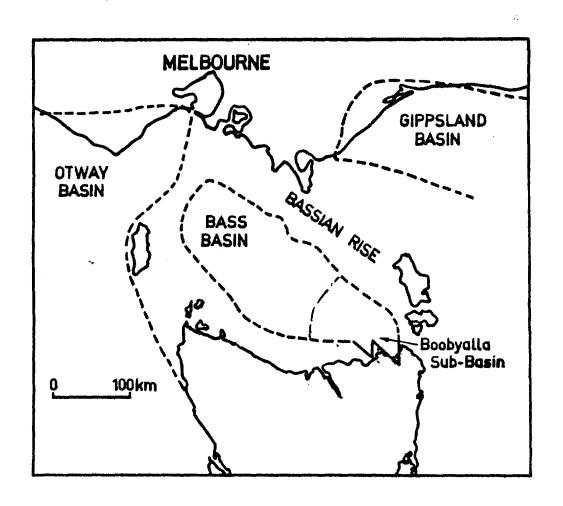
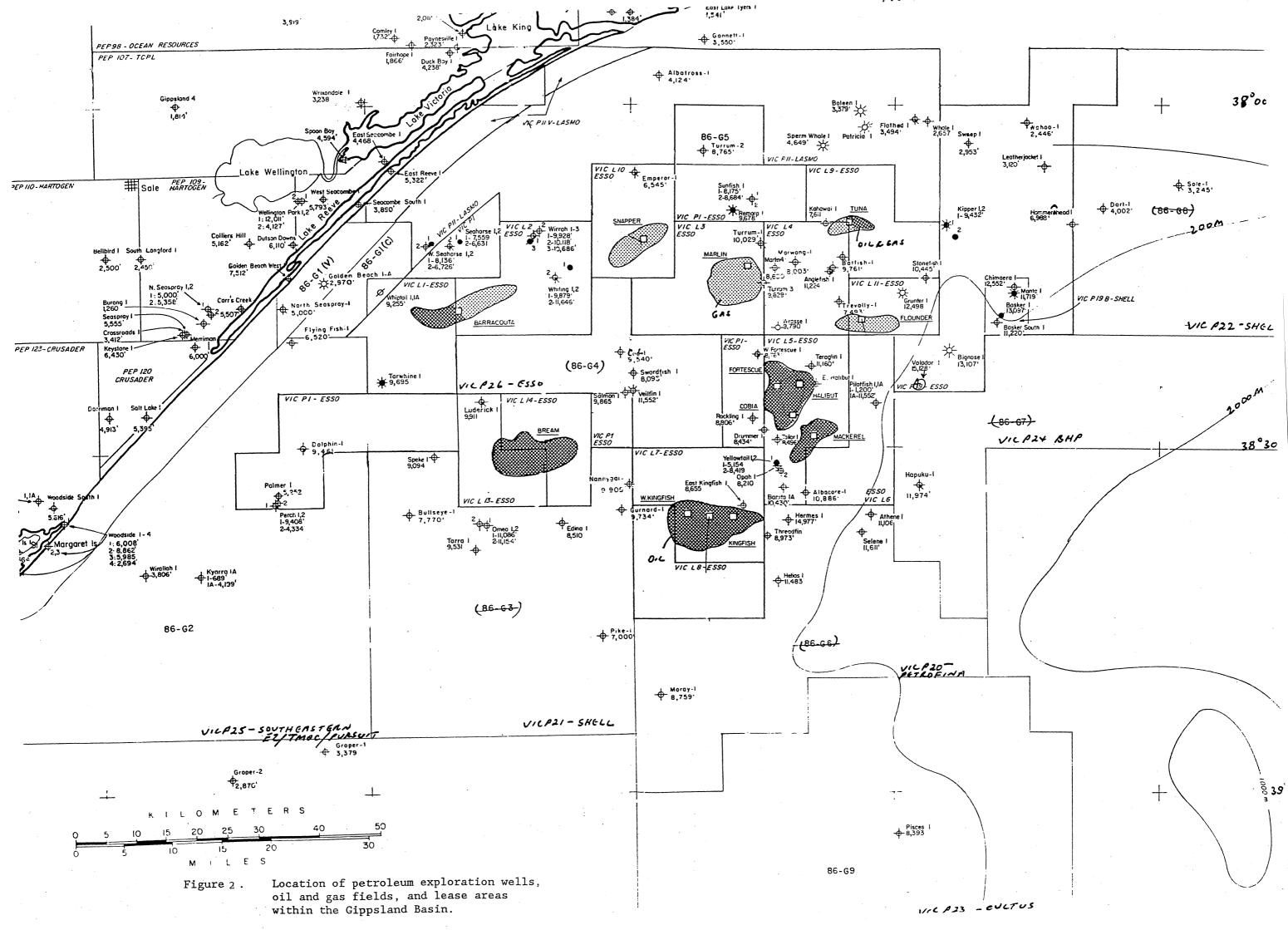


