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1 **South Pacific evidence for the long-term climate impact of the Cretaceous/Paleogene**  
2 **boundary event**

3 **Kyle W.R. Taylor<sup>a,b</sup>, Pi Suhr Willumsen<sup>c</sup>, Christopher J. Hollis<sup>d</sup>, Richard D. Pancost<sup>a</sup>**

4  
5 <sup>a</sup>Organic Geochemistry Unit, The Cabot Institute and School of Chemistry, University of  
6 Bristol, Cantock's Close, Bristol BS8 1TS, UK

7 <sup>b</sup>Elementar UK Limited, Isoprime House, Earl Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Sk8 6PT, UK

8 <sup>c</sup>Department of Geoscience, Aarhus University, Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 2, 8000 Aarhus C,  
9 Denmark

10 <sup>d</sup>GNS Science, P.O. Box 30-368, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

11  
12 **Abstract**

13 The Cretaceous/Paleogene (K/Pg) boundary is well-represented across a range of  
14 depositional settings in New Zealand. Trends in fossil assemblages and marine lithofacies  
15 indicate that the K/Pg event was followed by a pronounced and long-term (~1 Myr)  
16 perturbation in climate and ocean conditions. These findings are supported by a TEX<sub>86</sub>-  
17 derived sea surface temperature (SST) reconstruction across the K/Pg boundary at mid-  
18 Waipara River, north Canterbury. The BAYSPAR calibration indicates that SST was very  
19 stable in the uppermost Cretaceous (~20°C), but abruptly warmed by ~4°C in a 25 cm-thick  
20 lowermost Paleocene interval. This interval is overlain by a ~2 m thick interval in which SST  
21 abruptly cooled by ~10°C and then progressively returned to ~20°C. The basal Paleocene  
22 warm interval is associated with an acme in the dinoflagellate species *Trithyrodinium evittii*  
23 and the succeeding cool interval is associated with an acme in *Palaeoperidinium*  
24 *pyrophorum*. Biostratigraphic correlation of the shelfal mid-Waipara section to the pelagic  
25 K/Pg sections in Marlborough reveals that a significant unconformity separates these two  
26 acme events, with the T acme event occurring in the earliest Paleocene and the *P.*  
27 *pyrophorum* acme occurring ~1 Myr later and lasting ~200 kyr. A succession of dinoflagellate

28 acme events within the intervening interval in the Marlborough sections implies unstable  
29 climatic and environmental conditions in the lead up to the *P. pyrophorum* acme and cooling  
30 event at ~65 Ma. This event also coincides with a peak in biogenic silica accumulation in the  
31 Marlborough sections. We suggest that disruption to biogeochemical pathways at the K/Pg  
32 boundary caused long-term climatic cooling in the southern Pacific region.

33

#### 34 **Keywords:**

35 TEX<sub>86</sub>, Cretaceous-Paleogene Boundary, Paleoclimate, Paleoceanography, Geochemistry,  
36 Palynology, Organic Geochemistry, Biostratigraphy, New Zealand, Southwest Pacific

37

#### 38 **1. Introduction**

39 The long-term consequences of the Cretaceous–Paleogene (K/Pg) boundary event on  
40 Earth’s climate remain poorly understood. Numerical models simulating the effects of the  
41 K/Pg boundary impact predict a brief (years to decades) period of global cooling induced by  
42 sulphate aerosols and dust or soot blocking out the sun’s radiation, the so-called ‘impact  
43 winter’ (Pope et al., 1994, 1997; Pierazzo et al., 2003; Schulte et al., 2010; Bardeen et al.  
44 2017; Brugger et al. 2017), followed by a longer episode of global warmth likely caused by  
45 both CO<sub>2</sub> released by the impact and reduced CO<sub>2</sub> uptake by plants (Pierazzo et al., 1998;  
46 Kring, 2007). This pattern of short-lived cooling followed by longer-term warming is  
47 supported by microfossil evidence in Northern Hemisphere sites (Brinkhuis et al., 1998;  
48 Galeotti et al., 2004), and has been corroborated by integrated study of the TEX<sub>86</sub> sea  
49 surface temperature (SST) proxy and dinoflagellate assemblages (Vellekoop et al., 2014).  
50 TEX<sub>86</sub>-based temperature reconstructions from other regions (Kemp et al., 2014; Vellekoop  
51 et al., 2015; 2016; Petersen et al., 2016) provide further evidence for SST change following  
52 the K/Pg boundary. There is also some evidence that Deccan Traps volcanism affected

53 climate through the K–Pg transition (Courtillot et al., 1988; Chenet et al., 2009; Self et al.,  
54 2014; Schoene et al., 2015; Petersen et al., 2016).

55 Longer-term climate impacts of the K/Pg event have been inferred from stable oxygen  
56 isotope records. However, poor preservation and the K/Pg extinction of planktic calcifying  
57 organisms (Zachos and Arthur, 1986; Magaritz et al., 1992) makes interpretation difficult.  
58 Ocean warming has been inferred in some studies (e.g. Douglas and Savin, 1971;  
59 Oberhänsli, 1986; Barrera and Keller, 1990; Stott and Kennett, 1990; Schmitz et al., 1992;  
60 Barrera and Keller, 1994), whereas others suggest cooling (Boersma and Shackleton, 1977;  
61 Boersma et al., 1979; 1981; Keller and Lindinger, 1989) or no significant change at all  
62 (Zachos and Arthur, 1986). Other studies have inferred climate fluctuations over the first 1-2  
63 Myrs of the Paleocene from indirect evidence, such as oscillations in magnetic susceptibility,  
64 carbonate content and grain size (D'Hondt et al., 1996; Kroon et al., 2007).

65 For the southwest Pacific, a pattern of short-lived climate instability followed by prolonged  
66 climatic cooling over ~1 Myrs has been inferred from both marine and terrestrial K/Pg  
67 boundary records (Vajda et al., 2001; Hollis, 2003; Vajda and Raine, 2003). Prolonged  
68 cooling has been invoked to explain both a delayed recovery of calcareous plankton and the  
69 abundance of diatoms and radiolarians in the basal Paleocene pelagic sediments of  
70 northeastern South Island, New Zealand (Hollis et al., 1995, 2003a, b). Compositional shifts  
71 in the marine dinoflagellate cyst assemblages have been interpreted as alternating periods  
72 of warm and cool SSTs (Willumsen & Vajda, 2010b). However, these climate fluctuations  
73 have been inferred from changes in fossil assemblages or lithology and lack corroboration  
74 from geochemical proxies for temperature. In this study, we use the TEX<sub>86</sub> proxy to  
75 reconstruct SST across the K/Pg boundary in the mid-Waipara section, Canterbury Basin  
76 (Fig. 1). We combine previously reported data for the early Paleocene (Taylor et al., 2013)  
77 with new analyses from the uppermost Cretaceous. We also evaluate different GDGT  
78 paleothermometers and consider how changes in thaumarchaeotal growth environment  
79 might be reflected in this record.

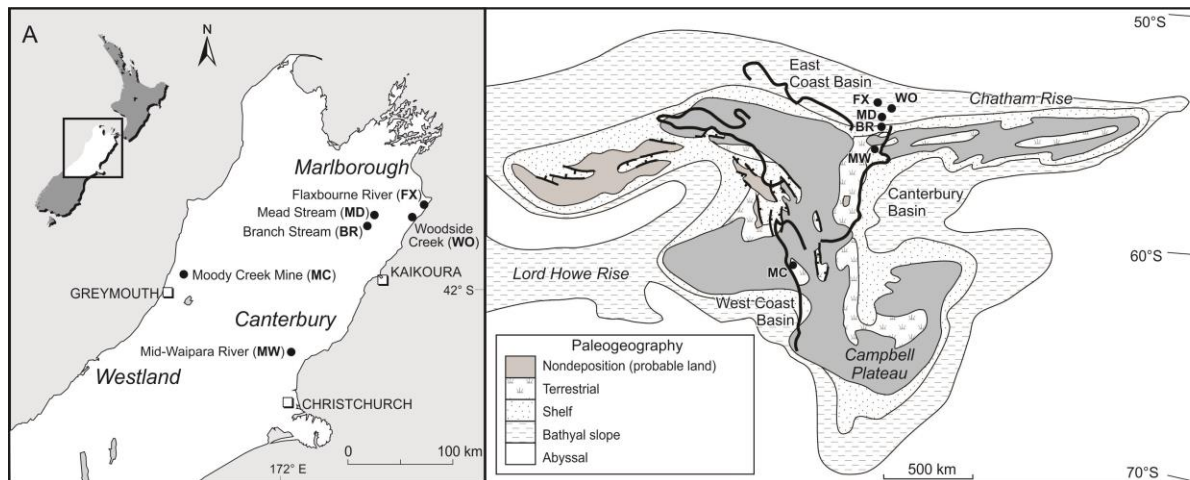
80 The mid-Waipara River section (Fig. 1) contains the most complete known K/Pg transition in  
81 a neritic setting in the South Pacific region (Hollis and Strong, 2003). It provides an important  
82 link between bathyal marine and terrestrial sections in New Zealand (Hollis, 2003) and is one  
83 of only two neritic K/Pg boundary record in the Southern Hemisphere, the other being on  
84 Seymour Island, Antarctic Peninsula (Elliot et al., 1994; Bowman et al., 2012; 2014; 2015;  
85 Kemp et al., 2014; Petersen et al., 2016; Witts et al., 2016). The mid-Waipara section  
86 contains abundant and diverse palynomorphs, including dinoflagellates (Wilson, 1987;  
87 Willumsen, 2004; 2006; 2012; Ferrow et al., 2011) and terrestrial palynomorphs (Vadja et al.,  
88 2001; Vadja and Raine, 2003; Ferrow et al., 2011), which provide qualitative indications of  
89 climatic and environmental variability. Importantly, the dinoflagellate succession can be  
90 correlated to two bathyal K/Pg boundary sections in eastern Marlborough, Branch and Mead  
91 Streams (Fig. 1), utilising a new Paleocene dinoflagellate zonation (Crouch et al., 2014) and  
92 a well-defined succession of early Paleocene acme events (Willumsen, 2004, 2006, 2011;  
93 Willumsen & Vajda, 2010b). Collectively, these data allow us to reconstruct climatic and  
94 oceanic changes through the K/Pg boundary transition in the mid-latitude southwest Pacific.

95

## 96 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 97 *2.1. Location and samples*

98 The Waipara River trends northwest-southeast through a Mesozoic-Cenozoic sedimentary  
99 succession in northern Canterbury (Fig. 1).

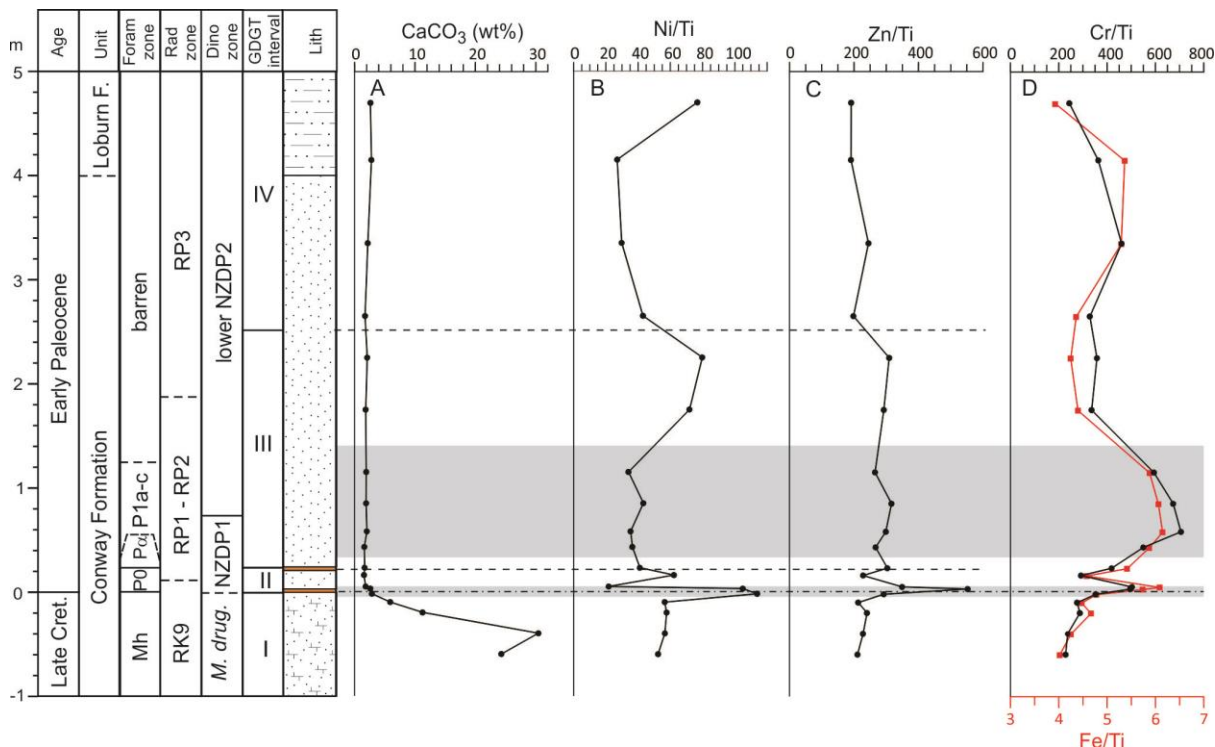


100

101 *Figure 1. Location of the mid-Waipara River section and other Cretaceous-Paleogene (K/Pg)*  
 102 *boundary sections discussed in the text: (A) present day location and (B) earliest Paleocene*  
 103 *paleogeographic setting (adapted from Hollis et al., 2003a).*

104 The section examined is referred to as the mid-Waipara River section because it is located  
 105 along the middle course of the river. The K/Pg boundary is located within Column 1 in the  
 106 composite section described by Morgans et al. (2005). It lies at the base of a 4-m thick, non-  
 107 calcareous, glauconitic sandstone, which forms the uppermost unit of the Conway Formation  
 108 (Fig. 2). The underlying Conway Formation is moderately calcareous and more mud-rich.  
 109 Overlying the Conway Formation is the lower Paleocene Loburn Formation, a ~60 m-thick  
 110 unit of non-calcareous to slightly calcareous sandy mudstone. These sediments were  
 111 deposited in a neritic mid-shelf setting during a widespread marine transgression (Field et  
 112 al., 1989).

