COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS

Petroleum Search Subsidy Acts
PUBLICATION No. 65

SUMMARY OF DATA AND RESULTS OTWAY BASIN, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Geltwood Beach No. 1 Well

OF

BEACH PETROLEUM NO LIABILITY

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1965

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER: THE HON. DAVID FAIRBAIRN, D.F.C., M.P. SECRETARY: SIR HAROLD RAGGATT, C.B.E.

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES, GEOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICS DIRECTOR: J. M. RAYNER

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Assistant Director: M. A. Condon

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FOREWORD

Under the Petroleum Search Subsidy Act 1959-1961, agreements relating to subsidized operations provide that the information obtained may be published by the Commonwealth Government six months after the completion of field work.

The growth of the exploration effort has greatly increased the number of subsidized projects and this increase has led to delays in publishing the results of operations.

The detailed results of subsidized operations may be examined at the offices of the Bureau of Mineral Resources in Canberra and Melbourne (after the agreed period) and copies of the reports may be purchased.

In order to make the main results of operations available early, short summaries are being prepared for publication. These will be grouped by area and date of completion as far as practicable. Drilling projects and geophysical projects will be grouped separately. In due course, full reports will be published concerning those operations which have produced the more important new data.

This Publication contains a summary of data and results of the drilling operation undertaken at Geltwood Beach No. 1 in the Otway Basin, South Australia. The information has been abstracted by the Petroleum Exploration Branch of the Bureau of Mineral Resources from the well completion report furnished by Beach Petroleum No Liability.

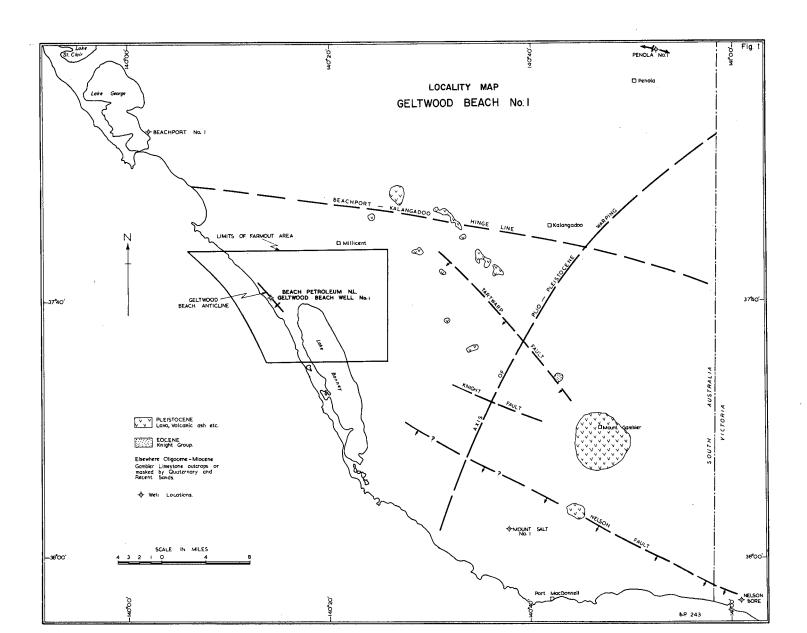
J.M. RAYNER <u>DIRECTOR</u>

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GELTWOOD BEACH NO. 1

SUMMARY OF DATA AND RESULTS*

SUMMARY

Geltwood Beach No. 1 Well was located on the Geltwood Anticline, approximately 7 1/2 miles south-west of Millicent in the Otway Basin, in the south-eastern part of South Australia. The well was drilled by Drilling Contractors (Australia) Pty Ltd for Beach Petroleum No Liability, to a total depth of 12,300 feet. Drilling commenced on 22nd August, 1963, and was completed on 10th November, 1963. A full programme of logging, testing, and coring was undertaken.

After passing through 45 feet of Recent calcareous sand, the well penetrated 1860 feet of Miocene to Eocene marine and paralic sediments, and 1760 feet of (?) Palaeocene to Upper Cretaceous sands and grits. Below 3680 feet, a monotonous sequence of Upper to Lower Cretaceous sediments of the Merino Group were encountered and continued to total depth at 12,300 feet.