Figure 1. Locality map.



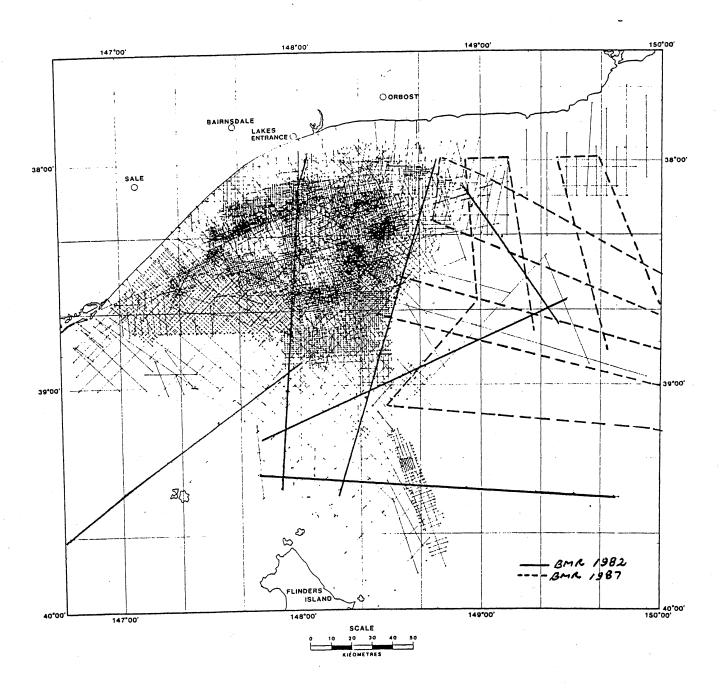


Figure <sup>3</sup>. Seismic line density within the Gippsland Basin showing most lines shot between 1962 and 1987 (after Brown, 1986). BMR's 1982 and 1987 lines are highlighted.

AGE		BASS BASIN		GIPPSLAND BASIN	
	Pliocene				
	Miocene	TORQUAY GROUP		SEASPRAY GROUP	VVVVVVVV
Tertiary	Oligocene		建型		
	Eocene	Demons Bluff Formation		•	
67 my	Paleocene	Eastern		் - LATROBE	
	Maastrichtian	View			
	Campanian	View		VALLEY	vvvvvvv
Late Cretaceous	Santonian	Coal	V V V V V V V V V	VALLET	
	Coniacian	Measures			
	Turonian			GROUP	VVVVVV
98 my	Cenomanian			\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	
1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Albian			1	
Early Cretaceous	Aptian	OTWAY GROUP		STRZELECKI GROUP	
144 my	Neocomian		?		
Late Jurassic					

← Petroleum exploration well with show of oil 〈〉 Gas well

Oil and gas well

Comparative stratigraphy of the Bass and Figure 4. Gippsland Basins.