113 Geochemical studies (Brooks et al., 1986; Hollis and Strong, 2003; Ferrow et al., 2011)  
 114 place the boundary within an irregular 2-cm thick, 'rusty' Fe-stained interval that includes a  
 115 relatively small Ir anomaly (0.49 ng/g, ~50 x crustal average) as well as enrichment in Fe, Ni,  
 116 Zn and Cr (Fig. 2). As discussed by Hollis and Strong (2003), an irregular distribution of  
 117 these elements is probably due to intense bioturbation in these sediments (See S1 for cross-  
 118 plotted trace metal concentrations)



120

121 *Figure 2. Stratigraphy and geochemical profiles for the uppermost Cretaceous and lower*  
 122 *Paleocene succession at mid-Waipara River. Foraminiferal and radiolarian datums are from*  
 123 *Hollis and Strong (2003). Dinoflagellate datums are from Willumsen (2004, 2011, 2012) and*  
 124 *Crouch et al. (2014). Geochemical profiles include calcium carbonate concentration (A) and*  
 125 *concentrations of Ni (B), Zn (C), Cr and Fe (D) normalised to Ti to account for terrigenous*  
 126 *sources.*

127

128 Willumsen (2006) and Ferrow et al. (2011) also noted downward displacement and mixing of  
 129 dinoflagellate cyst assemblages. A prominent dark, irregular band in the middle of this zone  
 130 is chosen as the stratigraphic position of the K/Pg boundary (zero datum) but elemental  
 131 anomalies suggest boundary components have been mixed by bioturbation into sediments 5  
 132 cm above and below this datum (Fig. 2A-D). The boundary also coincides with a marked  
 133 decrease in CaCO<sub>3</sub> concentration (Fig. 2A) from ~30 wt% in the Cretaceous to <5 wt% over  
 134 the lower 5 m of Paleocene strata (Hollis and Strong, 2003). In contrast to the sudden

135 decrease recorded in the bathyal Marlborough sections (Hollis et al., 2003a; b), CaCO<sub>3</sub>  
136 concentration begins to decrease c. 0.3 m below the boundary, also likely due to  
137 bioturbation. A second “rusty” zone ~20-22 cm above the K/Pg boundary is also associated  
138 with Fe and Cr enrichments that extend to at least 1.2 m above the boundary (Fig. 2). The  
139 combined enrichment of these elements over an extended interval may indicate dysoxic  
140 conditions (Calvert and Pedersen, 1993).

141 Our TEX<sub>86</sub> study is based on 26 samples that extend from 1.15 m below to 20 m above the  
142 K/Pg boundary, including a suite of 15 closely spaced samples that span the boundary  
143 (Supplementary materials S2). The same sample set was utilised for earlier geochemical,  
144 micropaleontological, palynological and geochemical studies of this section (Hollis and  
145 Strong, 2003; Vajda and Raine, 2003; Willumsen, 2006; 2012; Crouch et al., 2014). In  
146 Ferrow et al. (2011), a new sample suite of 17 samples from a slabbed section through the  
147 mid-Waipara River K/Pg boundary interval, from 0.24 m below to 0.26 m above the  
148 boundary, was examined for Mössbauer spectroscopy, mineralogy, osmium isotopes,  
149 dinoflagellate cysts, spores and pollen. These samples are not utilised in the present study  
150 because they do not provide a longer term record of environmental change and are difficult  
151 to correlate confidently with the previously collected sample suite.

152

## 153 *2.2. Biostratigraphy and palynology*

154 Despite the scarcity of calcareous microfossils and radiolarians in the mid-Waipara section,  
155 Hollis and Strong (2003) were able to identify planktic foraminiferal zones P0, P $\alpha$  and P1a-c  
156 and radiolarian zones RP1 to RP3. In contrast, dinoflagellates are abundant and well-  
157 preserved throughout the section (Wilson, 1987; Willumsen, 2004; 2006, 2012) and  
158 dinoflagellate biostratigraphy provides the primary age control and to correlate with the  
159 bathyal sections in Marlborough (Willumsen, 2011; Crouch et al., 2014), complemented by  
160 planktic foraminiferal and radiolarian bioevents (Fig. 2). Processing methods for



161 micropaleontology and palynology are described elsewhere (Hollis and Strong, 2003; Vajda  
162 and Raine, 2003; Willumsen, 2003; 2004; 2006; 2011; 2012). Dinoflagellate census data are  
163 based on counts of ~300 specimens (Willumsen, 2003). Data for selected taxa from the  
164 uppermost Cretaceous and lower 5 m of Paleocene strata at mid-Waipara have been  
165 previously reported by Willumsen (2004; 2006; 2012). Data for additional taxa from this  
166 interval and an additional 5 samples from the overlying Paleocene interval are from  
167 Willumsen (2003). Data for the basal 9 samples from the Loburn Formation in mid-Waipara  
168 Column 4 (Morgans et al., 2005) are from Crouch et al. (2014). Data for Columns 1 and 4  
169 sets are combined by approximate correlation of the top of column 1 with the base of column  
170 4, which is consistent with the dinoflagellate biostratigraphy (Supplementary materials S3)  
171 although a small overlap between the two sections is possible. Dinoflagellate census data for  
172 the Mead and Branch sections were reported by Willumsen (2003; 2011).

173

### 174 2.3. *Glycerol Dialkyl Glycerol Tetraether (GDGT) analysis, calibration and indices*

175

176 Glycerol dialkyl glycerol tetraethers (GDGTs) were extracted from sediments and analysed  
177 by liquid chromatography mass spectrometer (LC-MS) as per methods described in the  
178 supplementary information in Taylor et al. (2013) (Supplementary materials S4).

179

180 The original TEX<sub>86</sub> core-top calibration to SST was linear (Schouten et al., 2002; Kim et al.,  
181 2008), with two complementary logarithmic indices introduced by Kim *et al.* (2010). TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup>  
182 was recommended for use in sites or sections where SST is expected to be greater than  
183 15°C and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> was recommend for sites where SST is expected to span 15°C. TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup>  
184 utilises the same combination of GDGTs as in the original linear TEX<sub>86</sub> relationship  
185 (Schouten et al., 2002; Kim et al., 2008):

186

$$187 \quad \text{TEX}_{86} = (\text{GDGT-2} + \text{GDGT-3} + \text{cren}') / (\text{GDGT-1} + \text{GDGT-2} + \text{GDGT-3} + \text{cren}')$$

188

189 where for GDGT- $n$ ,  $n$  denotes the number of cyclopentyl moieties present and cren' denotes  
190 the crenarchaeol region-isomer (4 cyclopentyl rings, plus the cyclohexyl moiety). See  
191 Schouten et al. (2012) for GDGT structures as per this nomenclature. However  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$ ,  
192 when described as an index (rather than when referring to calibration-derived SST – see  
193 below), specifically refers to the logarithmic transformation of the original  $\text{TEX}_8$ :

194

$$195 \quad \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}} = \log \text{TEX}_{86}$$

196

197  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}$  comprises a combination of GDGTs that is different from  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$  and all other  $\text{TEX}_{86}$   
198 equations, and is again a logarithmic transformation of the ratio of certain GDGTs:

199

$$200 \quad \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}} = \log \text{GDGT-2}/(\text{GDGT-1} + \text{GDGT-2} + \text{GDGT-3})$$

201

202 The  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$  and  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}$  indices are subsequently used to derive SST (in degrees Celsius)  
203 using the following equations:

204

$$205 \quad \text{TEX}_{86} \text{ [linear]: } \text{SST} = 81.5 \times \text{TEX}_{86} - 26.6 \text{ (calibration error, } \pm 5.2^\circ\text{C)}$$

$$206 \quad \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}: \text{SST} = 68.4 \times \log \text{TEX}_{86} + 38.6 \text{ (calibration error, } \pm 2.5^\circ\text{C)}$$

$$207 \quad \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}: \text{SST} = 67.5 \times \log \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}} + 46.9 \text{ (calibration error, } \pm 4^\circ\text{C)}$$

208

209 The  $\text{TEX}_{86}$  [linear] and  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$  calibrations are based on modern core-top data from only  
210 settings where  $\text{SST} > 15^\circ\text{C}$ , whereas  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}$  is based on the entire global core-top sediment  
211 dataset (Kim et al., 2010). Recent papers (Taylor et al., 2013; Hernandez-Sanchez et al.,  
212 2014; Inglis et al., 2015) have noted that the  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}$  calibration yields spurious SST values  
213 under certain conditions where unusual variations in GDGT distributions occur .

214 A fourth core-top calibration, BAYSPAR, is a spatially-varying, Bayesian regression model  
215 for TEX<sub>86</sub> that assumes a linear relationship between TEX<sub>86</sub> and SST (Tierney and Tingley,  
216 2015). For pre-Quaternary studies, a ‘Deeptime’ approach is recommended in which  
217 Bayesian statistics is used to identify the modern core-top samples that are closest to the  
218 measured TEX<sub>86</sub> value and a linear regression is applied to these modern locations.  
219 Temperatures are calculated using [www.who.edu/bayspar](http://www.who.edu/bayspar) and can be reported as surface  
220 (BAYSPAR<sub>SST</sub>) or subsurface (BAYSPAR<sub>SubT</sub>) temperature; the latter is the weighted  
221 average of the temperature range over 0–200 m water depth.

222 GDGT distributions in suspended particulate material (SPM) have also been calibrated to *in*  
223 *situ* weighted-average water temperatures over a depth range of 0–100 m (Schouten et al.,  
224 2013).

225

$$226 \quad \text{SPM-TEX}_{86}: \text{Temperature } (^\circ\text{C}) = 59.6 \times \text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}} + 32 \quad (r^2 = 0.78, n = 88)$$

227

228 As expected, this equation yields temperatures similar to the depth-integrated 0–200 m  
229 TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> calibration and the BAYSPAR<sub>SubT</sub> calibration.

230

231 To examine further the applicability of the TEX<sub>86</sub> paleothermometer in the Paleogene, Hollis  
232 et al. (2012) compiled data from four Paleogene studies (Zachos et al., 2006; Pearson et al.,  
233 2007; Burgess et al., 2008; Hollis et al., 2009) in which a representative range of TEX<sub>86</sub>  
234 values could be compared to SST estimates derived from δ<sup>18</sup>O values or Mg/Ca ratios in  
235 well-preserved, mixed-layer planktic foraminifera from the same samples. A strong  
236 correlation was observed between TEX<sub>86</sub> values with SSTs derived from these inorganic  
237 proxies, but SSTs calculated with the TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> calibration were typically 3 to 6°C higher than  
238 foraminifera-based SSTs. Hollis et al. (2012) used a logarithmic regression to derive a paleo-  
239 calibration to SST (pTEX<sub>86</sub>):

240

241 
$$\text{pTEX}_{86}: \text{SST} = 39.036 \times \ln(\text{TEX}_{86}) + 36.455 \quad (r^2 = 0.87, n = 42)$$

242

243 The  $\text{pTEX}_{86}$  approach assumes that SST derived from well-preserved foraminiferal calcite  
244 has greater fidelity in the Paleogene than  $\text{TEX}_{86}$  calibrations based on modern sediments.  
245 The reasons for the offset between  $\text{TEX}_{86}$  and foraminiferal proxies for SSTs have been  
246 widely discussed but with no consensus reached (Taylor et al., 2013; Inglis et al., 2015; Ho  
247 and Laepple, 2016; Zhang et al., 2016). The issue has not been resolved with the  
248 introduction of the BAYSPAR calibration, which results in an offset similar to that observed  
249 for  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$ .

