Rept. Bk. No. 80/116

MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY OF THE FROME EMBAYMENT

Ву

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FOSSIL FUELS SECTION

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### MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY OF THE FROME EMBAYMENT

#### **ABSTRACT**

Mesozoic rocks in the Frome Embayment were deposited in a southern lobe of the Eromanga Basin. The basal Algebuckina Sandstone (Jurassic) consists predominantly of coarse-grained fluviatile deposits with a subordinate fine-grained facies of lacustrine origin. An overlying transgressive Cretaceous sequence is comprised of marginal marine siltstones and shales of the Cadna-owie Formation which grade upwards into marine shales and siltstones of the Bulldog Shale.

To the north, in the area of the southwestern Cooper Basin, a different nomenclature is applied to the Mesozoic sequence, which is considerably thicker than that in the Frome Embayment. Lower Jurassic Hutton Sandstone and Birkhead Formation have been tentatively identified in several drill holes. The Algebuckina Sandstone equivalent (Mooga Formation) consists of the Namur Member, which is predominantly sandstone, overlain by fine-grained siltstones and shales of the Murta Member. The Transition Beds, equivalent to the Cadna-owie Formation, are overlain by marine shales of the Tambo and Roma formations. Thes units are readily correlated by gamma-ray logs from wells in the area. To the east, in Fortville 3, the Mesozoic section is much reduced: the Murta Member is absent and the Mooga Formation is composed mainly of sandstone.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

This study deals with the Mesozoic stratigraphy of the Frome Embayment (Fig. 1), which is that area bounded by the Flinders Ranges to the west, the Barrier Ranges to the east and a range of low hills from Scott Hill to Mundaerno Hill

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ı	DRN M.R. C	PILED		For location of wells	A to			SLE 1 DATA	•	
	R CKD  A 11.80	A J. Truelove		n of we	DRILLHOLE	PETROPHYSICS	CUTTINGS	CORE	REFERENCE	SPONSOR
	- VELL DATA	MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY-FROME EMBAYMENT	RTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA	see plan no. 80-182 (Fig.1)	Arboola Bore Black Oak Bore Bumbarlow 1 Cherri 1 Cootabarlow 2 Cootabarlow 3 Fortville 3 Gurra 1 Kumbarie 1 Lake Frome 1 Lake Frome 2 Lake Frome 3 Lakeside Mudguard 1 Muloowurtina 2	Gamma, neutron Gamma, sonic.  Gamma, resistivity, S.P. Gamma, sonic Gamma, sonic Gamma Gamma, sonic, resistivity Gamma, neutron, resistivity.	Incomplete Yes Yes Yes Incomplete Yes Incomplete Yes Yes Yes Yes Incomplete Yes No No	Incomplete No No No - No No	Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 d). Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 b) Delhi Petroleum (1968 a)  "  Kerr (1966) Youngs (1977) Callen (1970 a)	E.& W.S. E.& W.S. Dept. Mines and Energy Pexa Oil N.L. Enterprise Exploration  " Dept. Mines and Energy Pexa Oil N.L.  " Delhi Australia Petroleum Ltd.  " Enterprise Exploration Dept. Mines and Energy E.& W.S.
	PLAN NUMBER S 14696	DATE Feb. 1980	SCALE	TABLE	Poontana Tinga Tingana 1 Weena 1 Yalkalpo 1	Gamma, sonic. Gamma, sonic. Gamma, neutron, resistivity, S.P.	Yes Yes Yes Yes	No No No Yes	Callen (1970 b) Delhi Petroleum (1968 b) Pexa Oil N.L. (1970 c) Callen (1972)	Delhi Australia Petroleum Lid. Pexa Oil N.L. Dept. Mines and Energy
	96	80		[ ]	Yalkalpo 2	Gamma, neutron.	Yes	No	Youngs (1977)	n

in the south (Ker, 1966). An arbitrary northern limit runs from Moolawatana Station to the Cooranna bore. The Mesozoic sequence underlying this area constitutes what is, essentially, a southern lobe of the Eromanga Basin.

In the South Australian portion of this region outcrop is meagre, being restricted to the northeastern margin of the Mount Painter Block (Fig. 1). However numerous water bores and a number of oil exploration and stratigraphic wells have penetrated the Mesozoic sequence. Table 1 summarises drill holes examined and relevant data available from each.

Drill holes examined from the southwestern portion of the Cooper Basin (Cherri 1, Curra 1, Weena 1, Tinga-Tingana 1, and Kumbarie 1) provide a link between the Frome Embayment and the Cooper Basin region and correlations between the two areas are attempted in this report. However a lack of petrophysical and palaeontological data, especially in the Frome Embayment wells, makes correlations questionable. For similar reasons correlations between wells within the Frome Embayment should be regarded with caution even though some of the lithological subdivisions appear to be consistent over the area.

Despite these reservations, it is important to attempt to trace basinward the Mesozoic sequences of the Frome Embayment, since these thicken dramatically to the north in the Cooper Basin region and have considerable hydrocarbon bearing potential.

#### 2. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Study of the Mesozoic sequence in the Frome Embayment has been very limited. Whittle and Chebotarev (1952) attempted the

correlation of wells drilled by Enterprise Exploration

Ltd. with wells drilled farther north. Brown (1950, 1953) and

Ludbrook (1962, 1966) studied the biostratigraphy of Cretaceous

sediments in this region. Palynological studies of the

Cretaceous sequence were conducted by Dettman (1963) and Dettman

and Playford (1969). Ker (1966) incorporated in a

hydrological study of the area descriptions of cuttings from

many of the wells and also attempted some regional correlations.