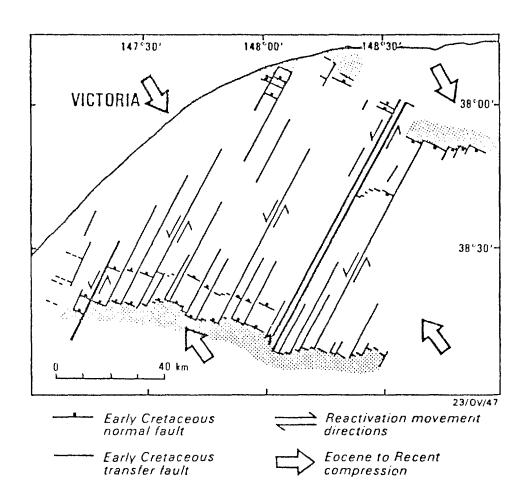


Figure 5. Map of Early Cretaceous structures within the Gippsland Basin showing how Tertiary northwest-southeast compression gives rise to left-lateral wrench reactivation of transfer faults, and oblique reverse reactivation of normal faults (after Etheridge & others, 1985).

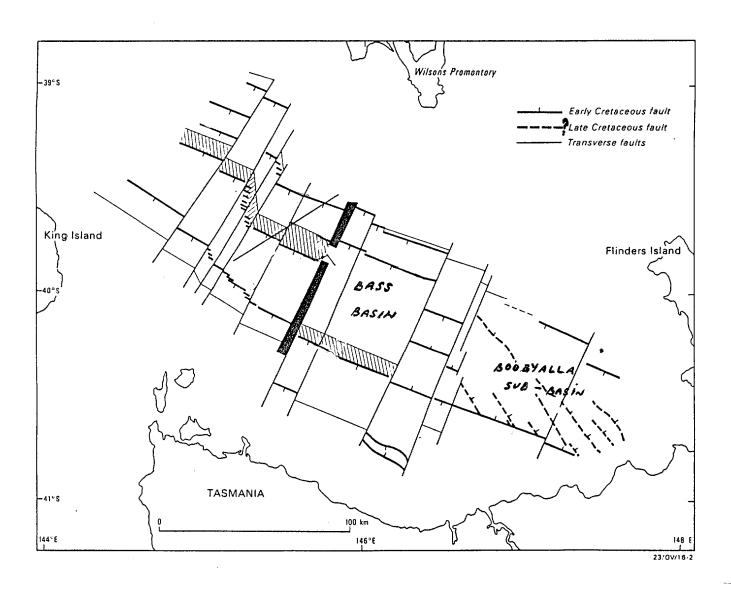


Figure 6. Basin-forming structures in the Bass Basin (after Etheridge & others, 1984, 1985).

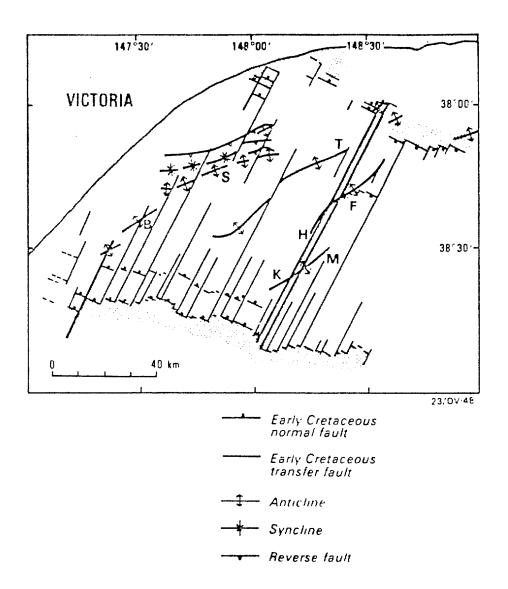


Figure 7. Map of Late Tertiary compressional structures within the Gippsland Basin (most of them hydrocarbon reservoirs) superimposed on the Early Cretaceous extensional structures (after Etheridge & others, 1985)

