

STRATIGRAPHY:

The position of the Bass basin with reference to the geology of Victoria, Tasmania and the flanking shallows is shown on the regional map, Fig. 1. The basin is mostly silled except for the upper 2,000 feet of sediments which spread to adjacent areas.

At the 2,000 foot contour the basin covers an area of about 10,200 square miles. containing a maximum of 13,000 feet of sediments. (Total Thickness, Fig. 17.)

Based on the seismic data the sedimentary section can be divided into four recognizable groups or units. In age they are in a general way referred to the overall Tertiary sequence as follows:

- Unit IV : upper Tertiary-Quaternary (Pliocene-Pleistocene)
- Unit III : upper Tertiary (Miocene-Pliocene)
- Unit II : middle Tertiary (Oligocene-Miocene)
- Unit I : lower Tertiary (Eocene)
- Basement: pre-Tertiary

The general tie-in with the Tertiary of the mainland was made through the upper 2,000 feet of sediments that cross the ridge separating Bass basin from Otway basin. It was thus possible to correlate broadly the upper part of Unit II with the Oligocene of the Anglesea wall.

Correlation of Lower Part of Section:

In the initial stage of the basin study it was believed that the lower part of the section (Unit I) represented sediments of uppermost Mesozoic and that these sediments were spread over an area larger than the present basin. They were, as the thought went, preserved under the basin as it subsided. The main reason for this assumption