The regional geology of the area is described by Callen (1976), and some uncompiled core and cuttings descriptions by the same author (Yalkalpo 1, Muloowurtina and Poontana) are used in this report. The Mesozoic sequences in Yalkalpo 2, Mudguard 1 and Bumbarlow 1 are described by Youngs (1977, 1978). Similarly well completion reports are available for Lake Frome nos. 1, 2 & 3 (Delhi, 1968a), Cherri 1 (Pexa, 1970a), Gurra 1 (Pexa, 1970d), Kumbarie 1 (Pexa, 1970b), Weena 1 (Pexa, 1970c) and Tinga Tingana 1 (Delhi, 1968b).

#### 3. STRATIGRAPHY

Stratigraphic nomenclature in the western and south-western Eromanga Basin is summarised in Table 2.

The most commonly cited Mesozoic formations in the South Australian Eromanga Basin are in the Oodnadatta area, where the Jurassic-Cretaceous sequence consists of the basal Algebuckina Sandstone, Cadna-owie Formation and Mount Anna Sandstone Member (Wopfner et al., 1970). To the south, in the Moolawatana area, a different stratigraphic nomenclature was proposed by Ludbrook (1966) and Forbes (1966). The sequence there consists of the basal Village Well Formation, overlain by the Pelican Well

OODNADATTA AREA	MARREE AREA	MOOLAWATANA AREA	SOUTHERN COOPER BASIN WELLS
WINTON FORMATION	BLANCHEWATER FORMATION	BLANCHEWATER FORMATION	WINTON FORMATION
OODNADATTA FORMATION Wooldridge mestone Mbr. Coorikiana Sandstone Mbr.	MARREE Attraction Hill Sandstone Member	MARRÉE	TAMBO FORMATION
BULLDOG SHALE	FORMATION Trinity Well	FORMATION	ROMA FORMATION
CADNA-OWIE	Sandstone Member PELICAN	Parabarana Sandstone PELICAN	-Seismic C Horizon -
FORMATION  Mount  Anna	WELL	WELL	TRANSITION
Sandstone Member	FORMATION	FORMATION	BEDS
ALGEBUCKINA	VILLAGE	VILLAGE	Murta MOOGA Member
SANDSTONE	WELL FORMATION	FORMATION	FORMATION Namur Member
			TABLI

	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SCALE.		
COMPILED: A.J. Truelove		DATE:	March	1980
DRN: M.R. CKD:	LITHOSTRATIGRAPHIC CORRELATION OF ROCK UNITS BETWEEN WESTERN AND SOUTHERN MARGIN OF	PLAN P	NUMBER	
B 4-11.80	GREAT ARTESIAN BASIN	S	146	98

Formation which includes the Parabarana Sandstone Member. Despite the proximity of the Moolawatana area to the Frome Embayment, previous workers have adopted the nomenclature of Wopfner et al. (1970) for the basal Mesozoic sandstones and used the name Marree Formation (after Forbes, 1966) for the overlying Cretaceous shale sequence. To avoid confusion, this report will adopt the same approach. The nomenclature applied to wells on the margin of the Cooper Basin is the same as that used by Delhi-Santos and Pexa Oil (Tables 2 and 3); the Mooga Formation (Algebuckina Sandstone equivalent) is subdivided into a lower Namur Member and an upper Murta The overlying Transition Beds are considered to be Member. Cadna-owie Formation equivalents and the Tambo and Roma formations are questionable correlatives of the Marree The Birkhead Formation and the Hutton Sandstone, Formation. underlying the Mooga Formation, are not represented in the Frome Embayment area. Within the Eromanga Basin sequence a widely recognised seismic reflector, the "C-Horizon," occurs near the top of the Transition Beds (Cadna-owie Formation).

The most thoroughly studied section in the Frome Embayment is in Yalkalpo 1, which was fully cored through the Mesozoic sequence and has supplementary palaeontological and petrophysical data (Callen, 1972). Yalkalpo 1 is regarded as a central reference section in the Frome Embayment. Cuttings and core descriptions from this well are included in Appendices A and B respectively. Figure 2 summarises regional relationships between Mesozoic rock units in the Frome Embayment, and Table 4 summarises Mesozoic formation tops penetrated in Frome Embayment wells.

# TABLE 3 STRATIGRAPHIC TABLE

	<u> </u>	FROME EMBAYMENT	C001	PER BASIN WELLS (S.E. Margin)
CRETACEOUS	MARREE FORMATION	Grey and blue claystone, carbonaceous and occasionally silty.	ROMA AND TAMBO FORMATIONS	Grey and blue shale with minor sandstone and limestone
CRETA	CADNA-OWIE FORMATION	Grey and blue pebbly claystone and siltstone, often carbonaceous and occasionally sandy and calcareous.	TRANSITION BEDS	Grey shale with interbedded siltstone and very fine to medium grained sandstone
	SANDSTONE	Coarse to very coarse grained quartz sandstone and/or blue and grey pebbly shales and mudstones.	FORMATION	Interbedded siltstone and shale and very fine grained sandstone
JURASSIC	ALGEBUCKINA S	muuojones.	MODGA FOR Namur Member	Coarse grained quartz sandstone with minor interbeds of siltstone and shale.
UL.			BIRKHEAD FORMATION	Grey carbonaceous shale
			HUTTON SANDSTONE	Massive coarse grained sandstone.

### TABLE 3

	DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND ENERGY SOUTH AUSTRALIA	SCALE
COMPILED A.J. Trueloye	MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHY - FROME EMBAYMENT	DATE Feb. 1980
DRN M.R. CKD	STRATIGRAPHIC TABLE	PLAN NUMBER S 14697

#### Yalkalpo 1

Callen (1972) placed the top of the Mesozoic sequence at 81.7 m, where coarse grained Tertiary sandstones are in sharp contact with carbonaceous siltstones and claystones of the Marree Formation.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation, at 160 m, is picked at the beginning of a gradual downwards increase in the gamma-ray and neutron log counts. A downwards increase in the pebble content of the claystone is the only discernible lithological change.