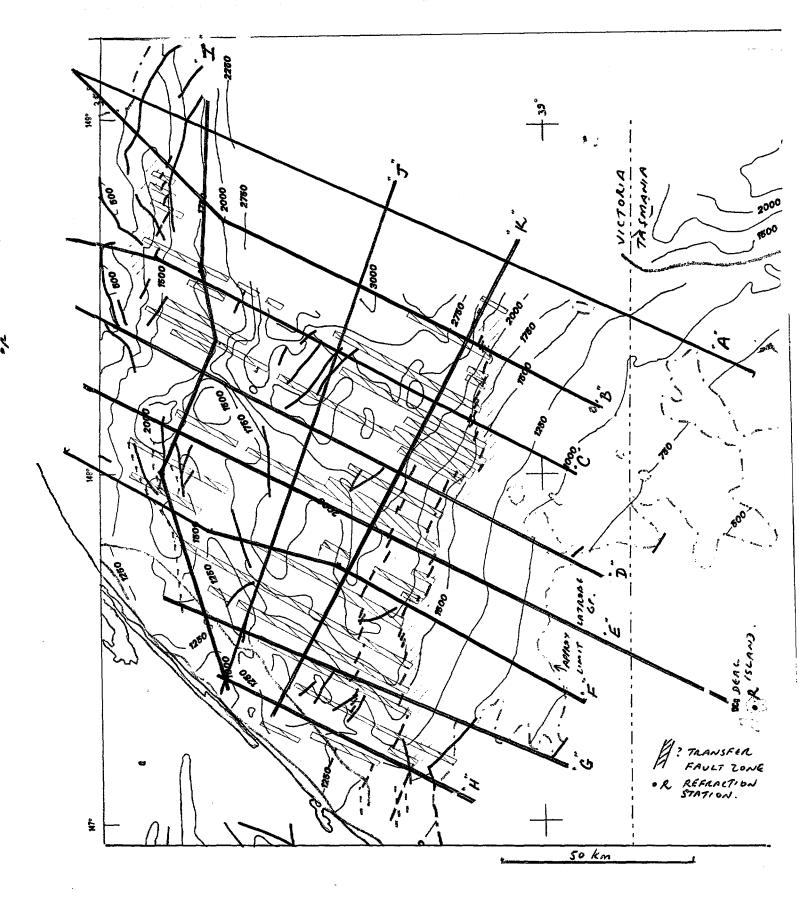


Figure 8. Sketch map of the Gippsland Basin showing the location of transfer fault zones (after Etheridge & others, 1985) and proposed Rig Seismic lines.