Geltwood Beach No. 1 Well was drilled to test the hydrocarbon potential of Lower Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous sediments on a probable closed structure in an area where strandings of bitumen and heavy oil on the beaches were thought to indicate submarine seepages. Evidence from wells at Mount Salt and Beachport indicated that Geltwood Beach No. 1 was near the edge of probable wedge-out of Middle to Upper Cretaceous and (?) Palaeocene marine sediments overlying Lower Cretaceous beds. Traces of gas were recorded at intervals from 4500 feet to total depth, but five drillstem tests yielded only slightly gascut salty water and drilling mud. The well was plugged and abandoned as a dry hole.

The stratigraphic drilling operation at Geltwood Beach No. 1 was subsidized under the Petroleum Search Subsidy Act 1959-1961, from surface to total depth.

^{*} Abstracted from: Well Completion Report, Geltwood Beach No. 1, South Australia, by R.A. Laws and J.B. Woolley, for Beach Petroleum No Liability, March, 1964.

WELL HISTORY

General Data

Well name and number:

Geltwood Beach No. 1

Location:

Latitude

37°39'44"S.

Longitude

140°14'35"E.

Name and address of Tenement Holder: General Exploration Company of Australia Ltd,

68 Grenfell Street, Adelaide, South Australia

Details of Petroleum

Tenement:

Oil Exploration Licence No. 22/1, issued by the

State of South Australia

Total Depth:

12,300 feet

Date drilling commenced:

22nd August, 1963

Date drilling completed:

10th November, 1963

Date well abandoned:

12th November, 1963

Date rig released:

13th November, 1963

Elevation (ground):

15 feet

Elevation (K.B.):

30 feet (datum for depths)

Status:

Dry hole; plugged and abandoned

Cost:

£150,862

Drilling Data

Drilling Plant:

Make:

National-Ideal

Type:

80B

Hole sizes and depths:

30" to 60 feet 17 1/2" to 1050 feet 12 1/4" to 3332 feet 8 3/4" to 12300 feet

Casing details:

Size (in.):
Weight (lb./ft):

20

13 3⁄8

48

9 5/8 36

Grade: Setting depth (ft):

60

H.40 355

J.55 3327

Logging and Testing

Ditch Cuttings:

Interval:

Ten feet from surface to total depth.

Coring:

Twenty-nine cores were cut using a Reed model K675 core barrel with both hard formation and soft formation cutter heads. A total of 362 feet was cored and 176

feet 1 inch (49%) recovered.

Sidewall Cores:

None

Electric and other logging:

(Wellex Inc.):

Induction-Electric Log: 100-12278 feet (5 runs) Contact-Caliper Log: 1000-12300 feet (4 runs) Acoustic Velocity Log: 10-12292 feet (2 runs) Gamma Ray Log: 10-12292 feet (2 runs) Continuous Dipmeter: 1009-12296 feet (2 runs) Temperature Log: 150- 2584 feet (1 run)

Velocity Survey:

Eleven horizons were tested at depths ranging from

870 to 12,270 feet.

Drilling Time and Gas Log:

A complete record of drilling rate was kept over the following intervals: 100-530 feet, 780-970 feet, 1060-12,300 feet.

A Core Laboratories Inc. P.D. unit catalytic combustion hotwire filament gas detector connected to the mud stream operated continuously throughout the drilling of the well. A Waring Blendor attachment was also included in the equipment.

Formation Testing:

Five drillstem tests were carried out by Halliburton; details are tabulated below:

Test No.	Interval Tested		Recovery
	(feet)		
1	3859 - 3901	3600 feet water;	270 feet mud
2	4708 - 4780	3100 feet water;	450 feet mud
3	4982 - 5054	400 feet water;	100 feet mud
4	6039 - 6081	320 feet water;	130 feet mud
5	8679 - 8783	Ni	1

Deviation Surveys:

Deviation surveys were run at intervals of not more than 300 feet with a Totco instrument. The maximum deviation was 2045, measured at 11,455 feet. At 12,210 feet, the deviation was 1015'.

GEOLOGY

General

Over the surrounding area, Quaternary deposits blanket Tertiary sediments, that are underlain in turn by thick accumulations of Cretaceous deposits.