The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone, at 200.9 m, is marked by a downwards grainsize change from very fine-grained sandstone to claystone, and a sharp decrease in mica content. A basal conglomerate within the Algebuckina Sandstone disconformably overlies green and red Cambrian shales at 216.8 m.

#### Yalkalpo 2

The sequence here is similar to that in Yalkalpo 1.

The top of the Marree Formation occurs at 66 m, where there is a lithologic change downward from coarse sandstone to silty mudstone, with an associated slight increase in the gammaray log counts and a large decrease in the neutron log counts, as was found in Yalkalpo 1.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is at 156 m and is best characterised by the increased gamma-ray/neutron log responses; it also coincides with a downward increase in pebble content. A sharp decrease in mica content at 216 m by analogy with Yalkalpo 1 indicates the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone; this contact also can be picked from the gamma-ray/neutron logs. No other obvious lithologic changes are evident across this contact. It should be noted that the above subdivisions differ from those of Youngs (1977).

TABLE 4 MESOZOIC FORMATION TOPS, FROME EMBAYMENT WELLS

Measured depths are below well datum.

Depths in brackets are subsea depths, in metres

NR = not reached

WELL	TOP MARREE FMN	TOP CADNA-OWIE FMN	TOP ALGEBUCKINA	BASE OF MESOZOIC
Yalkalpo No. 1	81.7m	160m	200.9m	216.8m
	(-40m)	(-118m)	(-158-9m)	(-174.8m)
Yalkalpo No. 2	66m	156m	216m	258m
	(-16m)	(-106m)	(-166m)	(-208m)
Mudguard No. 1	99m	148m	?187m	194m
	(-57m)	(-105.9m)	(-144.9m)	(-151.9m)
Arboola	450'	748'	1060'	NR
	(-107m)	(-198m)	(-293m)	(
Lakeside Bore	?600¹	?750'	1010 <b>'</b>	1073 <b>'</b>
	(-142m)	(-188m)	(-267m)	(-287m)
Black Oak Bore	280' (-62m)	390 <b>'</b> (-95m)	ABSENT?	448' (-113m)
Lake Frome 1	460' (-134m)	?	ABSENT	610' (=180m)
Lake Frome 2	410' (-123m)	ABSENT	ABSENT	530' (-160m)
Lake Frome 3	ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT	
Bumbarlow 1	192m	261m	357m	402m
	(-161m)	(-230m)	(-326m)	(-371m)
Cootabarlow 3	540'	900'	1230'	1375'
	(-135m)	(-244m)	(-345m)	(-389m)
Cootabarlow 2	600'	1250'	1470'	1615'
	(-153m)	(-351m)	(-418m)	(-462m)
Cootabarlow 1	180m (-150m)	363m (-333m)	NR	
Mulloowurtina 2	?555 <b>'</b> (-155m)	?1360' (-400m)	NR? (-400m)	
Poontana 1	1070' (-308m)	1440' (-421m)	1632' (-480m)	NR

#### Mudguard 1

Cuttings from the Mesozoic sequence originally logged by Youngs (1977) are unavailable for inspection, and the petrophysics proved difficult to interpret. Therefore Youngs' (1977) interpretation is tentatively accepted for this report.

#### Arboola Bore

Subdivision of the Mesozoic sequence proved difficult, due to the irregular collection of cuttings samples and the absence of any petrophysics. The interpreted formation boundaries therefore should be considered as tentative.

The top of the Marree Formation occurs at 450 ft, where a coarse sandstone is underlain by grey silty shales. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation could not be discerned from the cuttings. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is placed tentatively at 1060 ft, where there is a marked lithologic change downward from grey silty mudstone to coarse-grained quartz sandstone. Cuttings were not collected to the base of the Mesozoic.

#### Lakeside Bore

Cuttings were collected at irregular intervals and no electric logs were run. In the present interpretation, the top of the Marree Formation is tentatively placed at 600 ft and the top of the Cadna-owie Formation probably occurs at about 750 ft, where the granule component of the claystones increases. A change from mudstone to coarse-grained sandstone at 1010 ft is considered to mark the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone. This interpretation differs from that

of Ker (1966). The base of the Mesozoic sequence is placed tentatively at 1073 ft.

#### Black Oak Bore

No petrophysical logs are available for this well. The top of the Marree Formation is picked at 280 ft on the basis of a downward lithology change from coarse-grained sandstone to siltstone and mudstone.

It is difficult to pick the top of the Cadna-owie Formation. Although Ker (1966) placed this boundary at 360 ft, where there is a significant downward increase in sandstone content, the overall downward increase in grain size appears to be gradational. A gravel component becomes significant at 390 ft and, by comparison with surrounding wells, this appears to be a better criterion for defining the formation boundary.

At a depth of 448 ft silty sandstones disconformably overlie red and green Cambrian shales. There is no evidence of the Algebuckina Sandstone: it probably wedges out in the vicinity of this well (Fig. 2).

#### Lake Frome 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 460 ft on the basis of a downward lithological change from sandstone to shale which is reflected on the gamma-ray log; note that this interpretation differs from that in the well completion report (Delhi, 1968a). The base of the Mesozoic sequence occurs at 610 ft where there is a sharp gamma-ray and sonic log response.

A thin Cadna-owie Formation may occur near the base but there is no evidence of Algebuckina Sandstone, suggesting that this formation wedges out near Black Oak Bore.

#### Lake Frome 2

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 410 ft on the basis of gamma-ray and sonic log character. The base of this sequence is placed at 530 ft where there is a sharp break in the sonic, gamma-ray and resistivity logs. There is no evidence of Cadna-owie Formation or Algebuckina Sandstone.

