Paipan Prospect T14P

The Paipan Prospect is a Top Eastern View trapdoor normal fault block on T14P, 10 km SE of Bass -1 (see Fig. 12).

Bass -1, the first well spudded in the Bass Basin (1965) had a reef as its target. The section was confirmed as Miocene volcanics but the well penetrated the Top Eastern View at 5930' and continued off structure, as a stratigraphic test to 7717'. As Fig. 12 indicates, Paipan is considerably up dip from Bass. This is further illustrated on seismic line BCS81-12 (Fig.13). Seismic line BCS81-5 (Fig. 14) intersects line 12 and runs NE over the crest of the trapdoor.

North of the high, the Top Eastern View is shown as forming a ridge at 1500 msec. This ridge is a velocity anomaly of some 40-50 msec caused by the Miocene volcanics. Thus the closure is some 60 msec from 1480 to 1540 msecs which is of the order of 300'.

Growth faults can be seen on line 5 (Fig. 4) and it is felt that these faults would form condults for vertical migration of oil from the Upper Cretaceous to the Top Eastern View. The geochemical results from Bass -2 to the SE support the generative capacity of the Upper Cretaceous. Further, the section of the Upper Eastern View from which oil was recovered in Cormorant to the NW is buried some 300 msec deeper which allows for significant Eocene generation at Paipan.

BHP shot a survey in 1973 which identified the crest of the feature but which missed the high as it extends to the south. The 1981 shooting by Cue confirmed the geometry of the feature and the 1982 shooting has detailed the prospect to the present drillable status.

The most significant aspect of the prospect is that if drilled, it would be the first Top Eastern trap which would hold up under close scrutiny. This is somewhat incredible since, if it is the next well drilled, it will be the 19th in the basin and yet the first to validly test the Top Latrobe equivalent.