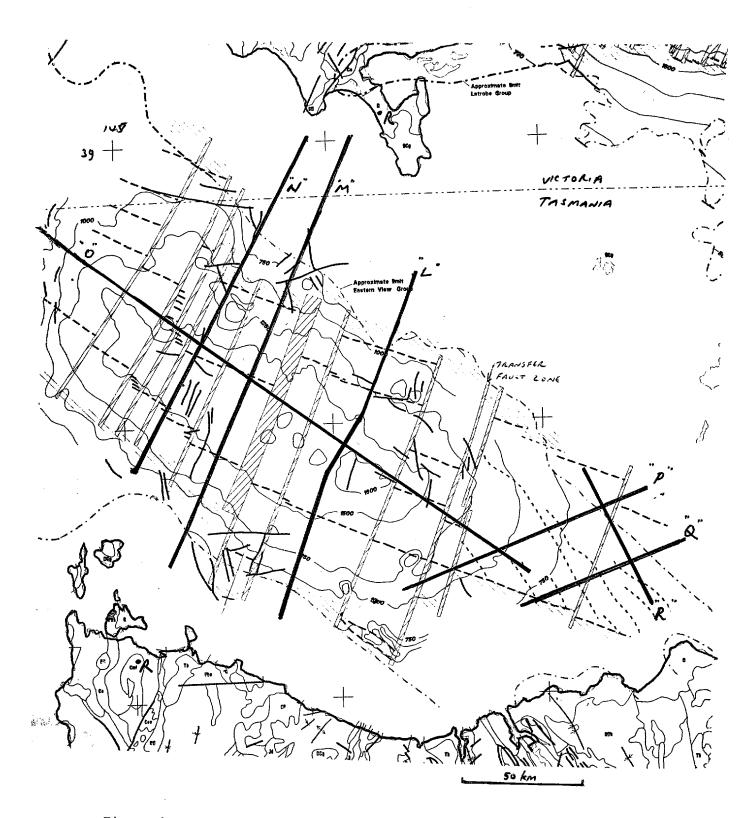
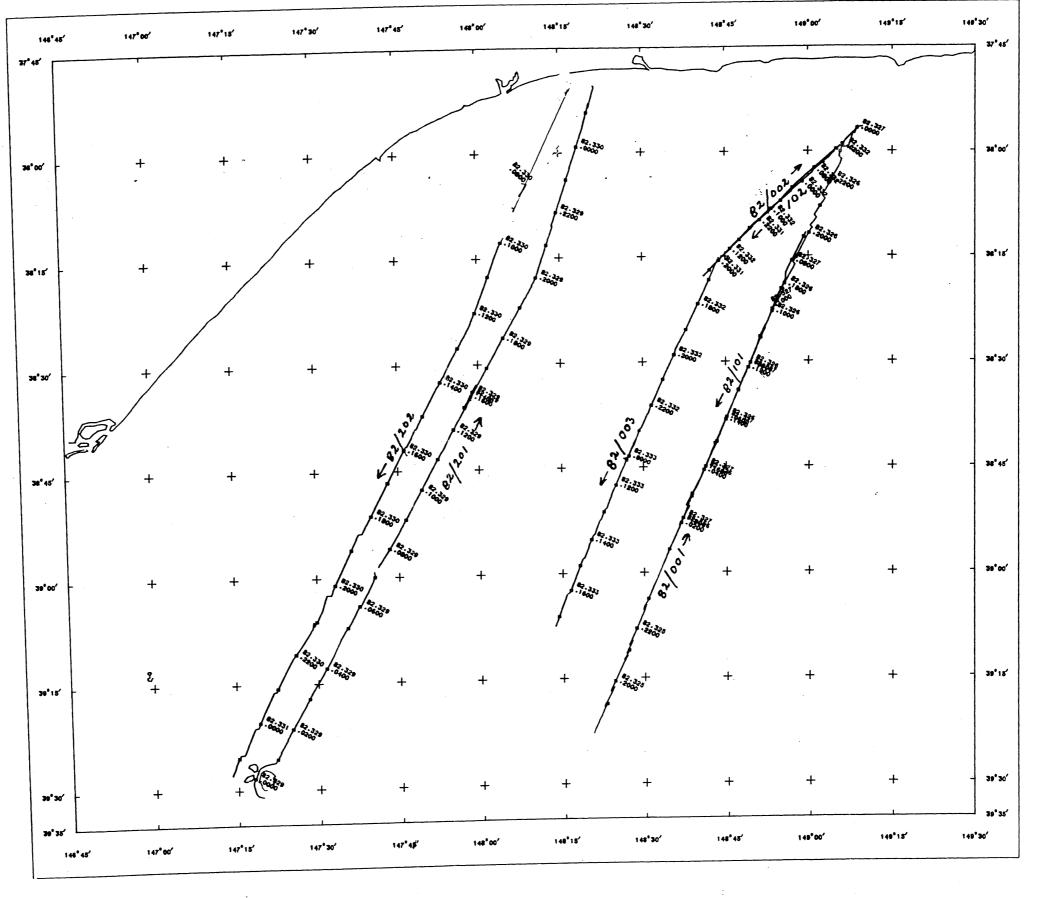