250

251 A further way that GDGT distributions have been related to temperature is by calculating the  
252 isoprenoidal GDGT ‘degree of cyclisation’, or  $\text{Ring}_{\text{AV}}$  (e.g. Shimada et al., 2002, Schouten et  
253 al., 2007, Pearson et al., 2008, Pitcher et al., 2009):

254

255 
$$\text{Ring}_{\text{AV}} = (1 \times \text{GDGT-1}) + (2 \times \text{GDGT-2}) + (3 \times \text{GDGT-3}) + (4 \times \text{cren}') / (\text{GDGT-1} +$$
  
256 
$$\text{GDGT-2} + \text{GDGT-3} + \text{cren}')$$

257

258 This proxy is based on the physiological relationship in which the degree of cyclisation in  
259 GDGTs is correlated to temperature (De Rosa et al., 1980; Gliozzi et al., 1983; Uda et al.,  
260 2001).  $\text{Ring}_{\text{AV}}$  is a normalised form of the Ring Index proposed by Zhang *et al* (2016) as a  
261 guide to situations where  $\text{TEX}_{86}$  has been influenced by non-thermal factors or deviates from  
262 modern analogue relationships. Other potential sources of bias related to physiology,  
263 seasonality and water depth have been widely discussed (e.g., Turich et al., 2007; Kim et al.,  
264 2008; Huber and Caballero, 2011; Hollis et al., 2012; Taylor et al., 2013; Hernandez-  
265 Sanchez et al., 2014; Ho and Laepple, 2016).  $\text{TEX}_{86}$  values can also be biased by the input  
266 of terrestrial GDGTs but this bias is considered to be negligible when the branched vs.  
267 isoprenoid (BIT) index is lower than 0.3 (Weijers et al., 2006). The BIT index is also a useful  
268 proxy from terrestrial input.

269

270 
$$\text{BIT} = (\text{bGDGT-I} + \text{bGDGT-II} + \text{bGDGT-III}) / (\text{bGDGT-I} + \text{bGDGT-II} + \text{bGDGT-III} +$$
  
271 crenarchaeol),

272

273 where I, II and III refer to brGDGTs with no rings and 4, 5 or 6 methyl groups, respectively  
274 (Schouten et al., 2012).

275

### 276 **3. Results and Discussion**

277 In this section, we outline the biostratigraphic basis for age control in the mid-Waipara  
278 section. We describe the trends in GDGT and interpret the trends in relation to SST  
279 reconstructions and changes in dinoflagellate assemblages. We compare the mid-Waipara  
280 section to the more complete Branch and Mead stream sections in Marlborough. We  
281 conclude the section by discussing the nature and possible causes on long-term trends  
282 climatic and environmental conditions the followed the K/Pg boundary event.

283

#### 284 *3.1. Biostratigraphy of the mid-Waipara section*

285 The primary age control for the mid-Waipara section is provided by dinoflagellates  
286 (Willumsen, 2003; 2004; 2006; 2012). Age control for dinoflagellate events is based primarily  
287 on correlation with foraminiferal and radiolarian biostratigraphy in the Branch and Mead  
288 stream sections in southeastern Marlborough (Hollis et al., 2003a; Willumsen, 2003; 2011;  
289 2012; Crouch et al., 2014). The co-occurrence of all three fossil groups in these sections has  
290 been utilised to develop a well-resolved event stratigraphy (Supplementary materials S5).

291 Despite the evidence for bioturbation across the K/Pg boundary at mid-Waipara, several  
292 lines of evidence suggest that the boundary is intact and earliest Paleocene sediments are  
293 preserved. Geochemical studies indicate that the boundary is enriched in Ir and other  
294 siderophiles (Fig. 2; Brooks et al., 1986; Hollis and Strong, 2003; Ferrow et al., 2011).

295 Foraminiferal assemblages also indicate that the lowermost Paleocene sample can be  
296 correlated to earliest Paleocene zone P0 and the overlying sample can be correlated with  
297 zone P $\alpha$  (Hollis and Strong, 2003). Dinoflagellate biostratigraphy indicates that the basal  
298 Paleocene (0-22 cm above the K/Pg boundary) can be correlated with lower NZDP1, based  
299 on the co-occurrence of *Trithyrodinium evittii*, *Senoniosphaera inornata*, and *Manumiella*  
300 *druggii*. The first two species have lowest occurrences (LOs) at the K/Pg boundary in New  
301 Zealand whereas the highest occurrence (HO) of *M. druggii* occurs within the lower part of  
302 zone NZDP1, coincident with the base of radiolarian zone RP2 in the Branch and Mead  
303 Stream sections. At mid-Waipara, bioturbation is inferred to have resulted in the occurrence  
304 of *T. evittii* in the uppermost Cretaceous, an inference supported by Ferrow et al. (2011).  
305 Ferrow et al. (2011) also reported the LOs of *Damassadinium californicum* and  
306 *Membranilarnica? tenella* directly above the K/Pg boundary. The LO of *D. californicum* is a  
307 global marker for the earliest Paleocene. The LO of *M.? tenella* was initially thought to occur  
308 later, close to the top of foraminiferal zone P0 according to Brinkhuis and Zachariasse (1988;  
309 see also Habib et al., 1996). However, more recent studies have established that the  
310 species is present in small numbers from the base of the Paleocene (Vellekoop et al., 2015).  
311 Furthermore, several latest Maastrichtian to earliest Paleocene species (*Carpatella*  
312 *septatum*, *C. truncata*, *Impagidinium cavea*, *I. agremon*, *Pyxidiniopsis epakros* and *P.*  
313 *everriculum*) have their HO between 0.16 and 0.325 above the K/Pg boundary.

314 Crouch et al. (2014) provide an age estimate of ~65.4 Ma (earliest zone RP2) for the HO of  
315 *Manumiella druggii*. In this section, we place this event at the rapid decrease in the  
316 abundance of *M. druggii* between 0.20 and 0.225m. We interpret rare occurrences and  
317 isolated occurrence above this level as being due to reworking. This interpretation is  
318 consistent with the HO of *Trichodinium hirsutum* at 0.475 m. This event occurs above the  
319 HO of *M. druggii* in the Mead and Branch sections and is dated at ~65.1 Ma by Crouch et al.  
320 (2014). Consequently, the interval from 0.475 to 0.725 m is correlated with uppermost zone  
321 NZDP1 based on the absence of *M. druggii* and HO *T. hirsutum* in the basal sample. The

322 interval from 0.725 m to the top of the studied section is correlated with zone NZDP2 based  
323 on the co-occurrence of *Cerodinium striatum* and *Trithyrodinium evittii*.

324 An age depth plot for the section (Supplementary materials S6, S7) indicates that there is a  
325 significant unconformity at the level of the second Fe-stained layer (0.23 m). A sample  
326 directly above the unconformity (M34/f124; Hollis and Strong, 2003) contains the LO of  
327 foraminifer *Parvulorugoglobigerina eugubina*, which marks the base of foraminiferal zone P $\alpha$   
328 (66 Ma). This implies that the interval below the unconformity lies within zone P0 and  
329 represents no more than 40 kyrs. Because two dinoflagellate events occur at the same  
330 stratigraphic level as this foraminiferal event but have significantly younger ages (HO *M.*  
331 *druggii*, ~65.4 Ma; HO *T. hirsutum* ~65.1 Ma), this unconformity is inferred to represent a  
332 hiatus of ~1 Myr (Fig. 2). As noted above, the HOs of several other dinoflagellate species  
333 have been noted at the level of this unconformity. The unconformity also marks the top of the  
334 K/Pg fern spike (Vajda et al., 2001; Vajda and Raine, 2003; Ferrow et al., 2011), with the  
335 abundance of fern spores decreasing from 66 to 22% of the total miospore assemblage.  
336 There are no indications of other significant unconformities in the section, with a modest  
337 sedimentation rate of 5.75 m/Ma estimated for the K/Pg boundary transition and a higher  
338 rate of 14.63 m/Ma determined for the interval above the unconformity.

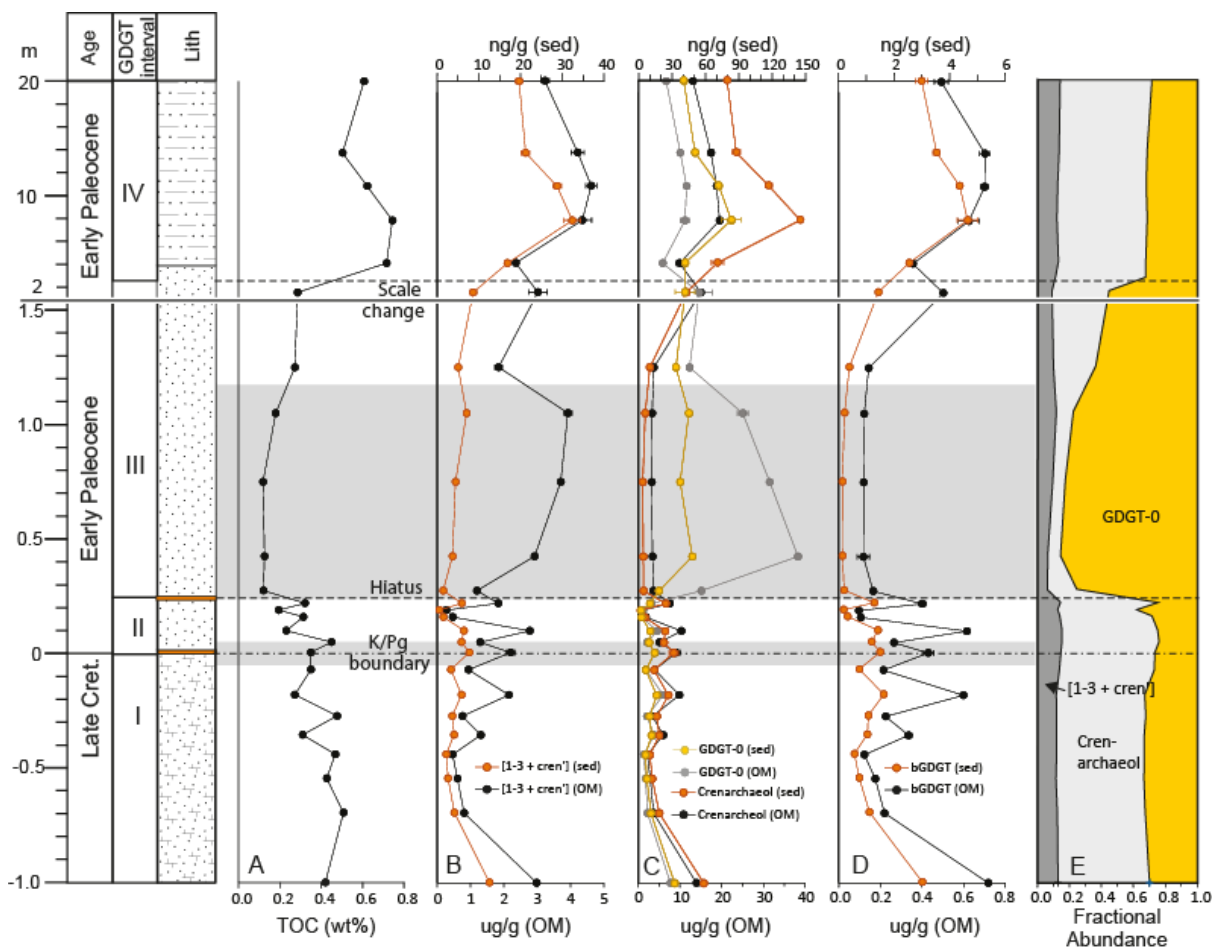
339

### 340 3.2. Organic Geochemistry

341 Total organic carbon (TOC; Fig. 4A) is generally low (< 0.5 wt %) through the K/Pg transition  
342 and falls to a minimum between 0.22 and 2 m above the boundary (<0.3 wt %). Biomarker  
343 distributions across throughout the section indicate both terrestrial and marine sources for  
344 organic matter (OM), with high-molecular-weight (C<sub>27</sub>-C<sub>31</sub>; HMW) *n*-alkanes with a relatively  
345 strong odd-over-even predominance and HMW (C<sub>28</sub>-C<sub>32</sub>) *n*-alkanoic acids with a strong  
346 even-over-odd predominance indicating a significant terrigenous contribution  
347 (Supplementary materials S4; Eglinton and Hamilton, 1963, 1967; Cranwell *et al.*, 1987).

348 The presence of branched GDGTs (bGDGTs) indicates fluviually transported soil organic  
 349 matter input (Fig. 3; Hopmans et al., 2004; Weijers et al., 2006). However, BIT indices are  
 350 relatively low (< 0.11; see Supplementary materials S8) throughout, indicating a relatively  
 351 small terrestrial component of OM relative to marine (Hopmans et al., 2004, Weijers et al.,  
 352 2006). Marine contributions are evident not only from the low BIT indices but also abundant  
 353 low molecular weight ( $C_{14} - C_{20}$ ; LMW) *n*-alkanoic acids with an even-over-odd  
 354 predominance (Supplementary materials S4; e.g. Volkman et al., 1980; Claustre et al., 1989;  
 355 Carrie et al., 1998) and relatively high concentrations of pristane and phytane (e.g. Dean and  
 356 Whitehead, 1961; Rontani and Volkman, 2003).