#### Lake Frome 3

Mesozoic sediments are interpreted to be absent in the well completion report (Delhi, 1968a), but a comparison of gamma-ray logs with those from Lake Frome 2 indicates there may be a ten to twenty feet thickness of Mesozoic strata. Both these interpretations show that the Mesozoic sequence is wedging out in the vicinity of the well.

#### Bumbarlow 1

In this well the top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 192 m on the basis of a downward lithology change from coarse sandstone to mudstone and an associated downward increase in gamma-ray readings.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed at 261 m mainly on the basis of increased gamma-ray log counts. Lithological changes include an increase in the pebble content and a decrease in mica content downwards across the boundary.

The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone occurs at 357 m with a marked decrease in the mica content. A basal conglomerate disconformably overlies red and green Cambrian shales at 402 m.

#### Cootabarlow 3

Cuttings from this hole were available only between 600 and 980 ft, and Ker's (1966) descriptions are used here to determine stratigraphic picks, which must be regarded with caution. No petrophysical logs are available.

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 540 ft where the lithology changes downward from a coarse lignitic sand to a bluish mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 900 ft on the basis of an increase in pebble content of the mudstone. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is difficult to define due to lack of information; provisionally the boundary is placed at 1230 ft where the first sandstone occurs. The interpreted base of the Mesozoic sequence is 1375 ft (Ker, 1966). Cootabarlow 2

The top of the Marree Formation is placed at 600 ft on the basis of a sharp change from sandstone to mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 1250 ft and is denoted by a downwards increase in pebble content. The basal Cadna-owie Formation consists of calcareous, sandy to silty mudstones with hard quartzitic interbeds and may be an equivalent of the Parabarana Sandstone. There is a sharp decrease in mica content at 1470 ft where the lithology changes from mudstone to conglomeratic sandstone; the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone may be placed here with some certainty.

The base of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 1615 ft by Ker (1966).

#### Cootabarlow 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 180 m at a change in lithology from lignitic sandstone to sandy mudstone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 363 m on the basis of an increased pebble content at this depth. Cuttings are not available to the base of the Cadna-owie Formation. Overall, the formation boundaries correlate very well with the nearby Cootabarlow 2 well.

#### Muloowurtina 2

No cuttings or petrophysical logs were available from this well, and the following interpretation is based on a preliminary wellsite litho-log compiled by R.A. Callen in 1970 (pers. comm., Jan 1980) which is referenced on the FROME 1: 250 000 sheet (Callen, 1976).

The top of the Mesozoic sequence is placed at 540 ft where the lithology changes from sandstone to claystone. The top of the Cadna-owie Formation could not be defined. The basal unit in the well consists of calcareous, micaceous sandstones and siltstones with abundant granules, and may be an equivalent of the Parabarana Sandstone. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone was not penetrated.

#### Poontana 1

The top of the Mesozoic sequence occurs at about 1070 ft where the lithology changes from sandstone to mudstone.

The top of the Cadna-owie Formation is placed tentatively at 1440 ft on the basis of a slight increase in grain size and granule component. The top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is placed at 1632 ft on the basis of a lithology change from shale to sandstone. The base of the Mesozoic sequence was not penetrated.

#### Cooper Basin Wells

The six wells located near the southern margin of the Cooper Basin (Fig.3) penetrated a sequence transitional between the marginal Frome Embayment area and the thicker Eromanga Basin sequences to the north (Fig. 4). The nomenclature adopted in this area differs from that in the Frome Embayment (Tables 2 and 3). However, the Murta Member of the Mooga Formation, previously identified in only three of these wells, is identified herein in all wells. The lateral extent of the Murta Member is unknown, but it appears to wedge out southward towards the Frome Embayment, where it is known to be absent (Fig. 4).

Underlying the Mooga Formation (Namur Member) in most wells is a shale-to-siltstone interval that possibly represents a reduced section of the Birkhead Formation. An interval of sandstone underlying this unit is considered equivalent to the Hutton Sandstone (Fig. 3).

#### 4. DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS

The general lack of core and the tentative nature of some stratigraphic interpretations constrains any environmental interpretation of the studied sequences. The few available cores (Yalkalpo 1; Fortville 3) have proved invaluable in this respect; they are described in "Selley"-type logs in Appendix A.

Examination of cuttings indicates that the Algebuckina Sandstone in the Frome Embayment normally is comprised of coarse to very coarse-grained, subangular to subrounded, ferruginous quartz sandstone with a basal conglomerate.

Sandstones overlying the basal conglomerate probably represent braided stream deposits; the red colouration of many of the sandstones is in keeping with subaerial deposition.

In several wells the basal Algebuckina Formation conglomerate is overlain by grey shales (Yalkalpo 1 and 2; Bumbarlow 1). These fine grained sediments suggest low energy, lacustrine deposition, probably in a localised depression. Reddish conglomerates which underlie the shales probably are alluvial fanglomerates.

The Algebuckina Sandstone thickens basinward, where it is correlated with the Mooga Formation (Fig. 4). The Namur Member of this formation consists mainly of braided stream channel deposits with a minor overbank facies component, whereas the Murta Member is consistently fine-grained and probably represents lacustrine and lacustrine fan-delta deposits.

In the Frome Embayment the Cadna-owie and Marree formations and their respective equivalents are very difficult to distinguish, being very fine-grained. The Cadna-owie Formation generally tends to be slightly coarser-grained with minor glauconite, some lignite, and rare calcareous concretions. In addition the sediments are in part bioturbated, and crustacean and brachiopod fossils occur near the top. The environment of deposition of this formation and the Transition Beds (its northern equivalent) is uncertain but may generally be marginally marine. The formation does not thicken markedly basinward.

In the Frome Embayment the Marree Formation consists of interbedded and bioturbated siltstones and shales with minor glauconite, lignite and marine fossils, all of which indicate a shallow marine environment of deposition. This

formation thickens considerably basinward, where it is correlated with the Roma and Tambo formations.