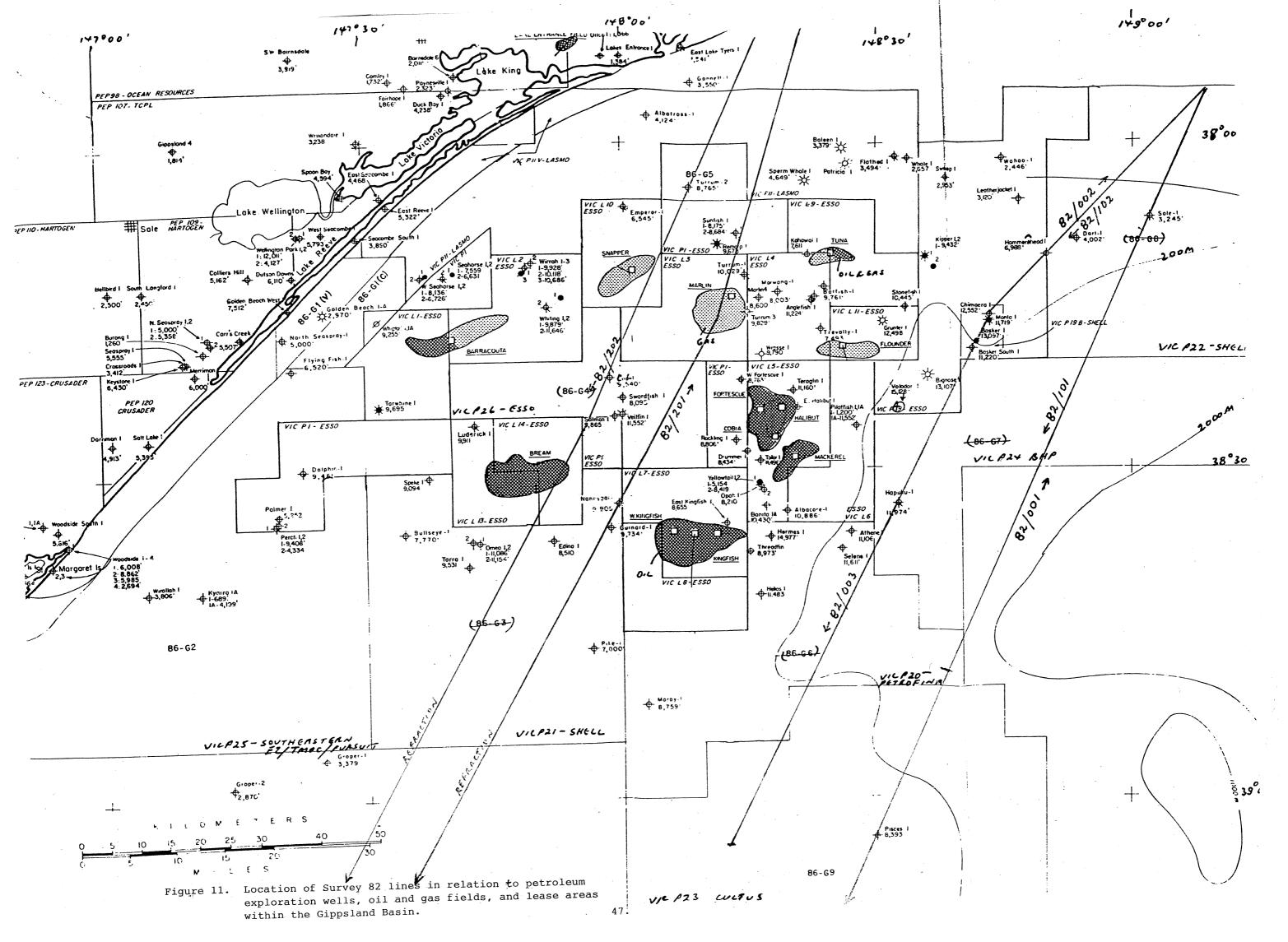
Figure 9. Sketch map of the Bass Basin showing location of transfer fault zones (after Etheridge & others, 1984, 1985) and proposed  $\underline{\text{Rig Seismic}}$  lines.



NORLD SECRETIC SYSTEM 1972
LAMBERT'S CONFORMAL PROJECTION
WITH STANDARD PARALLELS
AT 38°00' AND 38°20' SOUTH

Figure 10. Location of Survey 82 Gippsland Basin lines (raw navigation).

