

# PETROLEUM GEOLOGISCHE KRING

KONINKLIJK NEDERLANDS GEOLOGISCH MINBOUWKUNDIG GENOOTSCHAP



<b>Secretary:</b>	Frank van den Belt Panterra Geoconsultants BV Veerpolder 5, 2361KX	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mat De Jong 023-5322645
Phone / Fax:	Warmond	Fax:	023-5517044
E-mail:	071-5226211 (evening) <a href="mailto:secretary@pgknet.nl">secretary@pgknet.nl</a>	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:mat_de_jong@planet.nl">mat_de_jong@planet.nl</a>
<b>Venue:</b>	PGK's monthly lectures are held at the KIVI building, Prinsessegracht 23, Den Haag. Drinks are served from 5 PM; the lecture starts at 6 PM.	<a href="http://www.pgknet.nl">www.pgknet.nl</a>	
<b>Membership:</b>	Apply for membership by contacting the secretariat. Annual dues: Fl 30,- (2002: Euro 15,-)		
<b>Accounts:</b>	VSB Bank: 88 65 82 733 (PGK, Haarlem)	Postbank: 4074482 (PGK, Haarlem)	

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### 19 DECEMBER: MONTHLY MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 December 2001. Drinks are served between 17:00 and 18:00 hrs. At 18:00 hrs. a **lecture** will be given by Michele Claps from AgipKCO. Following the lecture members and sponsors are invited to stay for the **annual buffet** (register!, details below).

### **“THE CAPE ROBERTS PROJECT: THE PAST HISTORY OF ANTARCTIC CLIMATE AND THE CHALLENGE OF CORING IN THE ICE CONTINENT”**

#### **Michele Claps**

AgipKCO – Raamweg 26, 2596 HL, Den Haag

**ABSTRACT** - The Cape Roberts Project was an international venture developed by Australia, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, New Zealand, The Netherlands and United States to core Cenozoic siliciclastic sediments in the Victoria Land Basin (McMurdo Sound, Antarctica), during the Austral Spring of years 1997, 1998 and 1999. Initial results were targeted to investigate palaeoclimate changes through the Paleogene and Neogene and to record the tectonic and erosional history of the Transantarctic Mountains.

The coring was carried out with drilling rig and base camp set on the six feet thick fast sea-ice, ten to fifteen km off the Antarctic coast. The first drilling season was curtailed at a depth of 150 mbsf after an unusual storm-generated ice break-out, but the initial scientific results encouraged us and supported the effort of the team to continue working on this project. During the second and third seasons this unique-designed drilling system proved to be capable to deal with extreme cold weather, unstable sea-ice conditions and sometime difficult down hole conditions. More than 1500 m of core were recovered, which provided a refined chronology for the numerous episodes of growth and decay of the Antarctic Ice Sheet.

The composite cored section, from Quaternary to Early Oligocene, consists of a repetition of lithofacies, organised in multiple stratigraphic sequences which record a complex interplay of ice sheet advance/retreat and relative sea-level fluctuations. Cyclic variations in sedimentary facies and physical properties data have recorded high-frequency changes in the depositional processes, as response to

periodic sea-level fluctuations and weathering conditions. We used these proxies as sensitive palaeoclimate indicators and the analysis of their fluctuations contributed in unravelling the high-resolution climatic history of the Antarctica Ice Sheet.

Moreover, novel sea-ice-free carbonate facies in the Quaternary strata, volcanic ash layers and unexpected microfossil taxa were important findings which all together help to see the Cape Roberts Project as a technological and scientific success.

**\*\*Register for the Christmas Buffet\*\***

**You can register for the buffet by contacting the secretary ([secretary@pgknet.nl](mailto:secretary@pgknet.nl) or 071-5226211 (evenings)). Register directly upon receiving this newsletter!! Free for sponsors and paying members. Not a member?...contact the secretary.**

**\*\***

**OTHER PGK EVENTS**

**23 January**

On the **fourth Wednesday** of January W. van Soest (BP Amoco) will give a lecture with the title: "Peak Gas Installation Alkmaar".

**20 February**

**ANNUAL MEETING**, Lecture about the **Hanze Field** by A.Hoffman, (Veba Oil Netherlands)

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Three of the current board members will step back from the PGK board in February 2002. Those of you who are interested in serving a term as PGK board member are requested to contact one of the board members or contact the secretary. ([secretary@pgknet.nl](mailto:secretary@pgknet.nl); 071-3013235).

The PGK board is nominating Alessandra Giacometti (PanTerra Geoconsultants) and Marco van der Meulen (Clyde Petroleum) for the new board.

**MEMBERSHIP**

An applications for membership has been received from M. den Dulk (Shell SIEP). If no objections are received prior or during the next meeting she will automatically be elected a member of our society.

***PGK is sponsored by:***

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