357



358

359 *Figure 3. Organic geochemical profiles through the K/Pg transition at mid-Waipara River: (A)*  
 360 *total organic carbon (TOC); semi-quantitative concentrations of GDGTs in bulk sediment and*



361           *organic matter, including (B) [1-3 & cren'], (C) crenarchaeol and GDGT-0, and (D)*  
362 *branched GDGTs; (E) fractional abundance of GDGT-0, crenarchaeol and [1-3 + cren'].* Note  
363           *the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.*

364

### 365 3.3 GDGT concentrations and distributions

366 We previously reported the distributions of GDGTs in the Paleocene at mid-Waipara River in  
367 terms of Ring<sub>av</sub> and tetraether indices (TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> and their respective SSTs), as  
368 well as the offset between those two SST proxies ( $\Delta$  H-L) as a function of [2]/[3] ratios  
369 (Taylor et al., 2013). Here, we expand those analyses and further interrogate variation in  
370 GDGT distributions and concentrations across the K/Pg boundary. In addition to these two  
371 SST proxies, we consider TEX<sub>86</sub>[linear], pTEX<sub>86</sub>, BAYSPAR<sub>SST</sub>, BAYSPAR<sub>SubT</sub> and SPM-  
372 TEX<sub>86</sub>.

373 Branched and isoprenoidal GDGT concentrations exhibit similar trends to those described  
374 for TOC (Fig. 3B-D). Isoprenoidal GDGT concentrations are generally an order of magnitude  
375 higher than those of branched GDGTs and crenarchaeol is the dominant GDGT (Fig. 4E).  
376 Concentrations of all GDGTs are low in the uppermost Cretaceous and exhibit fluctuations  
377 across the K/Pg boundary. Summed GDGTs 1, 2, 3, and cren' (herein denoted as [1-3 +  
378 cren']) concentrations (Fig. 4B), GDGT-0 and crenarchaeol (Fig. 3C) have small peaks at or  
379 directly above the K/Pg boundary. Above the unconformity at 0.23 m, there is a sharp  
380 increase in the concentration of GDGT-0 (Fig. 3C), concomitant with a decrease in  
381 concentrations of all other isoprenoidal and branched GDGTs (Fig. 3B-E). Concentrations of  
382 GDGT-0 remain high and dominate the GDGT distribution from 23 cm to 1.15 m (Fig. 3E).  
383 Concentrations of crenarchaeol and brGDGTs increase from ~2 m above the K/Pg boundary  
384 as GDGT-0 decreases (Fig. 3C-E) and the proportions of GDGT-[1-3 + cren'], GDGT-0 and  
385 crenarchaeol return to values similar to those recorded in the uppermost Cretaceous (Fig.  
386 3E). Maximum concentrations of all GDGTs other than GDGT-0 occur in the lower Loburn

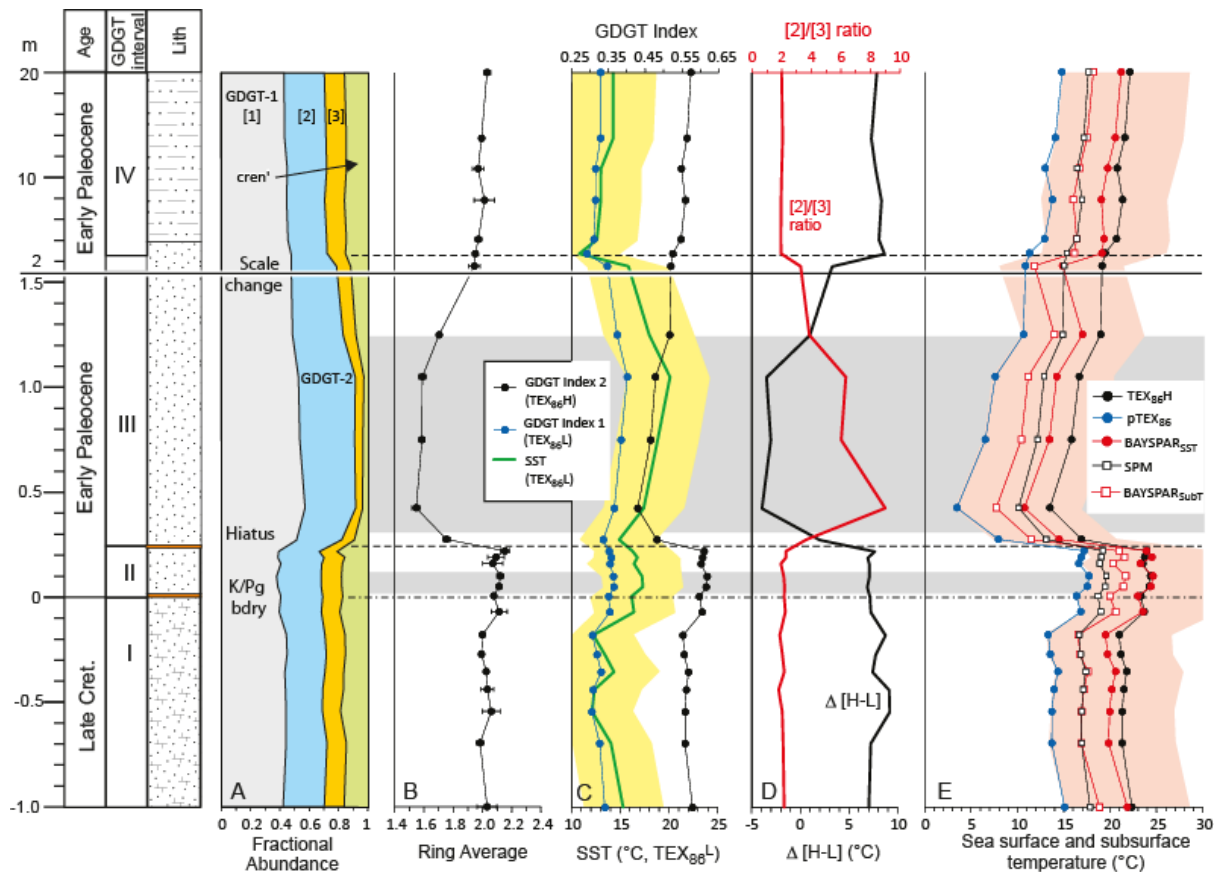
387 Formation (4–12 m), before gradually decreasing in the upper part of the section. These  
388 trends persist even when concentrations are normalised to TOC content (Fig. 3B-D; also see  
389 Supplementary materials S4).

390

391 Based on these trends, as well as distributions of the TEX86-related GDGTs, four distinct  
392 intervals are evident in the K/Pg section (Fig. 4, 5, 6A):

- 393 (I) Upper Cretaceous (-1.2 to -0.18 m): moderate TOC, low GDGT concentrations,  
394 dominated by crenarchaeol.
- 395 (II) Uppermost Cretaceous and basal Paleocene (-0.07 to 0.22 m): fluctuating TOC  
396 and GDGT concentrations, also dominated by crenarchaeol but with higher  
397 abundance of GDGT-2.
- 398 (III) Lower Paleocene (0.22 to ~2 m): minimum TOC contents and GDGT  
399 concentrations, but high fractional abundance of GDGT-0, GDGT-1 and GDGT-2
- 400 (IV) Lower Paleocene (~2 to 20 m): maximum TOC contents and GDGT  
401 concentrations, dominated by crenarchaeol.

402



403

404

405 *Figure 4. GDGT-based indicators of sea temperature change through the K/Pg transition at*  
 406 *mid-Waipara River: (A) fractional abundance for GDGT-1 , -2, -3 and cren'; (B) Ring<sub>AV</sub>; (C)*  
 407 *TEX<sub>86</sub> and TEX<sub>86L</sub> indices, with TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup>-reconstructed SSTs (calibration error of*  
 408 *+/-4°C is shaded); (D) SST offset between TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> calibrations (ΔH-L) and [2]/[3]*  
 409 *ratio, highlighting unusual behaviour in Interval III; (E) Sea surface and subsurface*  
 410 *temperature profiles based on TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup>, pTEX<sub>86</sub>, BAYSPAR<sub>SST</sub>, BAYSPAR<sub>subT</sub> and SPM-*  
 411 *TEX<sub>86</sub>, the pink shaded interval is the 95th confidence interval based on BAYSPAR. Note*  
 412 *the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.*

413

414

### 415 3.4 Sea surface temperature reconstructions

416 The fractional abundance of the GDGTs that are used for temperature reconstructions are  
 417 relatively consistent for Intervals I, II and IV. However, the abundance of GDGT-1 and

418 GDGT-2 are significantly elevated relative to GDGT-3 and cren' in Interval III (Fig. 4A). As  
419 previously noted, the proportion of GDGT-0 is also markedly higher in Interval III. These  
420 relationships are captured in Ring<sub>AV</sub> (Fig. 4B), which increases slightly from Interval I to  
421 Interval II but then decreases markedly across the unconformity at 23 cm from Interval II to  
422 Interval III. The parameter increases in the upper part of Interval III and then is stable  
423 through Interval IV with values similar to Interval I.

424

425 Trends in TEX<sub>86</sub> typically parallel trends in Ring<sub>AV</sub> because both indices are based on the  
426 number of cyclopentane moieties. In the mid-Waipawa section, TEX<sub>86</sub> also has a maximum  
427 within Interval II and a minimum within Interval III (Fig. 4C), which is interpreted to indicate  
428 an interval of warmer conditions directly above the K/Pg boundary (Interval II) followed by  
429 cooling in Interval III (Fig. 4D). However, the same correlation is not observed between  
430 Ring<sub>AV</sub> and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup>. Relationships between the two indices are consistent for Intervals I, II  
431 and IV but for Interval III, TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> increases, which implies higher rather than lower SSTs  
432 (Fig. 4C). This anomaly is explained by the unusually high abundance of GDGT-2 relative to  
433 GDGT-3 in this interval. Because GDGT-2 is the sole numerator in the TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> equation, any  
434 increase in its concentration will shift the proxy to warmer temperatures.

435

436 Taylor et al. (2013) showed that these unusual variations in the relative abundance of  
437 GDGT-2 and GDGT-3 (expressed as the [2]/[3] ratio) can invert the normal relationship  
438 between the TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>L</sup> and TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> proxies in which the latter tends to yield warmer SSTs than  
439 the former (i.e. positive  $\Delta H-L$ ). Interval III at mid-Waipara is a striking example of this  
440 situation, in which an increase in the [2]/[3] ratio results in the negative  $\Delta H-L$  (Fig. 4D).

441 Taylor et al. (2013) found that the [2]/[3] ratio appeared to increase with water depth both in  
442 sediments and suspended particulate matter (in both core and intact lipids with respect to  
443 the latter), a finding that has since been corroborated in other studies (e.g. Hernandez-  
444 Sanchez, 2014; Kim et al., 2015), including within intact polar lipids (Lengger et al., 2012;

445 Schouten et al., 2012). The shift in ratio has been ascribed to changes in subsurface  
446 thaumarchaeal ecology (Villaneuva et al., 2015) and may indicate a greater proportion of  
447 GDGT export from subsurface waters (e.g. Taylor et al., 2013; Hernandez-Sanchez, 2014;  
448 Ho and Laepple, 2016).

449

450 Further evidence for unusual environmental or ecological conditions in Interval III comes  
451 from the increase in concentration of GDGT-0 and the marked decrease in other GDGT  
452 concentrations (Fig. 3B-E). GDGT-0 is not used in GDGT temperature calculations because  
453 it can be derived from multiple sources, including not only Thaumarchaeota but also  
454 sedimentary Archaea (Schouten et al., 2002). In modern and Paleogene sediments it is very  
455 uncommon to find GDGT-0 relative abundances as high as those observed in Interval III  
456 (Inglis et al., 2015). It is most abundant in cool polar settings (although rarely >60% of the  
457 GDGT assemblage; Schouten et al., 2002) and in anoxic lacustrine settings (Blaga et al.,  
458 2009). Although low TOC and extensive bioturbation suggest relatively oxic sea-floor  
459 conditions during Interval III, the enrichment in Cr noted above (Fig. 2) is consistent with  
460 some degree of dysoxia (Calvert and Pedersen, 1993).

