

Foreword


These last two issues of *Terra Antarctica* (numbers 3 and 4 of volume 8) present 46 papers on the scientific results for the CRP-3 drillhole, which in late 1999 completed the coring of the western margin of the Victoria Land Basin in the western Ross Sea. These issues also complete a series of Initial and Scientific Reports on the three holes drilled by the Cape Roberts Project, a collaborative multinational venture by the Antarctic programmes of Australia, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, The Netherlands, UK and USA.

The project has successfully overcome some major technical challenges to yield continuous core through a 1500-m-thick basin margin sequence, thus providing a record of climatic and tectonic history for this high latitude rift margin site for the period from *c.* 34 to 17 Ma (Davey et al., 2001). The results reported here, however, are primarily for the oldest but thickest part of this sequence, and for the Devonian basin floor beneath. They include a wealth of analytical data from geophysical surveys, physical properties measurements, down-hole logging, visual core observations of both depositional and post-depositional features, textural analyses, palaeontological studies of many fossil groups (siliceous, calcareous and organic as well as marine and non-marine), petrological, chemical and mineralogical analyses and palaeomagnetic measurements. They also include some further analytical data from the previously drilled holes.

Most of these data have been shared by over 60 scientists at a Workshop on the CRP-3 drillhole convened by Professor Peter-N. Webb at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, from 5 to 9 September 2000. Discussions there reflected, unsurprisingly, a wide range of views. The approach for this volume has been to try and ensure the accuracy and consistency of the data presented, and a reflection of the broad agreement in what we have achieved, but the reader should be aware that there are still unresolved differences in interpretation in several areas – *e.g.* concerning the depositional environment and the chronology for the lower part of CRP-3. Undoubtedly, these differences will be reduced with further work over the next few years.

We wish to take this opportunity of thanking the authors and the reviewers for their contribution to the substance and quality of these and the earlier Cape Roberts volumes, which provide a firm foundation for further research into the Cenozoic climatic and tectonic history and processes of this part of the Antarctic margin. We are also very grateful to our co-editors for their time and effort in ensuring a high standard of reporting, and to Jacqueline Müller, editorial assistant for *Terra Antarctica*, for her capable management of the editorial, layout and production process.

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REFERENCE

- Davey F.J., Barrett P.J., Cita M.B., van der Meer J.J.M., Tessensohn F., Thomson M.R.A., Webb P.-N. & Woolfe K.J. 2001. Drilling for Antarctic Cenozoic Climate and Tectonic History at Cape Roberts, Southwestern Ross Sea. *EOS*, **82**, 585, 589-590.