Towards the southwestern margin of the Frome Embayment, shales of the Marree and Cadna-owie formations grade laterally into siltstones and fine-grained, well-sorted, rounded to very rounded quartz sandstones which may, in part, represent shoreline deposits.

The Mesozoic section in Fortville 3, whose locality is shown in Fig. 1, is similar in many respects to the basin-margin sequences encountered in the Frome Embayment. A log of sedimentary structures from cores in the Transition Beds and Mooga Formation in Fortville 3 is presented in Appendix A. The Transition Beds consist of a series of bioturbated siltstones and mudstones with flaser bedding and cross-laminations, plus slump structures and other soft-sediment deformation. These characteristics, in addition to the occasional presence of red beds, may indicate an intertidal-supratidal environment, consistent with interpretations of the sequence in the Frome Embayment.

A core through the Mooga Formation in Fortville 3 (Appendix A) is composed of medium to very coarse-grained, ferruginous, subrounded quartz sandstones with cross-bedding (individual set sizes average about 1 ft) and minor fining- and coarsening-upward cycles. The sandstones probably were deposited in a braided stream environment.

#### 5. CONCLUSIONS

The Algebuckina Sandstone, Cadna-owie Formation and Marree Formation comprise the Mesozoic sequence in the Frome Embayment. The prime reference section is a fully cored sequence in Yalkalpo 1, for which palynology and petrophysical logs are available.

The Cadna-owie Formation appears to grade upwards into the Marree Formation, the contact being denoted by a general downward increase in values on the the gamma-ray log.

In addition the Cadna-owie Formation is often characterized by a higher pebble content. In some wells in the northern portion of the Frome Embayment, the basal unit of the Cadna-owie Formation consists of calcareous sandstones and siltstones which may equate with the Parabarana Sandstone. Marginal marine conditions predominated during deposition of the Cadna-owie Formation, and shales and siltstones of the overlying Marree Formation and equivalents were deposited in a shallow sea.

In the Frome Embayment the top of the Algebuckina Sandstone is generally marked by a pronounced downward decrease in mica content which may partly be reflected on the gamma-ray logs; a change in source area probably is responsible.

Coarse-grained sandstones deposited by braided streams predominate, although locally fine-grained (?lacustrine) facies are recognised.

In the area of the southwestern Cooper Basin the Algebuckina Sandstone is correlated with the Mooga Formation, consisting of the Namur and Murta members. These members are readily distinguishable on petrophysical logs.

The equivalent of the Cadna-owie Formation in this area, the Transition Beds, does not display significant basinward thickening, suggesting that low basinward gradients existed subsequent to deposition of the Mooga Formation.

Hence these Transition Beds, which probably are of

marginal-marine origin, probably were deposited during a relatively rapid transgression in a time of minor but reasonably uniform basin subsidence. However, epeirogenic movements may have been renewed during deposition of the shallow-marine sediments of the Roma and Tambo formations, which are considerably thicker than the equivalent Marree Formation of the southern basin margin.