SHEET NO.1 - LC



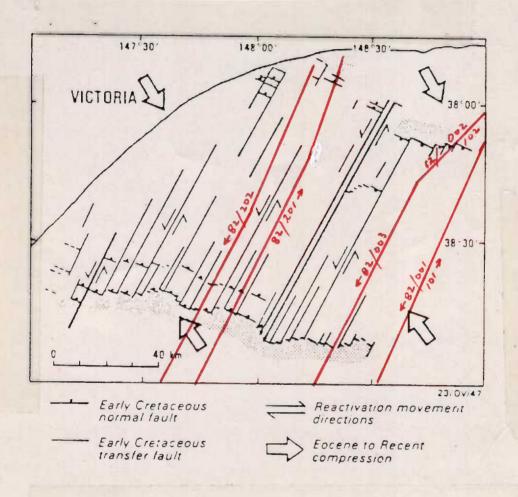
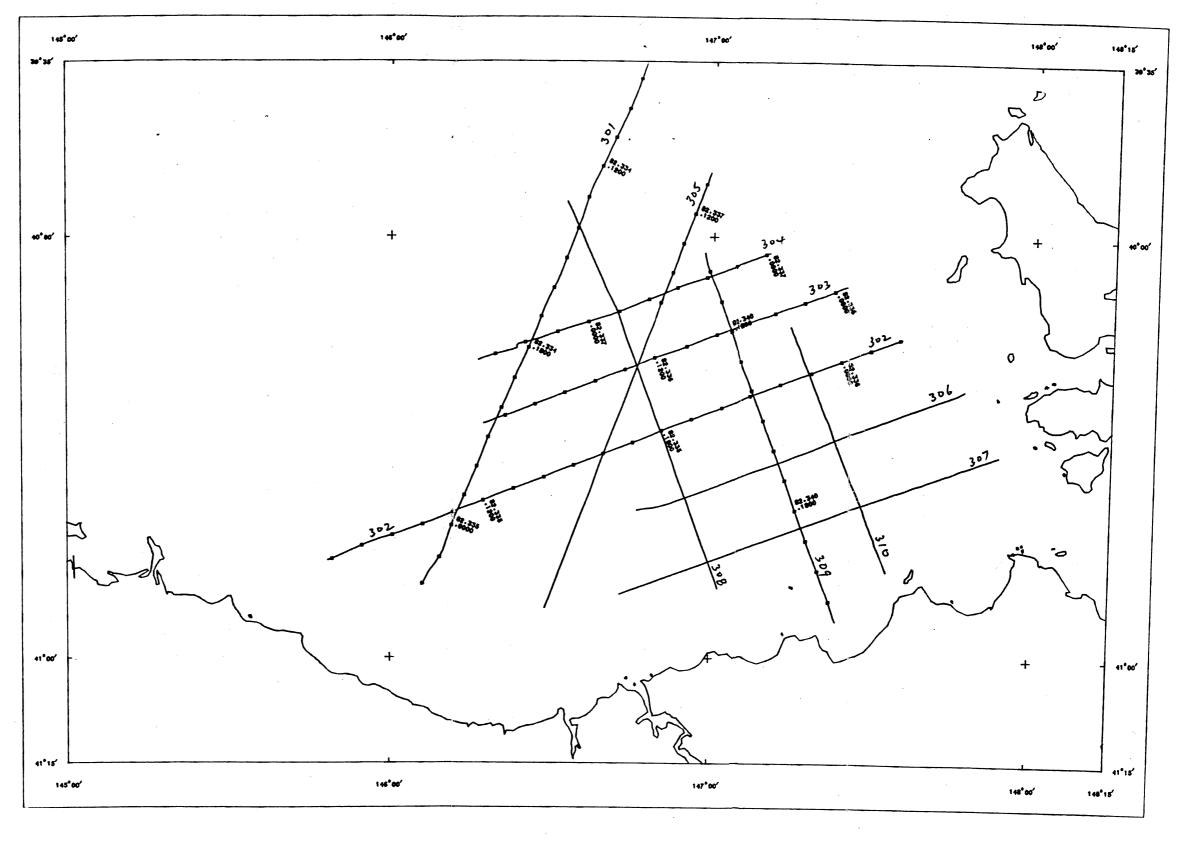


Figure 12. Location of Survey 82 Gippsland Basin lines in relation to the Early Cretaceous basement structures of Etheridge & others (1985).





MORLD SECOCTIC SYSTEM 1872 LAMBERT'S COMPORNAL PROJECTION WITH STANDARD PARTALLELS — AT 30°S1' AND AD 20'S ONTY

Figure 13. Location of Survey 82 Bass
Basin lines (raw navigation).