Prior to the recent interest in oil exploration in this region, systematic geological investigations had been carried out by Sprigg (1952), O'Driscoll (1960), and Ludbrook (1961). With the advent of oil exploration activities, various geological and geophysical surveys were undertaken, and oil exploration wells were drilled at Penola (Oil Development N.L., 1963); at Beachport (South East Oil Syndicate Ltd, 1962); and at Mount Salt (Oil Development N.L., 1962).

Attention was first directed to the Geltwood area by the recognition of significant strandings of bitumen and heavy oil in the vicinity of Geltwood Beach (Sprigg and Woolley, 1963b). The freshness and quantity of stranded material were considered indicative of strong submarine seepages in the immediate off-shore area.

A regional reflection seismic survey (Beach Petroleum N.L., 1962) suggested the presence of an anticlinal structure on the presumed basal Tertiary horizon, with indications of a similar structure persisting within the Cretaceous section. A programme of shallow structure drilling to a suitable Tertiary marker was undertaken, to check these relationships (Beach Petroleum N.L., 1963a). This work confirmed the presence of a structure and suggested probable closure at depth.

The geology and petroleum prospects of the Geltwood structure were reviewed by Sprigg and Woolley (1963a). This paper contains a detailed account of structure and stratigraphy and includes a bibliography of previous work in the area.

The Gambier portion of the Otway Basin extends south from the Padthaway Horst (which separates it from the much shallower Murray Basin) to far beyond the present coast line. Small granitic exposures occur along the line of the Horst. An isolated outcrop of Eocene sediments occurs at Knight's Quarry near Mount Gambier. Exposures of the Oligocene-Miocene Gambier Limestone occur more extensively about Mount Gambier and to the south. Recent and Pleistocene ashes, tuffs, breccias, and basalts crop out in the Mount Gambier area, extending north-westwards beyond Mount Burr. Elsewhere the surface is entirely covered by Quaternary sediments.

Stratigraphy

The stratigraphic sequence encountered in Geltwood Beach No. 1 Well is shown in the following Table:

Age	Formation	Lithology	Depth Intervals (feet)	Thickness (feet)
Recent		Calcareous sand	15- 60	45
Miocene-Oligocene	Gambier Limestone	Bryozoal limestone	60- 910	850
Upper Eocene	Buccleuch Group	Green clay and ferrugin- ous quartz grit	910- 920	10
Middle-Lower Eocene	Knight Group	Brown sand and grit with some carbonaceous silt- stone passing down into brown-grey sandstone	920- 1920	1000
(?) Palaeocene-Upper Cretaceous	Unnamed	Grey quartz grit and pebbly mudstone passing down into feldspathic sandstone	1920- 3680	1760
Cenomanian-Albian	Merino Group	Sandstone and siltstone	3680- 7120	3440
Albian - Aptian	Merino Group (Runnymede Formation)	Interbedded mudstone and sandstone	7120-12300	5180+

Recent: Surface to 60 feet

Light brown, coarse shelly sand, with rare plant fragments.

Gambier Limestone (Miocene to Oligocene): 60 to 910 feet (850 feet)

Calcarenite, bryozoal limestone, marl, marly limestone, and crystalline limestone. Some glauconite occurs and chert is common throughout. Marl is most abundant above 190 feet and below 640 feet. Sponge spicules also abundant between 710 and 910 feet.

Buccleuch Group (Upper Eocene): 910 to 920 feet (10 feet)

Green clay with limonite and glauconite pellets, and ferruginized, quartz grit. Foraminifera and fish scales occur.

Knight Group (Middle to Lower Eocene): 920 to 1920 feet (1000 feet)

Alternating beds of coarse grit, quartz sand, brown, carbonaceous siltstone and silty and sandy clay, micaceous and calcareous in places. The section contains molluscan fragments, fish teeth, and foraminifera.

Unnamed Formation (? Palaeocene to Upper Cretaceous): 1920 to 3680 feet (1760 feet)

Fine to very coarse-grained, poorly sorted, angular to rounded, feldspathic quartz sand and friable sandstone with traces of chert, mica, and coal; and hard, grey, glauconitic, silty mudstone and siltstone. Molluscan fragments, microflora, and a few foraminifera occur.

Merino Group (Cretaceous: Cenomanian to Aptian): 3680 to 12,300 feet (8620 feet+)

Interbedded sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone with carbonaceous material, plant remains, and worm burrows. Glauconitic and calcareous in parts. The coarser sediments are mostly of greywacke type. No marine fossils were found below about 4000 feet; evidence of age was derived from pollens.