#### 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AJT:AF

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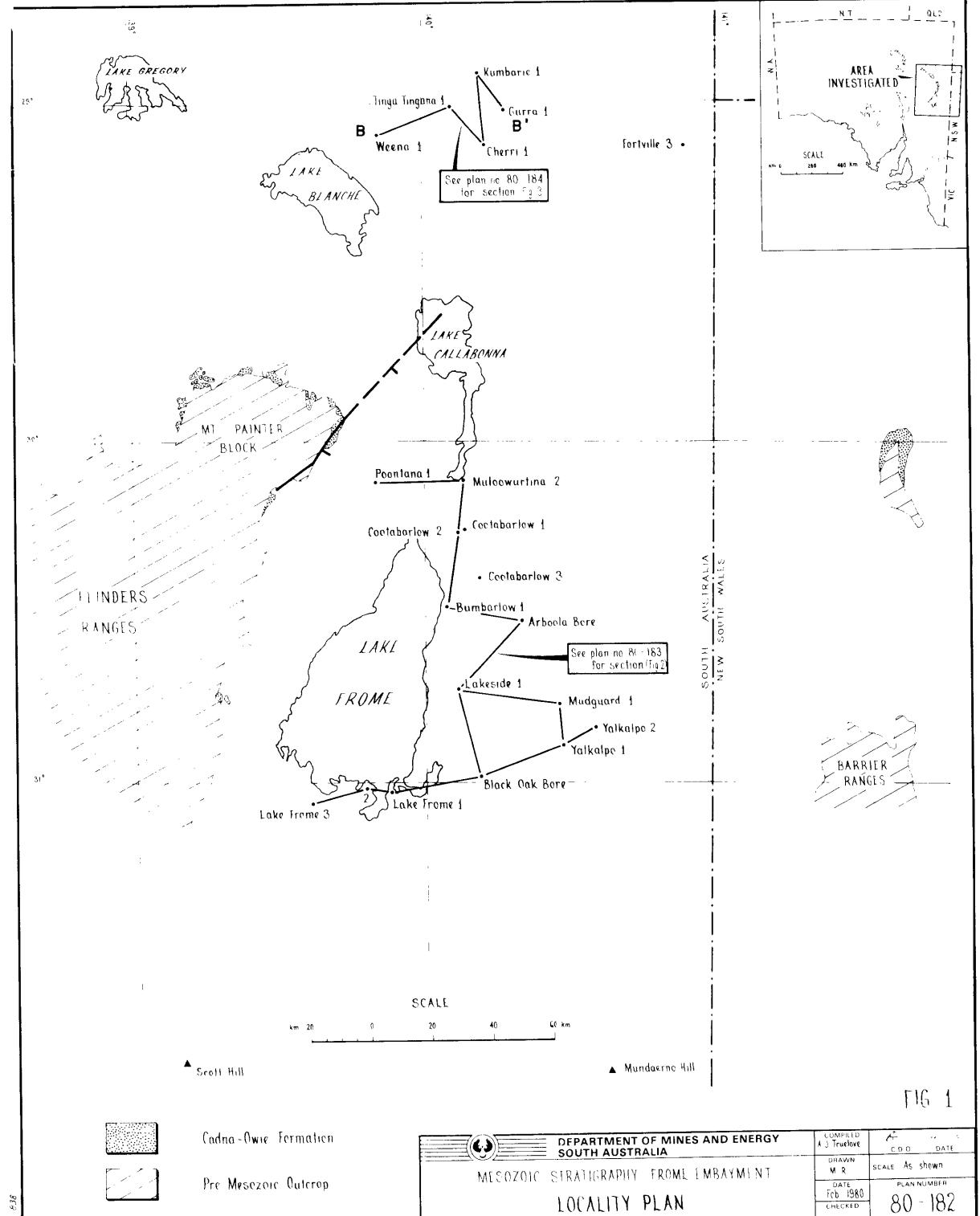
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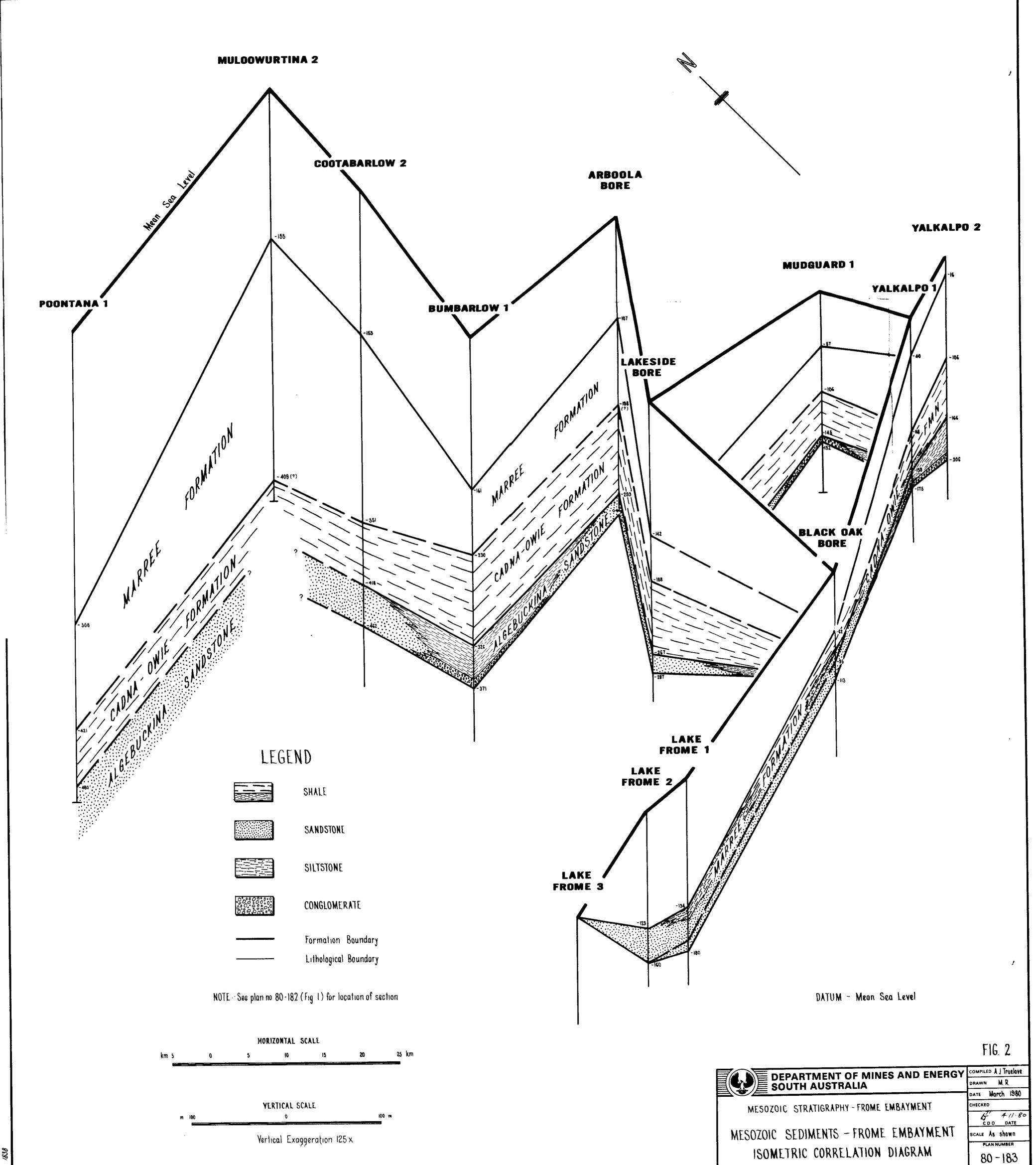