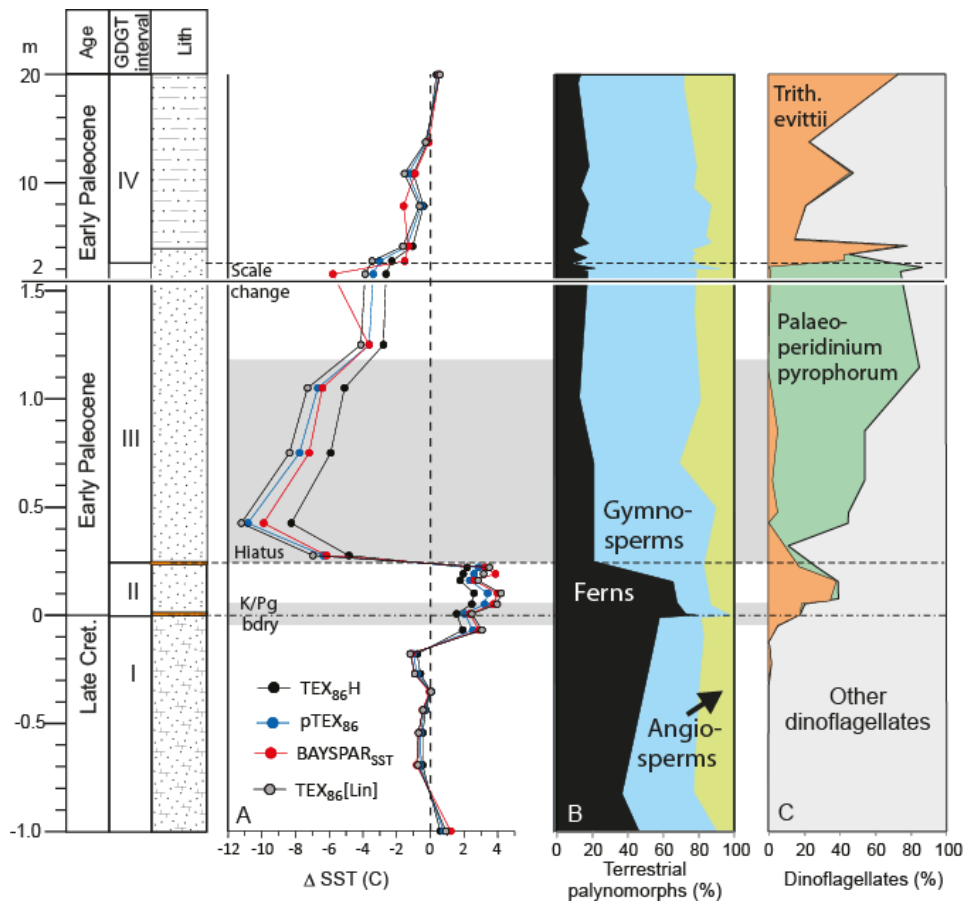
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462 In summary, a greater proportion of export from the subsurface relative to surface waters  
463 could account for the high abundance of GDGT-2 and the unusual temperature trend derived  
464 from  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{L}}$  within Interval III. Moreover, the high abundance of GDGT-2 and GDGT-0 in this  
465 interval suggests an environment in which sub-surface or sedimentary Archaea are major  
466 contributors to the GDGT assemblage (Fig. 3E, 4A) and in which there is an overall  
467 decrease in the export of GDGTs from the surface waters (i.e. GDGT-3, cren' and  
468 crenarchaeol).

469

470 These factors have little impact on  $\text{TEX}_{86}^{\text{H}}$  because GDGT-2, GDGT-3 and cren' are  
471 incorporated into both the numerator and denominator in the equation. As all other GDGT-  
472 based temperature calibrations are based on this index, they are considered to reliably

473 record the general temperature trend through the mid-Waipara K/Pg section (Fig. 4E). To  
 474 examine this in more detail, we have calculated temperatures using six calibrations based on  
 475  $TEX_{86}^H$ . For SSTs, we have used  $TEX_{86}^H$ ,  $TEX_{86}[\text{linear}]$ ,  $pTEX_{86}$  and  $BAYSPAR_{SST}$ . We have  
 476 also calculated subsurface temperatures using  $BAYSPAR_{SubT}$  and  $SPM-TEX_{86}$ . As expected,  
 477 all calibrations yield very similar trends but differ considerably in absolute values, although  
 478 all values lie within the uncertainty bounds of  $BAYSPAR_{SST}$ . Absolute SSTs are similar for  
 479  $TEX_{86}^H$  and  $BAYSPAR_{SST}$  whereas  $pTEX_{86}$  yields SSTs that are  $\sim 7^\circ\text{C}$  cooler and align  
 480 closely with the lower limit for  $BAYSPAR_{SST}$ .  $SPM-TEX_{86}$  and  $BAYSPAR_{SubT}$  are in close  
 481 agreement and yield values that are intermediate between  $pTEX_{86}$  and  $TEX_{86}^H$ .



482

483 *Figure 5. Comparison of the relative SST profile with the floral and microfloral turnover*  
 484 *events through the KPB transition at mid-Waipara River: (A) Variation in SST relative to*  
 485 *mean SST for Interval I (Cretaceous) for  $TEX_{86}^H$ ,  $pTEX_{86}$ ,  $BAYSPAR_{SST}$ , and  $TEX_{86}[\text{linear}]$ ;*  
 486 *(B) relative abundance of ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms (from Vajda and Raine,*

487 2003); (C) relative abundance of two dinoflagellate species *Trithyrodinium evittii* and  
488 *Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum*. Note the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.

489

490 Because of this wide variation in absolute temperatures, we outline the primary features of  
491 the record in terms of variation in temperature from average Cretaceous values ( $\Delta$  SST)  
492 (Fig. 5A). A weak cooling trend of  $\sim 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  is evident in the upper Cretaceous (Interval I). This  
493 trend is reversed in the uppermost Cretaceous where temperatures warm abruptly by  $\sim 3$ -  
494  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$ . SST is variable within Interval II, ranging from 2 to  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  warmer than average  
495 Cretaceous values and with an SST peak directly above the K/Pg boundary. The warming in  
496 the uppermost Cretaceous could be interpreted as warming preceding the K/Pg event, but  
497 dinoflagellates and inorganic geochemistry indicate that basal Paleocene sediments have  
498 been worked down into the uppermost few centimetres of Cretaceous strata by bioturbation.

499

500 SSTs within Interval III exhibit a clear trend: pronounced cooling at the base is  
501 followed by progressive warming. Depending on the calibration, the initial decrease in  
502 temperature is between  $7$  and  $11^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the overall decrease from the maximum in Interval II  
503 to the minimum in Interval III is between  $10$  and  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Minimum SSTs in Interval III are  $8$ -  
504  $11^{\circ}\text{C}$  cooler than the average for the Cretaceous. This is very clear evidence for an episode  
505 of pronounced cooling at the base of Interval III. SST warms in the upper part of Interval III  
506 and into Interval IV, returning to Cretaceous levels  $\sim 15$  m above the K/Pg boundary.

507

### 508 3.5. Palynological indications of environmental change

509 A dramatic turnover in vegetation is recorded in the pollen and spore assemblages that span  
510 the K/Pg boundary transition at mid-Waipara River (Vajda et al., 2001; Vajda and Raine  
511 2003; Ferrow et al., 2011). A mixed forest assemblage in the uppermost Cretaceous is  
512 replaced by an assemblage dominated by fern spores in the basal Paleocene (Fig. 5B).  
513 Ferns dominate assemblages up to the unconformity at 0.22 m above the boundary.

514 Assemblages are dominated by gymnosperms above the unconformity and to the top of the  
515 examined section (30 m above the K/Pg boundary). An equivalent record of floral turnover is  
516 found in a non-marine K/Pg boundary record on the west coast of the South Island (Vajda et  
517 al., 2001). In both sections, the fern spike comprises a floral succession with ground ferns at  
518 the base giving way to tree ferns. Vajda et al. (2001) interpreted this succession as signifying  
519 (i) devastation of forests at the K/Pg boundary, (ii) colonisation of open areas by ground  
520 ferns, (iii) expansion of tree ferns under warm temperate conditions, and (iv) expansion of  
521 gymnosperms under cooler conditions, as evident from the abundance of *Phyllocladidites*  
522 *mawsonii*, a pollen species thought to be closely related to the cool-temperate rain forest  
523 conifer *Lagarostrobos franklinii* (Huon Pine). Our temperature record supports this  
524 interpretation. The fern spike is correlated with Interval II and the lower part of the conifer  
525 interval corresponds with Interval III. However, given that conifers continue to dominate  
526 Interval IV, other factors appear to be implicated in the delayed recovery of a mixed  
527 angiosperm-gymnosperm forest.

528

529 In addition to the terrestrial palynomorph record, the mid-Waipara section is rich in marine  
530 palynomorphs, primarily dinoflagellate cysts. The dinoflagellate record provides a valuable  
531 means to correlate with other K/Pg boundary sections in New Zealand and also provides  
532 further insights into environmental changes during this time period. The K/Pg transition is  
533 distinguished by a succession of assemblages, including the alternating abundance of two  
534 dominant species, *Trithyridinium evittii* and *Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum* (Fig. 5C). Both  
535 species are inferred to be heterotrophic peridinioids, which have been associated with  
536 various types of nutrient-rich settings and salinities (Dale, 1996; Askin, 1988; Habib et al.,  
537 1994; Evitt et al., 1998; Sluijs et al., 2005).

538 Interval II corresponds with an acme in *Trithyrodinium evittii*, which is inferred to be a warm-  
539 water species (Brinkhuis et al., 1998; Nøhr-Hansen and Dam, 1997; 1999; Willumsen, 2003;  
540 Willumsen and Vajda, 2010b; Vellekoop et al., 2015). As noted above, the initial increase in



541 *T. evittii* is observed directly below the K/Pg boundary where the species makes up > 6% of  
542 the assemblage. It increases to 18% of the assemblage directly above the boundary. Interval  
543 III corresponds with an acme in *Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum*, a species that is abundant in  
544 lowermost Paleocene marginal marine sediments on Seymour Island (Askin, 1988) and the  
545 southwest Tasman Sea (Brinkhuis et al., 2003) as well as the pelagic bathyal sequence in  
546 eastern Marlborough (Willumsen, 2003; 2006; 2011; Willumsen and Vajda, 2010a; 2010b).  
547 These two acmes appear to agree well with the TEX<sub>86</sub> record, with abundant *T. evittii* in the  
548 warm basal Paleocene interval and the high-latitude species, *P. pyrophorum*, dominating in  
549 the overlying cool interval.

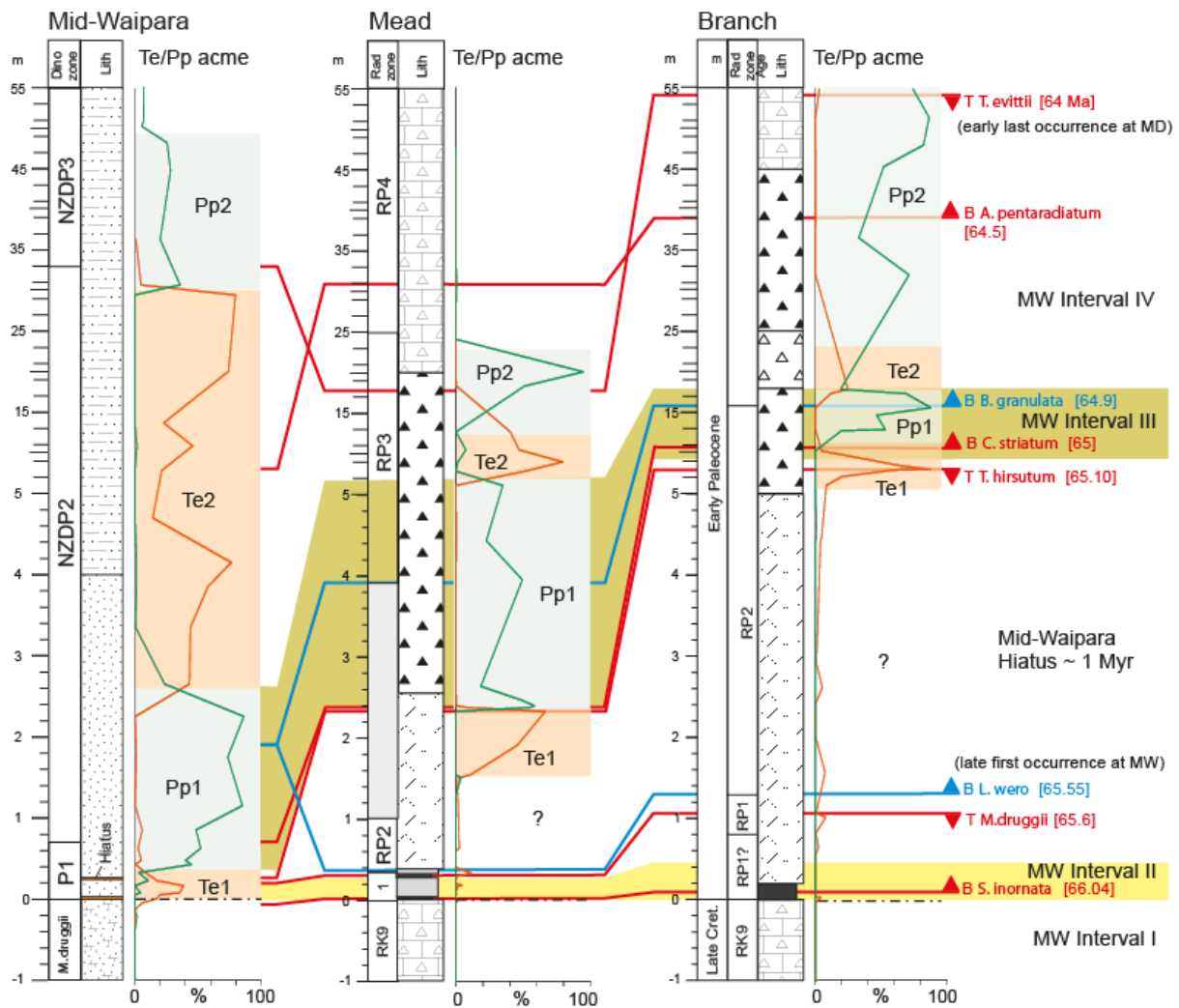
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#### 551 **4. Correlation and comparison with other New Zealand records**

##### 552 *4.1. Biostratigraphic correlation*

553 The TEX<sub>86</sub> warming event (Interval II) occurs within foraminiferal zone P0 and the TEX<sub>86</sub>  
554 cooling event (Interval III) occurs within upper dinoflagellate zone NZDP1 to lower NZDP2  
555 (Fig 6). Additional dinoflagellate and radiolarian bioevents allow us to correlate these  
556 intervals with coeval sedimentary successions in the Mead and Branch Stream K/Pg  
557 boundary sections (Fig. 6). As noted above, these two climate events are correlated with  
558 distinct dinoflagellate acmes: the *T. evittii* acme (Te1) and the overlying *P. pyrophorum* acme  
559 (Pp1). At mid-Waipara, Te1 is very condensed and the Te1/Pp1 transition is only 23 cm  
560 above the boundary, coinciding with the unconformity. However in the Mead and Branch  
561 sections the Te1/Pp1 transition is 2.35 and ~12 m above the K/Pg boundary, respectively.  
562 Correlation lines based on the primary dinoflagellate and radiolarian bioevents in the three  
563 sections show that the two dinoflagellate acme intervals, Te1 and Pp1, are separated by ~1  
564 Myr. Interval II is correlated with foraminiferal zone P0, which encompasses the first 40 kyrs  
565 of the Paleocene. We cannot determine if Interval II spans this entire time period or  
566 represents a short-lived event within it. Interval III is dated at ~65 Ma based on two well-

567 defined datums, the base of *Cerodinium striatum* near the base of Pp1 and the base of  
 568 *Buryella granulata* in the upper part (Fig. 6). It is possible that the unconformity at mid-  
 569 Waipara corresponds with the Da2 sequence boundary of Hardenbol et al. (1998).