TRACK MAP

BASS BASIN SEISMIC LINES ONLY

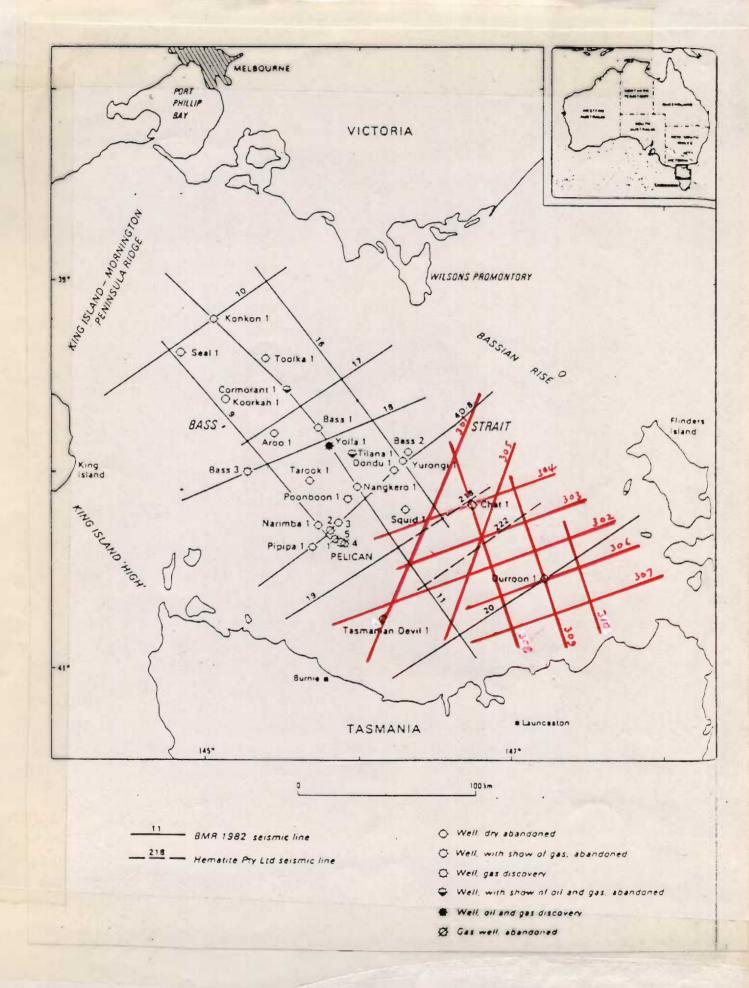


Figure 14. Location of Survey 82 Bass Basin lines in relation to petroleum exploration wells and BMR's 1982 (Survey 40) lines.



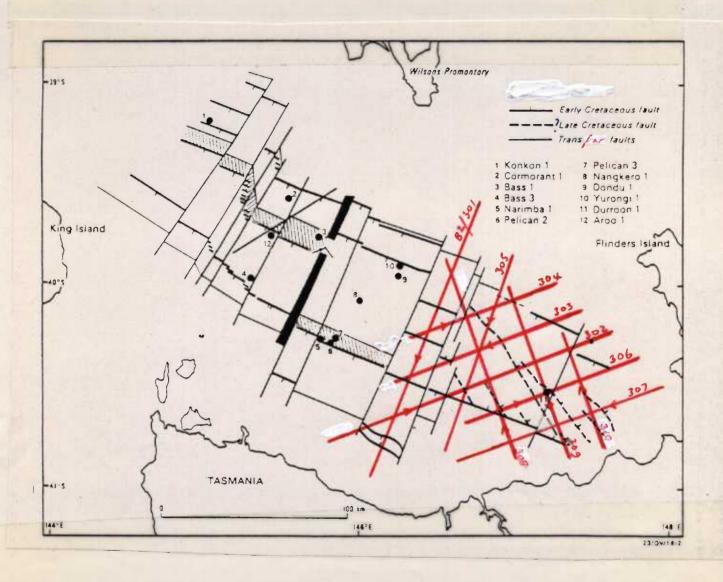


Figure 15. Location of Survey 82 Bass Basin lines in relation to the basin-forming structures mapped by Etheridge & others (1984, 1985).