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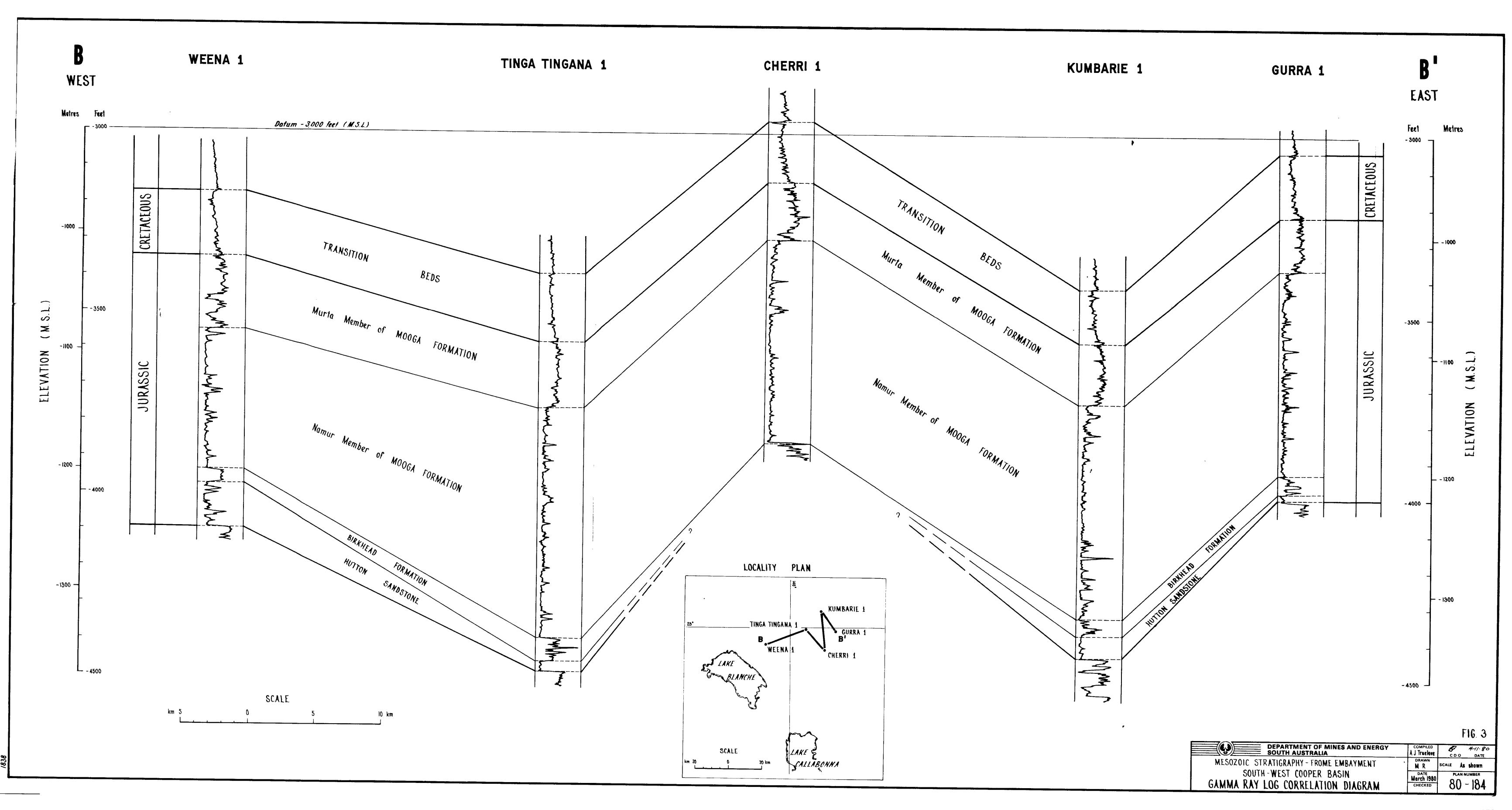
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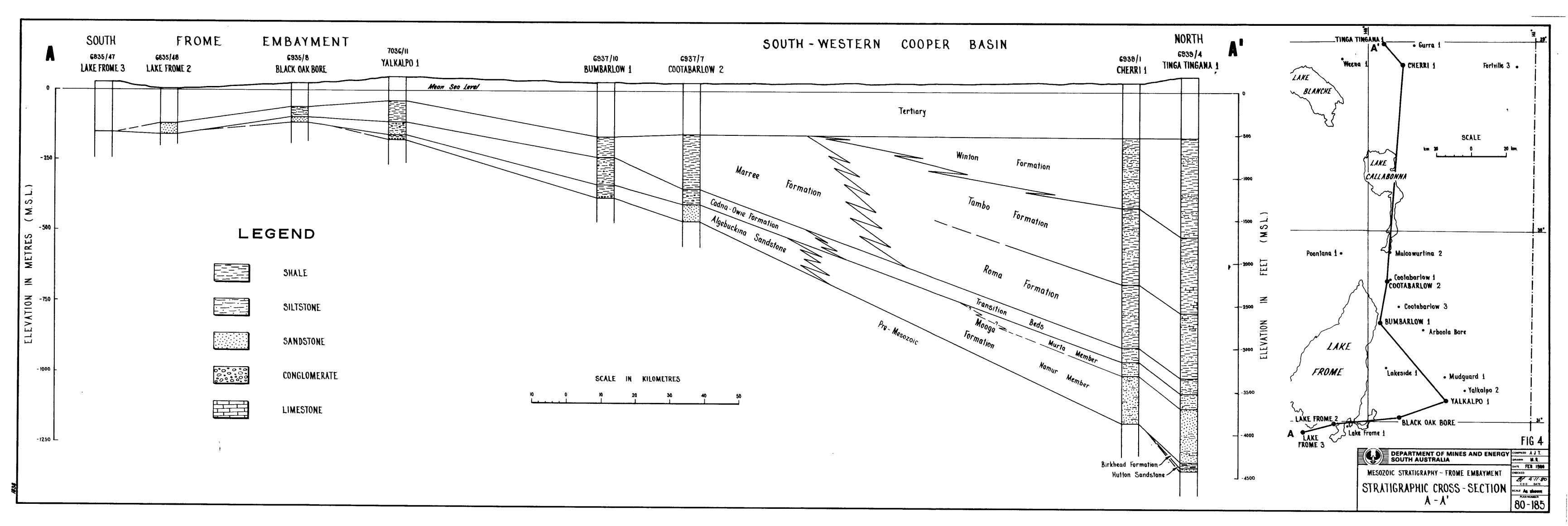
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#### APPENDIX A