570

571 *Figure 6. Correlation of GDGT Intervals I to IV in the mid-Waipara section to the Mead and*  
 572 *Branch Stream sections based on bioevents and acmes in the dinoflagellate species*  
 573 *Trithyrodinium evittii (Te1 and TE2) and Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum (Pp1 and Pp2).*  
 574 *Lithology and selected index taxon FODs and LODs are indicated on the figure. Blue =*  
 575 *radiolarian; Red = dinoflagellates. Note the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.*

576

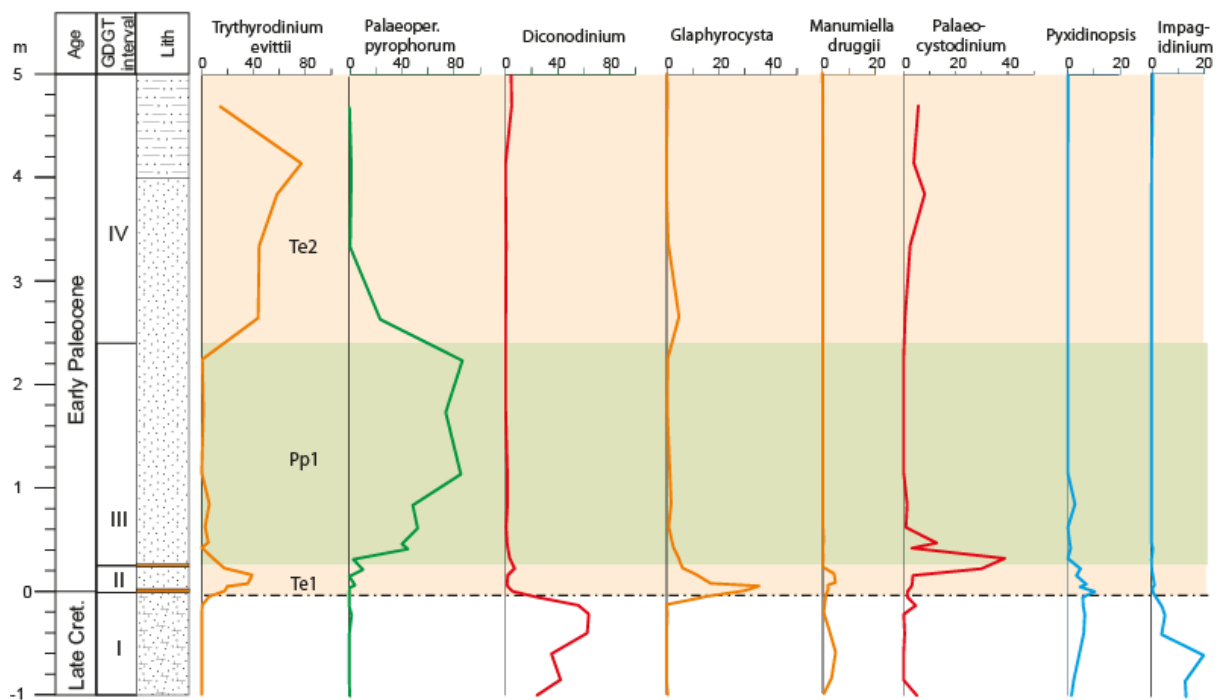
577 Correlation also shows that the Te1 acme is diachronous, occurring in the earliest  
578 Paleocene at mid-Waipara, but almost 1 Myr later at Mead and Branch Stream. We suspect  
579 that this diachroneity reflects the deeper water and possibly cooler oceanic setting of the  
580 Marlborough sections. The implication that other dinoflagellate taxa occupied the warm-  
581 water niche in these deep-water sites prior to the expansion of *T. evittii* is explored below.

582

#### 583 *4.2 Paleoenvironmental significance of dinoflagellate cyst acmes*

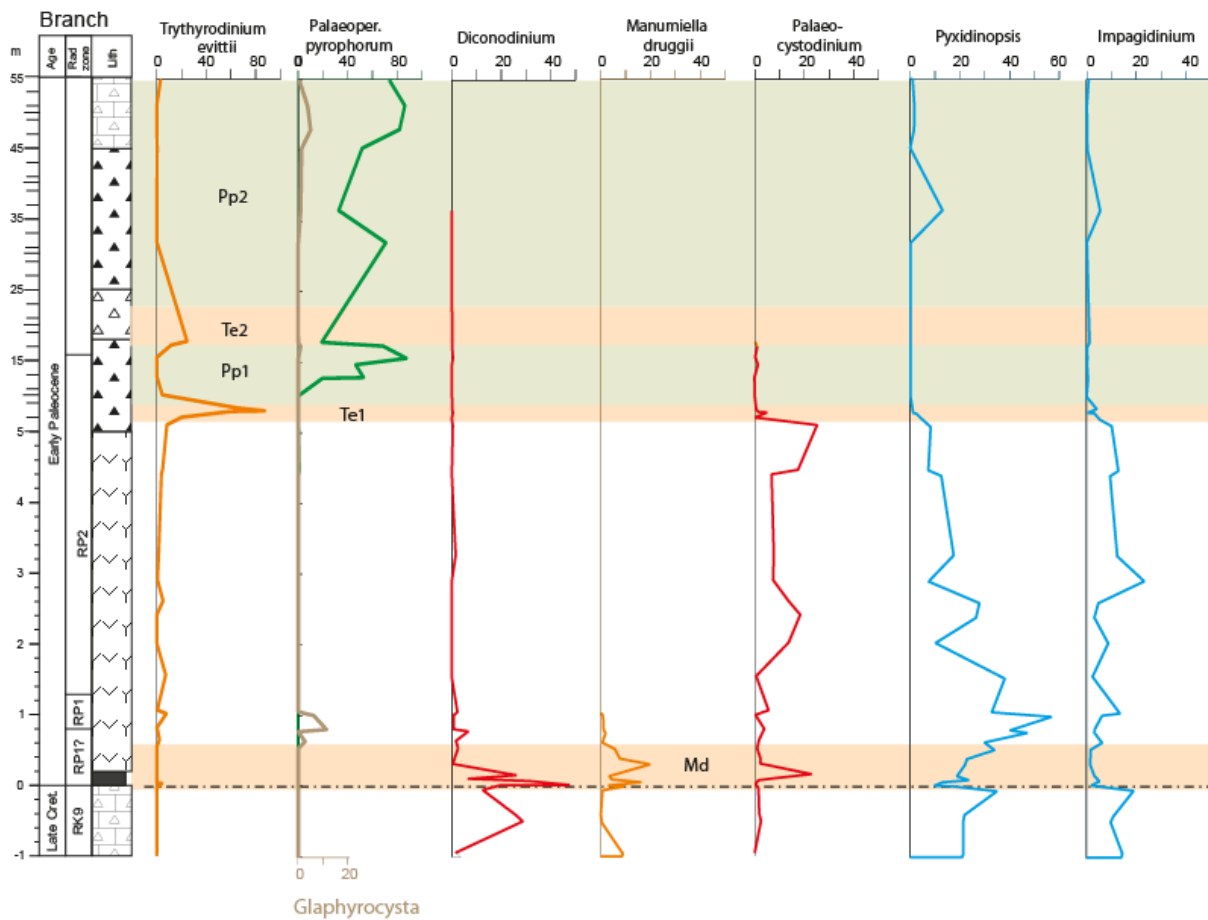
584 Variations in the abundance of some dinoflagellate cyst taxa can be used to refine  
585 interpretation of environmental changes in these sections. In particular, changes in  
586 assemblages through the expanded Branch section provide context for the truncated climate  
587 record at mid-Waipara. We have reviewed what is known of the environmental preferences  
588 of eight dinoflagellate taxa and apply this information to the three sections (Fig. 7-9).

589 ***Trithyrodinium evittii*** is considered to be a warm-water indicator, being common in low  
590 latitudes in the latest Cretaceous and migrating to high latitudes during an interval of global  
591 warming in the earliest Paleocene (Nøhr-Hansen and Dam, 1997, 1999; Brinkhuis et al.,  
592 1998; Willumsen, 2003; Vellekoop et al., 2015). This is consistent with the first *T. evittii* acme  
593 at mid-Waipara (Te1) occurring within Interval II and the second (Te2) being associated with  
594 warm SSTs within Interval IV. The large spikes in *T. evittii* abundance in Branch and Mead  
595 Stream sections that occur directly below the Pp1 acme may reflect post-depositional  
596 transport of an earlier Paleocene assemblage dominated by *T. evittii*, perhaps as part of the  
597 shelfal erosional event that caused the unconformity at mid-Waipara.



598

599 *Figure 7. Relative abundance of selected dinoflagellate taxa in the uppermost Cretaceous*  
 600 *and lower Paleocene at mid-Waipara River, north Canterbury. The intervals correlated with*  
 601 *the Trithyrodinium evittii (Te1 and TE2) and Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum (Pp1) acmes are*  
 602 *shaded.*



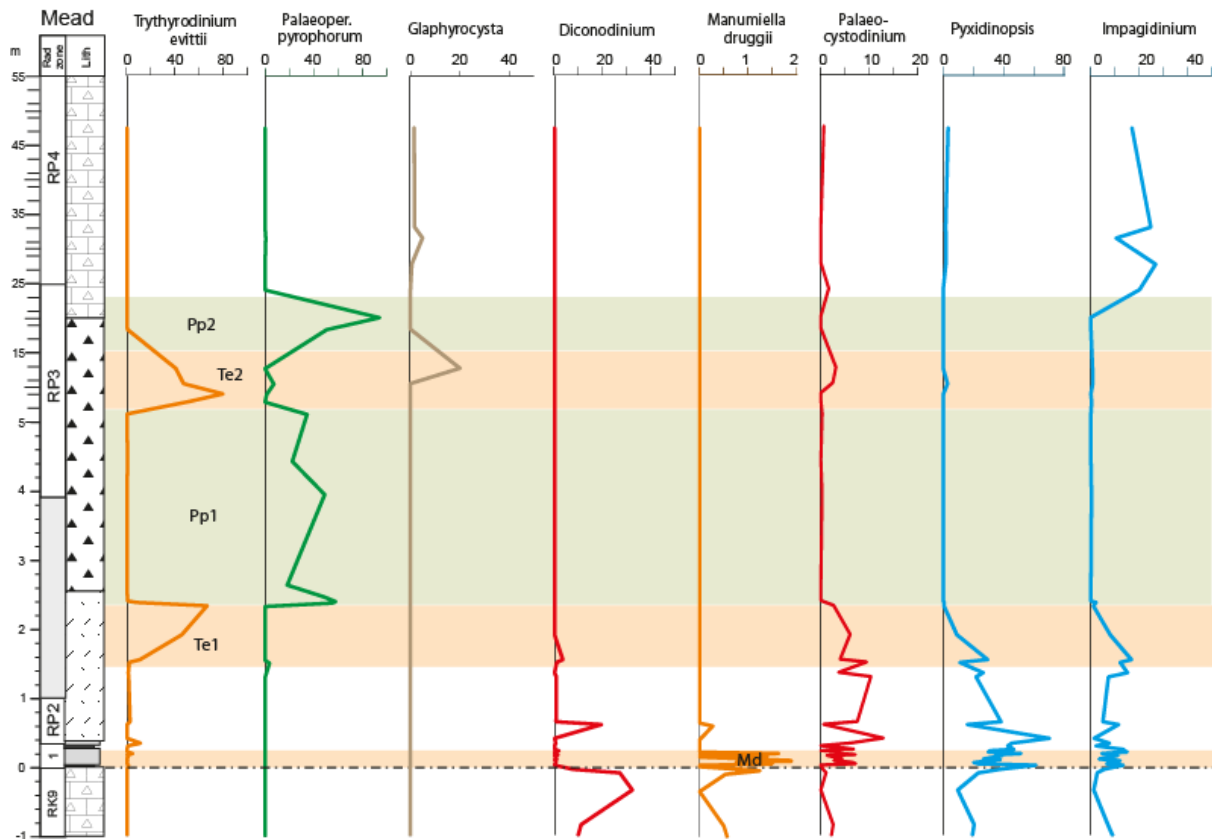
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604 *Figure 8. Relative abundance of selected dinoflagellate taxa in the uppermost Cretaceous*  
 605 *and lower Paleocene at Branch Stream, eastern Marlborough. The intervals correlated with*  
 606 *the Trithyrodinium evittii (Te1 and Te2) and Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum (Pp1 and Pp2)*  
 607 *acmes and a basal Paleocene interval with abundant Manumiella druggii (Md) are shaded.*