Structure

The well was drilled on an anticlinal structure with possible closure indicated by seismic survey and a structure drilling programme (total of nine holes). The structure plunges south-eastwards and is two miles wide and at least six miles long. The reversal in the northwest which gives closure is very slight.

It is evident that the anticlinal form carries to the base of the Tertiary and probably well below this level. However, marked sedimentary wedging and/or erosional truncation at deeper levels can be expected to modify this simple form.

Relevance to Occurrence of Petroleum

Shows in the well were confined to fluorescence, kicks on the gas detector, gas bleeding from cores, and gas-cut fluids recovered from drillstem tests. In certain cases the gas bleeding from a core was observed to be coming from thin coaly layers; it is therefore important to note that the gas from DST No. 3 (4982 - 5054 feet) showed significant ethane and propane, and trace quantities of normal and iso - butane.

The upper group of hydrocarbon shows extended from 4507 to 6150 feet, and was underlain by an interval almost 3000 feet thick, in which shows were rare and very weak.

A group of gas shows was encountered between 8750 and 9075 feet.

More gas was found at 9600 to 9750 feet, and minor gas detector kicks from 10,000 feet to total depth. Fluorescence in the sandstones was almost continuous and some large kicks were observed on the detector over this latter interval.

With regard to the inferred presence of submarine seepages in the immediate off-shore area, no evidence of shallow petroliferous-bearing formations was found in the well, and it is concluded that the seepages may be fault controlled, the petroliferous material originating at considerable depth. Diapiric rise of pitch along zones of faulting is suggested as a possible explanation. Alternatively, the submarine seepages could be escaping from Upper Cretaceous-Tertiary wedge out in faulted location down westerly dip.

Porosity and Permeability of Sediments Penetrated

No measurements of porosity and permeability were made. Both the Gambier Limestone and the sands of the Knight Group are very porous and permeable; the underlying unnamed formation is considerably less so. The beds of the Merino Group appear in the cores to be very tight, but the gas shows which occur, and the fact that fluid was recovered from drillstem tests, point to a degree of fracture permeability.

Contribution to Geological Concepts resulting from Drilling

Geltwood Beach No. 1 Well has demonstrated the presence in this area of unexpectedly thick accumulations (over 8600 feet) of Cretaceous sediments, comprising essentially impure sandstones and siltstones, and interbedded mudstones. Evidence of marine fossils is lacking, although lithological and petrological evidence suggests that large volumes of sediments were rapidly deposited into a marine environment of shallow depth, the sediments being derived from nearby land areas which contained prominent exposures of igneous rocks.

The well evidently did not penetrate the full Lower Cretaceous section, so that the presence (or absence) of basal (?) Cretaceous sands such as occur elsewhere in the Otway Basin (Pretty Hill No. 1 Well) has not been demonstrated.

The thick section of Upper Cretaceous Paaratte Formation recognized at Mount Salt No. 1 may be represented in part by the 1760 feet of unnamed formation of equivalent age in Geltwood Beach No. 1. The thick development of Belfast Mudstone (over 3000 feet) known from Mount Salt appears to have wedged out northwards and is not represented at Geltwood. The Geltwood well has thus successfully narrowed the zone north-west of the Mount Salt No. 1 area where Middle to Upper Cretaceous wedge-out can be expected.

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Coastal bitumen in southern Australia, with special reference to observations at Geltwood Beach, South Australia. <u>Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust. 86, March</u>, 1963.

ADDITIONAL DATA FILED IN THE

BUREAU OF MINERAL RESOURCES

The following additional data relating to Geltwood Beach No. 1, have been filed in the Bureau of Mineral Resources, Canberra, and are available for reference:

(i)	Well Completion I	Report, By R.A. Laws and J.B. Woolley	18 pp.
	Appendix 1a:	Description of cores, by J. Cundill	15 pp.
	Appendix 1b:	Petrography of cores, Report No. 1,	
		by A.W.G. Whittle	6 pp.
	Appendix 1c:		- 4.
		by A.W.G. Whittle	3 pp.
	Appendix 2a:	Stratigraphy and micropalaeontology,	
		by N.H. Ludbrook	5 pp. + 2 Pl.
	Appendix 2b:	Palynology, by W.K. Harris	7 pp. + 1 Pl.
	Appendix 3:	Report on drillstem tests	4 pp.
	Appendix 4a:	Gas analysis, by AMDL.	1 p.
	Appendix 4b:	Water analyses, by AMDL.	2 pp.
	Appendix 5:	Electric log results, by T.J. Starr	2 pp.
	Appendix 6:	Report on well velocity survey, by A. Yakunin	2 pp. + 4 Pl.
	Enclosures :	Stratigraphic columns before and after drilling	
		Cross sections through well before and after dri	lling
		Structure contour map on base of Gambier Lime	•
		Bouguer map of Geltwood Beach area	

(ii) Daily drilling reports for period 22nd August, 1963 to 13th November, 1963.

Isopach map of Knight Group sediments.

- (iii) Well logs including the following:
 - (a) Induction-Electric Log

Run 1, 100 - 1046 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 2, 1000 - 3324 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 3, 3325 - 7035 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 4, 6900 - 9641 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 5, 9550 - 12278 feet (1",5" = 100 ft)

(b) Contact-Caliper Log

Run 1, 1000 - 3326 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 2, 3324 - 7037 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 3, 7000 - 9551 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 4, 9550 - 12300 feet (1",5" = 100 ft)

(c) Acoustic Velocity Log

Run 1, 10 - 3322 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 2, 3226 - 12292 feet (1",5" = 100 ft)

(d) Gamma Ray Log

Run 1, 10 - 3322 feet (1",5" = 100 ft) Run 2, 3226 - 12292 feet (1",5" = 100 ft)

(e) Temperature Log

Run 1, 150 - 2584 feet (1",5" = 100 ft)

BP 244a

Part				GE	ELTWOOD BEACH	No. I			PLATE I SHEET 3
	TYPE DRILLING RATE CALLS RESERVOIR DETECTION	EPTH O Millivolt	INTERPRETED OLITHOLOGY	AM ₁ = 18" 50	0 50 0 AO = 18' 8"	Hole Diameter in Inches	Mícro lateral l½" O Mícro normal 2"	LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION	STRATIGRAPHIC COLUMN
200-400 haging all it was a higher a state that a state of the state o	DST.4 6039-6081 ISLS.4 5039-6081 ISLS.5,003-4,651.5 DST.5 46039-6081 ISLS.5,003-4,651.5	5000		My M	The state of the s	Many Many Many Mark Mark Mark Mark Mark Mark Mark Mark		Mudstone: green, grey, occasionally brown, moderately hard, brittle, very finely micaceous, slightly carbonaceous, occasionally silty, trace pyrite, occasional poorly preserved plant fragments. Clay: light greenish-grey, very soft, slightly silty, slightly micaceous, trace carbonaceous flecks, trace koalinite with white feldspars, silt stringer. Sandstone: light grey, occasionally green, very fine-medium grain, moderately hard, brittle, slightly calcareous, with sub-rounded grains of clear, orange & grey quartz, & white feldspars, in a kaolinitic matrix. Trace micaceous flakes. Rare traces porosity. Scattered dull gold fluorescence. No cut. Very minor Siltstone:-green-grey, moderately soft, kaplinitic, feldspathic slightly micaceous, occasionally slightly calcareous, track carbonaceous	
7000	HE SON FER 300 LENGTH TO SERVICE	5000		The first of the f	The way of the time of the tim			Mudstone: green, grey, brown, occasionally dark grey, soft to slightly hard, brittle, dense, silty, very finely micaceous, trace carbonaceous fragments a specks, occasionally slightly calcareous. Occasionally grades to Clay. Siltstone: light grey, greyish-green, occasionally brown, soft, coarse grain, clayey, feldspar composed of clear sub-rounded quartz a feldspars, carbonaceous material a occasionally micaceous flakes. Occasional coaly laminations. Sandstone: light grey, brown, occasionally green, fine occasionally medium grain, soft, friable, slightly calcareous, consists of sub-angular-sub-rounded, clear a grey quartz, white, pink a yellow feldspar, trace micaceous a carbonaceous material Rare trace pyrite. Tight, Scattered dull gold fluorescence. No	E FM.) CENOMANIAN — ALBIAN