Yalkalpo 1 - Log of core
by R.A. CALLEN

Fortville 3 Log of core
by A.J. TRUELOVE

Yalka po I

HOLE M. YALKALPO BORE LOG PROJECT CAINOZOIC
PROJECT SADM Strotigrephs drilling project
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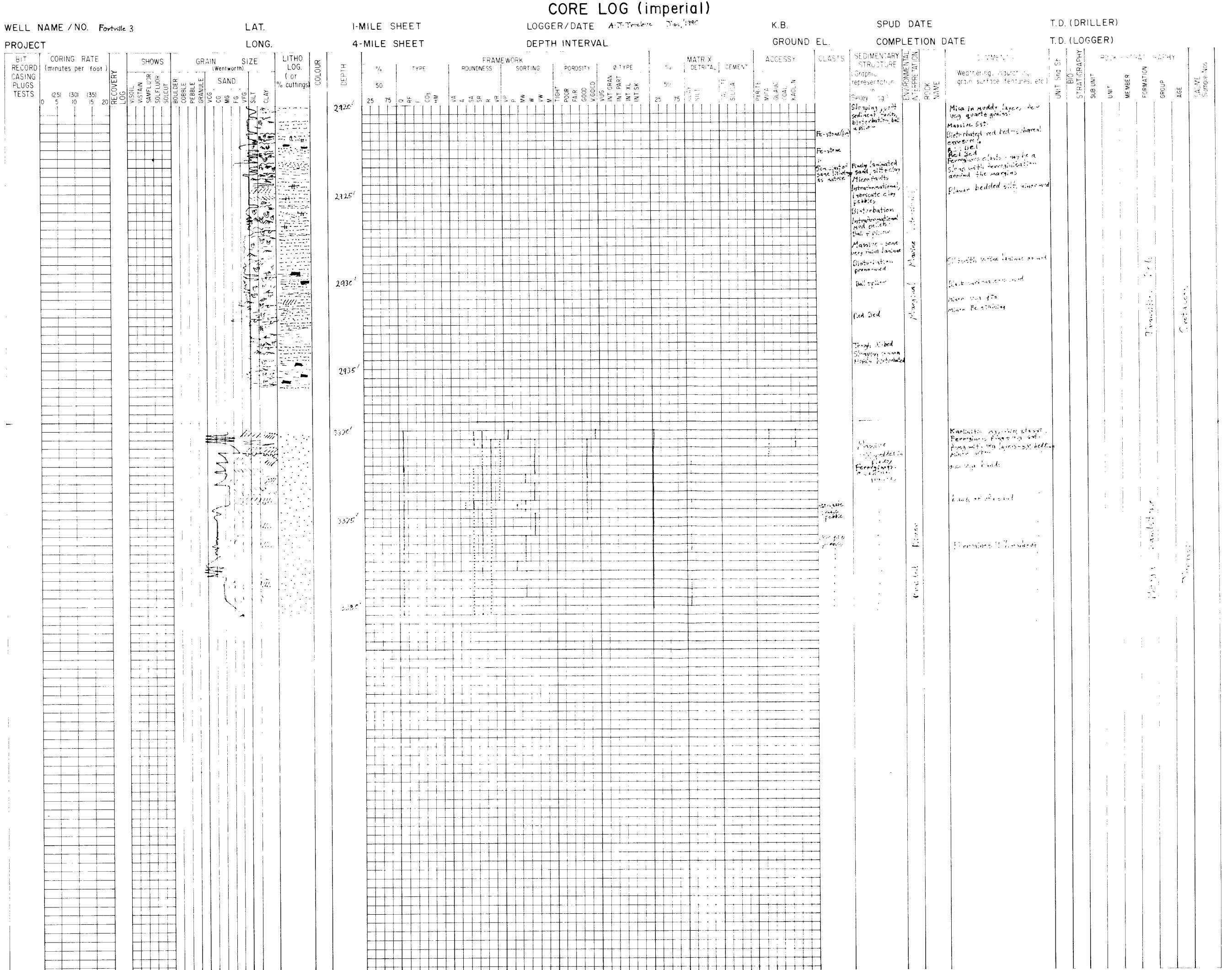
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#### APPENDIX B

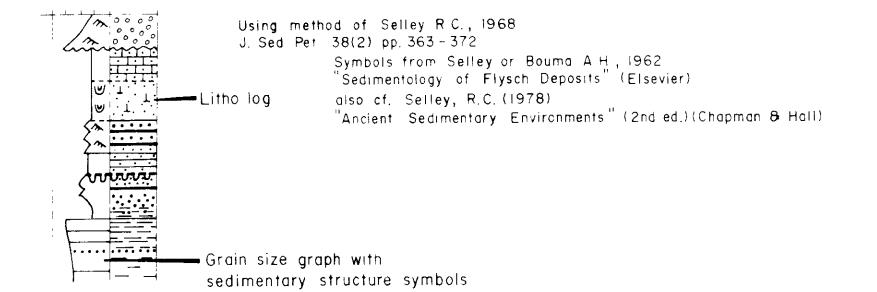
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by A.J. TRUELOVE







Colour use the G.S.A. Rock Colour Chart based or the Munce. System

Sedimentary Structures use column for written details, place symbol in grain size column

Framework Type Q = quartz RF = rock fragments F = feldspar .C3 = rarborate HM = heavy m = era s

Roundness using Power's scale

VA = very angular = A = argular = SA = sub angular = SR = sub-rounded = R = rounded = VR = very rounded

Sorting based on Folk, R (1968) "Petrology of Sedimentary Rocks" (Hemphili's) pp 103-105-VR=very poor P=poor MW. = moderately well. W= well-sorted. VW= very well-sorted. M=modal-sorting.

Porosity Type, state whether pores are interconnected or not,

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