608

*Note the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.*

609



610

611 *Figure 9. Relative abundance of selected dinoflagellate taxa in the uppermost Cretaceous*  
 612 *and lower Paleocene at Mead Stream, eastern Marlborough. The intervals correlated with*  
 613 *the Trithyrodinium evittii (Te1 and Te2) and Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum (Pp1 and Pp2)*  
 614 *acmes and a basal Paleocene interval with abundant Manumiella druggii (Md) are shaded.*

615

*Note the scale change above 1.5 m sample depth.*

616

617

618 Abundant ***Palaeoperidinium pyrophorum*** has been interpreted to represent a wide range  
 619 of environments from fully marine to restricted marine stressed conditions with low salinity  
 620 and extreme pH-values (Evitt et al., 1998; Askin, 1988; Habib et al., 1994). Acmes have  
 621 been reported in a neritic setting of Seymour Island (Askin, 1988) as well as in pelagic  
 622 sediments from the Viborg-1 corehole, onshore Denmark (Heilmann-Clausen, 1985). We  
 623 also find that both *P. pyrophorum* acmes (Pp1 and Pp2) occur in three sections representing

624 a transect from shelf to upper slope (Fig. 8B). Both the Danish and New Zealand studies  
625 report high absolute abundance of cysts in the Pp acme intervals with up to 770,000  
626 specimens per gram of sediment ( Heilmann-Clausen, 1985; Willumsen, 2006; 2011). It  
627 appears that Pp acme intervals are either restricted to high latitudes or associated with  
628 siliceous microfossils, as is seen in Seymour Island (Askin, 1988; Harwood, 1988), California  
629 (Drugg, 1967; Foreman, 1968) and New Zealand. The Pp1 and Pp2 acmes span the main  
630 interval of siliceous microfossil-rich sediments in the early Paleocene of the Mead Hill  
631 Formation in Marlborough (upper radiolarian zone RP2 to upper RP3, 65-64 Ma) (Willumsen,  
632 2006; 2011) (Fig. 6). We infer that the Pp acmes in the New Zealand sections reflect cooling  
633 or coastal upwelling of cool, nutrient rich waters, consistent with the correlation between Pp1  
634 and TEX<sub>86</sub> cooling in Interval III.

635 ***Manumiella druggii*** has been interpreted as representing restricted shallow marine  
636 conditions (Hultberg, 1987; Firth, 1987; Askin and Jacobsen, 1996). Brinkhuis et al. (1998)  
637 interpreted increases in abundance in the earliest Paleocene in high latitudes to be an  
638 indication of warming. However, Habib and Saeedi (2007) found a spike in abundance  
639 coincident with latest Cretaceous cooling inferred from planktic  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  in the Brazos River  
640 K/Pg section. This appears to be supported by subsequent assemblage analysis by  
641 Vellekoop et al. (2015). However, both these records are from low latitude sites. We observe  
642 a small increase in abundance in the basal Paleocene within the Te1 acme at mid-Waipara  
643 (Fig. 7), and a slightly larger increase in abundance at Branch Stream in the interval  
644 correlated with the warming event (Fig. 8). The species is very rare at Mead Stream, but has  
645 a brief acme (~2%) directly above the K/Pg (Fig. 9). In line with the interpretation of  
646 Brinkhuis et al. (1998), we interpret this pattern of *Manumiella* occurrence to indicate that *M.*  
647 *druggii* is a temperate-water species that increases in abundance in high-latitudes during  
648 times of relative warmth but in low latitudes may increase during times of relative cooling.

649 ***Diconodinium*** and ***Palaeocystodinium*** are considered to be warm-water indicators  
650 (Fensome et al., 1993; Brinkhuis et al., 1998; Vellekoop et al., 2015). However, neither

651 genus is common during GDGT Interval II at mid-Waipara. *Diconodinium martianium* is  
652 common in the uppermost Cretaceous in all sites but becomes very rare in the Paleocene at  
653 mid-Waipara and Mead (Fig. 7, 9) and represents a latest Maastrichtian marine floral  
654 element. At Branch Stream, however, a significant peak in abundance occurs directly above  
655 the K/Pg boundary. *Palaeocystodinium* is rare in the uppermost Cretaceous, exhibits a small  
656 increase in the basal Paleocene and is common to abundant in the interval between  
657 Intervals II and III (Fig. 8). As such, these taxa are interpreted as warm-water indicators, but  
658 perhaps not as warm as indicated by *T. evittii*.

659 The gonyaulacoid genera *Impagidinium* and *Pyxidinosia* are considered to be more  
660 common in more oceanic settings (Dale, 1996; Willumsen, 2003; Crouch and Brinkhuis,  
661 2005; Vellekoop et al., 2015) and as such are proxies for oceanicity or proximity to shoreline.  
662 This agrees with the observations made here, with both taxa more common at the pelagic  
663 Branch and Mead sections compared with assemblages from the siliciclastic mid-Waipara  
664 River section. Significantly, the abundance of *Impagidinium* decreases across the K/Pg  
665 boundary at mid-Waipara and Branch (Willumsen 2003; 2011). This could reflect a fall in sea  
666 level because this decrease is not observed at the Mead section, which represents the  
667 deepest depositional setting (Hollis et al., 2003a).

668 *Pyxidinosia* exhibits an interesting pattern in the expanded Branch section: decreasing  
669 across the K/Pg boundary, followed by a rapid increase, followed by a gradual decrease  
670 leading up to the Pp1 acme, very rare in the acme, and sporadically reoccurring in Pp2 (Fig.  
671 8). A very similar trend is observed at Mead, except that there is also a peak in abundance  
672 directly above the K/Pg boundary (Fig. 9). A more patchy record at mid-Waipara is  
673 consistent with the neritic setting, but here too the genus is common in the uppermost  
674 Cretaceous, declines in the basal Paleocene, and is very rare through Pp1 (Fig. 7). To  
675 explain these trends, we invoke a fall in sea level close to the K/Pg boundary, followed by a  
676 transgressive-regressive cycle that culminates in a larger fall in sea level at the time of the  
677 Pp1 acme.



678 ***Glaphyrocysta*** is interpreted to be an indicator of nearshore, high-energy conditions (Stover  
679 et al., 1996; Sluijs et al., 2005; Crouch and Brinkhuis, 2005; Willumsen and Vajda, 2010a;  
680 Vellekoop et al., 2015). An acme directly above the K/Pg boundary at mid-Waipara (Fig. 7) is  
681 consistent with the decline in abundance of *Impagidinium*, suggesting either significant  
682 shallowing or increased transport and redeposition of nearshore particles and microfossils  
683 following directly after the K/Pg boundary event.

#### 684 4.3. Integrating temperature and environmental reconstructions

685 The TEX<sub>86</sub>-SST record from mid-Waipara River has been tied to dinoflagellate acme events  
686 that can be traced from the shelf setting at mid-Waipara to the pelagic upper slope sections  
687 at Branch and Mead streams (Fig. 10A-E). The cooling event (Interval III) corresponds with  
688 an acme in *P. pyrophorum* that occurs at ~65.0-64.8 Ma in all three sections (Fig. 10B). The  
689 underlying warming event (Interval II) is associated with a *T. evittii* acme at mid-Waipara,  
690 which appears to occur directly above the K/Pg within foraminiferal zone P0. Although there  
691 is no *T. evittii* acme directly above the K/Pg at Branch and Mead sections, there is and  
692 increase in *Palaeocystodinium* that is consistent with warming. If these two taxa are  
693 combined as a guide to warm conditions (Fig. 10C), they are in close agreement with the  
694 TEX<sub>86</sub> record: peaking in the earliest Paleocene, absent during the cooling event at ~65 Ma,  
695 and then increasing again above this event. These taxa also provide insight into temperature  
696 variation within the interval not preserved at mid-Waipara. At Branch and Mead, there is a  
697 general decline in the abundance of warm-water taxa, reaching a minimum between 65.9  
698 and 65.7 Ma, followed by a gradual increase and peak in *T. evittii* at ~65.2 Ma. Above this  
699 peak there is a rapid decline concomitant with the increase in *P. pyrophorum*.

700 Similar trends have been observed in lithofacies changes in the pelagic K/Pg sections in  
701 Marlborough (Hollis et al., 1995; 2003a, b; Hollis, 2003). In these sections, the K/Pg  
702 coincides with a change from siliceous limestone to calcareous porcellanite or mudstone.  
703 Within ~50 cm of the boundary, the lithology changes to chert or carbonate-poor

704 porcellanite. Carbonate concentration only returns to Cretaceous levels at ~64.2 Ma.  
705 Because the trend in silica is correlated with trends in siliceous microfossil abundance, both  
706 diatoms and radiolarians, the trend was interpreted as a localised response to the climate  
707 perturbations that followed the K/Pg event (Hollis, 2003; Hollis et al. 2003a, b).

708 A detailed record of these lithofacies changes was obtained from the Flaxbourne River and  
709 Branch Stream K/Pg boundary sections (Hollis et al., 2003a, b; Fig. 10D-E). The Flaxbourne  
710 section is the most complete K/Pg section in the South Pacific region. In addition to a well-  
711 defined iridium anomaly, it contains a full succession of foraminiferal zones from P0 to P1b  
712 (Strong et al., 1987; Strong, 2000). Unfortunately, dinoflagellates have not been recovered  
713 from this section despite extensive sampling (Willumsen, 2003). The highly siliceous Branch  
714 Stream section lacks the age control provided by foraminifera, but the expanded succession  
715 of radiolarian and dinoflagellates suggests that it is similarly complete and much more  
716 expanded, e.g. the interval to the top of radiolarian zone RP3 is ~10 m thick at Flaxbourne  
717 River but at least 55 m thick at Branch Stream.

718 A comparison of the lithofacies trends at the two sections with the dinoflagellate records  
719 supports inferences drawn from the lithofacies. Carbonate content decreases across the  
720 boundary at Branch Stream, recovers slightly in the earliest Paleocene and then decreases  
721 to very low levels until above the *P. pyrophorum* event. Silica content exhibits an opposite  
722 trend, except that in two intervals there is a marked increase in clay. The lower of these  
723 coincides with the *T. evittii* acme at this section and may signal increased sediment input  
724 during an interval of relative warmth. The second interval occurs within the *P. pyrophorum*  
725 acme and here may be a response to a fall in base level, linked to cooling and the  
726 unconformity at mid-Waipara. The Flaxbourne section was situated in a more distal and  
727 deeper-water setting, as evident from the weaker fluctuation in clay content. Here too,  
728 carbonate content decreases across the boundary, but remains moderately high through the  
729 earliest Paleocene before a stepped decrease at ~65 Ma. The remarkable agreement  
730 between the silica-carbonate ratio at this mid-bathyal site and the interval correlated to the *P.*

731 *pyrophorum* acme and the TEX<sub>86</sub> SST minimum at mid-Waipara is compelling evidence for  
732 pronounced regional cooling in the seas offshore eastern New Zealand at this time.

733

#### 734 *4.3. Comparison with global records*

735 Previous studies have identified a transient episode of pronounced cooling immediately  
736 following the K/Pg boundary event (Brinkhuis et al., 1998; Galleotti et al., 2004, Vellekoop et  
737 al., 2014; 2015; 2016). The lack of evidence for such a cooling event in the mid-Waipara  
738 River section is likely due to bioturbation across the boundary, which would have diluted the  
739 expression of a transient climate perturbation.

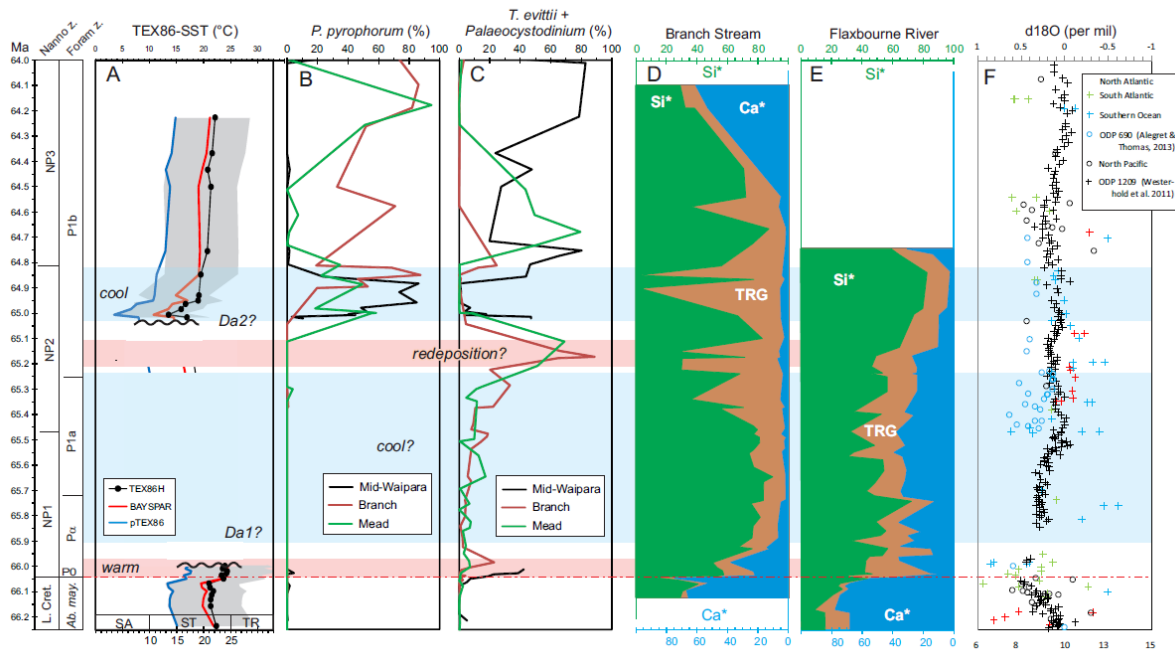
740 The 2.5 to 4°C warming that occurs across the K/Pg boundary at mid-Waipara represents a  
741 shift to either warm subtropical (pTEX<sub>86</sub>) or to near tropical conditions (TEX<sub>86</sub><sup>H</sup> and  
742 BAYSPAR<sub>SST</sub>). The transient cold interval at Brazos River is followed by a similar episode of  
743 warming that spans foraminiferal zone P0 and part of P $\alpha$  (Vellekoop et al., 2014). However,  
744 warming is not observed in other K/Pg boundary sections in the western Atlantic or in  
745 Tunisia (Vellekoop et al., 2015; 2016). Short-lived recovery of planktic foraminifera over an  
746 equivalent time interval at the Flaxbourne River section in Marlborough has also been cited  
747 as evidence for warming following the K/Pg event (Hollis, 2003; Hollis et al., 2003b).

748 The pronounced cooling within Interval III at mid-Waipara has parallels with the K/Pg  
749 boundary record on Seymour Island where cool temperatures are indicated by plant proxies  
750 (Poole et al., 2005) and clumped isotope data (Petersen et al., 2016) although the evidence  
751 from GDGT-based proxies is equivocal (Kemp et al., 2014). A weak cooling trend is also  
752 evident in TEX<sub>86</sub> records from the western Atlantic K/Pg boundary sections (Vellekoop et al.,  
753 2014; 2016). Notably, these cooler temperatures span an unconformity at Brazos River,  
754 Meirs Farm and Bass River, the timing of which compares well with the unconformity at the  
755 base of Interval III at mid-Waipara. An unconformity at about this level also marks the base  
756 of the Sobral Formation on Seymour Island (Kemp et al., 2014; Witts et al., 2016).

757 In New Zealand, the associated acme in *P. pyrophorum* can be used to correlated Interval III  
758 at mid-Waipara to the Branch and Mead Stream sections in Marlborough (Fig. 10). The  
759 interval is centred at 65 Ma, persists for ~200 kyrs and correlates with a peak in silica  
760 concentration in the pelagic succession at Flaxbourne River (Fig. 10). This provides the first  
761 direct evidence that the marked increase in biogenic silica accumulation (diatoms and  
762 radiolarians) in these Marlborough sections during the early Paleocene was linked to  
763 pronounced cooling of surface waters and, potentially, enhanced upwelling offshore eastern  
764 New Zealand. Temperature cooled by 10-13°C between Intervals II and III and SSTs within  
765 Interval III are ~5 to 6°C cooler than average Cretaceous values. For even the warmest  
766 calibrations, SST for Interval III dropped to a minimum of ~12-14°C, which is comparable to  
767 present day temperatures for offshore southern New Zealand and implies remarkable  
768 cooling. The association of pronounced cooling and a major unconformity in a shelfal setting  
769 implies a glacio-eustatic event and the timing is consistent with the Da2 sequence boundary  
770 reported by Hardenbol et al. (1998). It is possible that the unconformity represents an  
771 amalgamation of the Da1-Da2 sequence boundary (Fig. 10).

772 The marine lithofacies and pollen records from New Zealand suggests the entire interval  
773 represented by the unconformity (i.e. ~66 to ~65 Ma) was cooler than the latest  
774 Maastrichtian. The interval is characterised by high silica content and abundant diatoms in  
775 the Marlborough sections (Fig. 10; Hollis et al., 1995; 2003a, b; Hollis, 2003) and in the  
776 terrestrial Moody Creek Mine section, cool temperate conifers are abundant in the pollen and  
777 spore record above the tree fern-dominated interval (Vajda et al., 2001). A recent  
778 reconstruction of pCO<sub>2</sub> from New Zealand Cretaceous and Paleocene sections records a fall  
779 in pCO<sub>2</sub> across the K/Pg boundary (Steinthorsdottir et al., 2016). The interval with low pCO<sub>2</sub>  
780 values is associated with early Paleocene pollen assemblages dominated by gymnosperms  
781 and with abundant *Phyllocladidites mawsonii* (Pole and Vajda, 2009) suggesting a  
782 correlation with Interval III at mid-Waipara.

783



784

785 *Figure 10. Variation in climate and environmental indicators through the K/Pg transition at*  
 786 *mid-Waipara River (A-C), Mead Stream (B-C), Branch Stream (B-D) and Flaxbourne River*  
 787 *(E), together with corresponding global  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  record adapted from Zachos et al., (2008) (F).*

788 *SST estimates are derived from TEX86H, pTEX86 and BAYSPARSST calibrations, with*  
 789 *upper and lower 95% confidence limits for BAYSPAR also shown (grey lines). Abbreviations:*

790 *Da1, Da2 = sequence boundaries (Hardenbol et al., 1998); SA, CS, WS, Trop. =*  
 791 *Subantarctic, Cool Subtropical, Warm Subtropical and Tropical biogeographic zones (Nelson*  
 792 *and Cooke, 2001); Ca\*, Si\*, TRG = excess or biogenic CaCO<sub>3</sub> and SiO<sub>2</sub> and terrigenous*  
 793 *sediment, based on XRF data and the normative equations of Hollis et al. (2003a, b).*

794

795 Counter to this, pronounced early Paleocene cooling is not evident in benthic oxygen isotope  
 796 compilations (Zachos et al, 2008; Cramer et al. 2009, 2011), nor in a moderately high  
 797 resolution record from the north Pacific (Westerhold et al., 2011). We suggest that cooling  
 798 may have been restricted to southern high latitudes. This region is poorly represented in the  
 799 global compilations (Fig. 12F) and more recent datasets indicate temperatures some ~2°C  
 800 cooler than previously indicated (Alegret and Thomas, 2013).

801

802 *4.4. Mechanisms for long-term climate impacts*

803 Several studies have modelled the potential impacts of the K/Pg bolide impact and or  
804 Deccan Traps volcanism on the carbon cycle and climate (Caldeira and Rampino, 1990;  
805 1993; Caldeira et al. 1990; Henehan et al. 2016; Bardeen et al. 2017; Brugger et al. 2017).  
806 The relative importance of soot, other forms of particulate dust, sulphate aerosols, CO<sub>2</sub> and  
807 primary production varies between these models, but all point to significant climate shifts  
808 associated with the event. The most recent modelling studies (Bardeen et al. 2017; Brugger  
809 et al. 2017) that combine the effects of soot and/or aerosols with CO<sub>2</sub> indicate that  
810 pronounced but short-lived cooling would have been followed by longer-lived warming.  
811 Earlier modelling experiments (Caldeira and Rampino, 1990; 1993; Caldeira et al. 1990)  
812 showed how extinctions of calcareous plankton coupled with continued supply of carbonate  
813 to the oceans would have resulted in CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown, climatic cooling and rapid deepening  
814 of the carbonate compensation depth (CCD). All these experiments have been based on one  
815 or at most three (where Deccan volcanism was considered) fixed-point perturbations and  
816 have not considered how the effects might be modulated by background climatic and  
817 ecological processes, such as Milankovitch cycles and post-extinction re-establishment on  
818 ecological niches. D'Hondt et al. (1996a, b; 1998) highlighted the significance of these  
819 factors by describing the dramatic change from low-amplitude precession to high-amplitude  
820 eccentricity cycles across the K/Pg boundary in addition to the delayed recovery of the  
821 pelagic ecosystem. Coxall et al. (2006) argued that full recovery of the pelagic ecosystem  
822 may have taken ~4 Myrs although a more recent study (Birch et al., 2016) suggests it may  
823 have been only 1.8 Myrs. Over approximately the same time interval, high-amplitude  
824 eccentricity cycles in carbonate flux and grain size in Walvis Ridge ODP Site 1262 indicates  
825 orbital pacing of CCD depth (Kroon et al. 2007); the inference being that each pulse of  
826 deepening is linked to CO<sub>2</sub> drawdown and climatic cooling. Eccentricity cycles have also  
827 been reported in the lower Paleocene sequence in Marlborough (Field and Hollis, 2003)

828 although the coeval interval in North Pacific ODP site 1209 is described as “strange interval”  
829 by Westerhold et al. (2008) because it lacks coherent cycles.

830 In summary, the evidence from these modelling and proxy studies allows us to conclude that  
831 a major extinction event and disruption to biogeochemical pathways plausibly explains the  
832 type of long-term disruption to climate that is evident in the New Zealand K/Pg boundary  
833 sections. The pronounced cooling evident in the New Zealand record has not been reported  
834 in other studies, suggesting that it may be a localised response of stronger climate  
835 oscillations and perhaps enhanced seasonality (D’Hondt et al., 1996). However, the absence  
836 of this cooling event in global compilations of ocean temperature history (Zachos et al.,  
837 2008; Cramer et al., 2009, 2011) may also be due to the patchy representation of southern  
838 high-latitude climate archive (Fig. 10F).

839

## 840 **6. Conclusions**

841 A new TEX<sub>86</sub>-based SST record across the K/Pg boundary at mid-Waipara River,  
842 Canterbury Basin, New Zealand, provides long-term context for the mass extinction event  
843 and oceanographic changes in the southwest Pacific from latest Cretaceous to early  
844 Paleocene time (~66.2 to 64.2 Ma).

845 Bioturbation complicates the SST record across the K/Pg boundary in two respects. Firstly, a  
846 down-worked GDGT assemblage is inferred to give a false indication of climatic warming  
847 before the K/Pg boundary event. This inference is supported by down-working of Paleocene  
848 microfossils (dinoflagellates) and siderophilic elements associated with the boundary.

849 Secondly, bioturbation has blurred the GDGT signal within the boundary zone. This means  
850 that we lack a record of climatic changes precisely at the boundary.

851 Nevertheless, two significant shifts in SST are observed that can be related to regional  
852 changes in oceanographic conditions and marine plankton communities as well as two

853 global climatic changes. SST warmed by  $\sim 3^{\circ}\text{C}$  across the K/Pg boundary and then  
854 remained stable for up to 40 ka (corresponding to foraminiferal zone P0). Warming was  
855 associated with an influx of the warm-water dinoflagellate species, *Trithyrodinium evittii*, and  
856 the short-lived recovery of calcareous-shelled plankton.

857 Following this episode of warm climatic conditions, our records reveal a period of prolonged  
858 environmental instability that is manifested by a succession of short-lived acmes in  
859 dinoflagellate species as well as a turnover of the assemblages from a latest Maastrichtian  
860 species to early Paleocene marine flora, and the FO of a number of global dinoflagellate cyst  
861 index taxa. This instability culminated in an episode of pronounced cooling,  $10\text{-}13^{\circ}\text{C}$  based  
862 on  $\text{TEX}_{86}$ -based approaches, which was associated with peak biogenic silica accumulation  
863 in the paleo-upwelling setting of the Marlborough K/Pg boundary sections (Hollis 2003; Hollis  
864 et al. 2003a, b; Willumsen, 2003). These significant fluctuations in climatic and  
865 oceanographic conditions suggest a dynamic and complex recovery to the K/Pg crisis that  
866 persisted for  $\sim 1.2$  Myrs in the middle to high latitude Pacific Ocean.

867

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877



878 **Supplementary Figures and Tables**

879 S1: Cross plots of trace elements at mid-Waipara River including A) Ni/Ti, B) Zn/Ti, C) Cr/Ti,  
880 D) Fe/Ti.

881 S2: List of samples used in this study with position relative to K/Pg boundary. See Morgans et  
882 al. (2005) for full sample list.

883 S3: Relative abundance chart for selected dinoflagellate species in mid-Waipara River section.

884 S4: Organic geochemical data for mid-Waipara River section.

885 S5: List of uppermost Cretaceous and lower Paleocene bioevents in mid-Waipara, Branch,  
886 Mead and Flaxbourne K/Pg boundary sections.

887 S6: Age-depth plots for A) mid-Waipara, B) Branch, C) Mead and D) Flaxbourne K/Pg  
888 boundary sections.

889 S7: Age model for the mid-Waipara section.

890

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