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Journal

Nature, 466(7310)

ISSN

0028-0836

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Publication Date

2010-08-01

DOI

10.1038/nature09288

Peer reviewed

Upper-ocean-to-atmosphere radiocarbon offsets imply fast deglacial carbon dioxide release

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Radiocarbon in the atmosphere is regulated largely by ocean circulation, which controls the sequestration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the deep sea through atmosphere–ocean carbon exchange. During the last glaciation, lower atmospheric CO₂ levels were accompanied by increased atmospheric radiocarbon concentrations that have been attributed to greater storage of CO₂ in a poorly ventilated abyssal ocean^{1,2}. The end of the ice age was marked by a rapid increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentrations² that coincided with reduced ¹⁴C/¹²C ratios ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$) in the atmosphere³, suggesting the release of very ‘old’ (¹⁴C-depleted) CO₂ from the deep ocean to the atmosphere³. Here we present radiocarbon records of surface and intermediate-depth waters from two sediment cores in the southwest Pacific and Southern oceans. We find a steady 170 per mil decrease in $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ that precedes and roughly equals in magnitude the decrease in the atmospheric radiocarbon signal during the early stages of the glacial–interglacial climatic transition. The atmospheric decrease in the radiocarbon signal coincides with regionally intensified upwelling and marine biological productivity⁴, suggesting that CO₂ released by means of deep water upwelling in the Southern Ocean lost most of its original depleted-¹⁴C imprint as a result of exchange and isotopic equilibration with the atmosphere. Our data imply that the deglacial ¹⁴C depletion previously identified in the eastern tropical North Pacific⁵ must have involved contributions from sources other than the previously suggested carbon release by way of a deep Southern Ocean pathway⁵, and may reflect the expanded influence of the ¹⁴C-depleted North Pacific carbon reservoir across this interval. Accordingly, shallow water masses advecting north across the South Pacific in the early deglaciation had little or no residual ¹⁴C-depleted signals owing to degassing of CO₂ and biological uptake in the Southern Ocean.

Observations in the glacial atmosphere of higher radiocarbon activity ($\Delta^{14}\text{C}$) accompanied by lower CO₂ concentrations, relative to modern values^{2,6,7}, are believed to have been caused primarily by climate-induced changes in the ocean’s thermohaline circulation isolating abyssal ocean carbon from the atmosphere¹. Although independent estimates of ¹⁴C production indicate that changes in thermohaline circulation cannot fully account for atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ changes since the last ice age⁶, considerable evidence suggests that CO₂ with a ¹⁴C content significantly lower than it is today was sequestered in the deep glacial ocean below a depth of 2.5 km (refs 8–11). Whereas the full extent of the deep carbon reservoir remains to be constrained¹², it seems that a significant portion of this glacially sequestered CO₂ was reintroduced into the atmosphere by means

of ocean outgassing during the last glacial–interglacial transition³. This ¹⁴C-depleted carbon contributed to atmospheric CO₂ increase² while reducing the atmospheric radiocarbon signal by ~20% (ref. 7), leaving a strong imprint on the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ distribution in the ocean^{5,8}. Because deep water masses outcrop in the Southern Ocean, surface processes there probably regulated carbon injection into the atmosphere and CO₂ partitioning among the several ocean reservoirs¹. Correlations among Antarctic temperature records¹³, deglacial atmospheric CO₂ increase², changes in Southern Ocean upwelling⁴ and model results¹⁴ support this explanation. However, there is still no direct verification of the pathways taken by ¹⁴C-depleted CO₂ from the deep ocean to the atmosphere.

Here we present early deglacial surface and intermediate-depth $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ profiles that were reconstructed using radiocarbon activities from coexisting planktonic and benthic foraminifera in two sediment cores in the sub-Antarctic and subtropical South Pacific near New Zealand. The region and shallow water depths of both core sites are ideal for assessing deglacial ¹⁴C changes in sub-Antarctic mode water (SAMW; core RR0503-JPC64) and Antarctic intermediate water (AAIW; core MD97-2120) that are derived from the entrainment of abyssal water masses into the upper-ocean thermocline by wind-driven upwelling in the Southern Ocean¹⁵ (Fig. 1). Subtropical mode water (STMW) has components of SAMW entrained from equatorial undercurrent waters or can be partially sourced through the Tasman Sea^{15,16}.

The baseline age model for core MD97-2120 on the south Chatham Rise (east of New Zealand) is anchored with ¹⁴C dating¹⁷ and fine-tuned between 13 and 19 kyr BP by correlating the stable oxygen isotope ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$) record of its planktonic foraminifera with the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record of the European Project for Ice Coring in Antarctica (EPICA) Dronning Maud Land (EDML) ice core¹³ (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Fig. 1). This age model allows the use of ¹⁴C as a tracer that is not biased by using it as a stratigraphic tool. The age model for core RR0503-JPC64 in the Bay of Plenty (north of New Zealand) was developed by combining ¹⁴C-derived calendar-age tie points from the planktonic foraminifera *Globorotalia inflata* with tephra chronology from the core¹⁸ tied to established New Zealand chronologies¹⁹ and the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record of the EDML ice core¹³. Tephra stratigraphy suggests continuous sedimentation throughout the early deglaciation, before ~13,700 calendar years BP (the Waiohau tephra). However, above this tephra, there seems to be a 4.1-kyr hiatus. For both cores, we used the CALIB v5.0.1 program and MARINE04 database to convert the radiocarbon data to calendar ages. (See Supplementary Information for stratigraphic and methodological details.)

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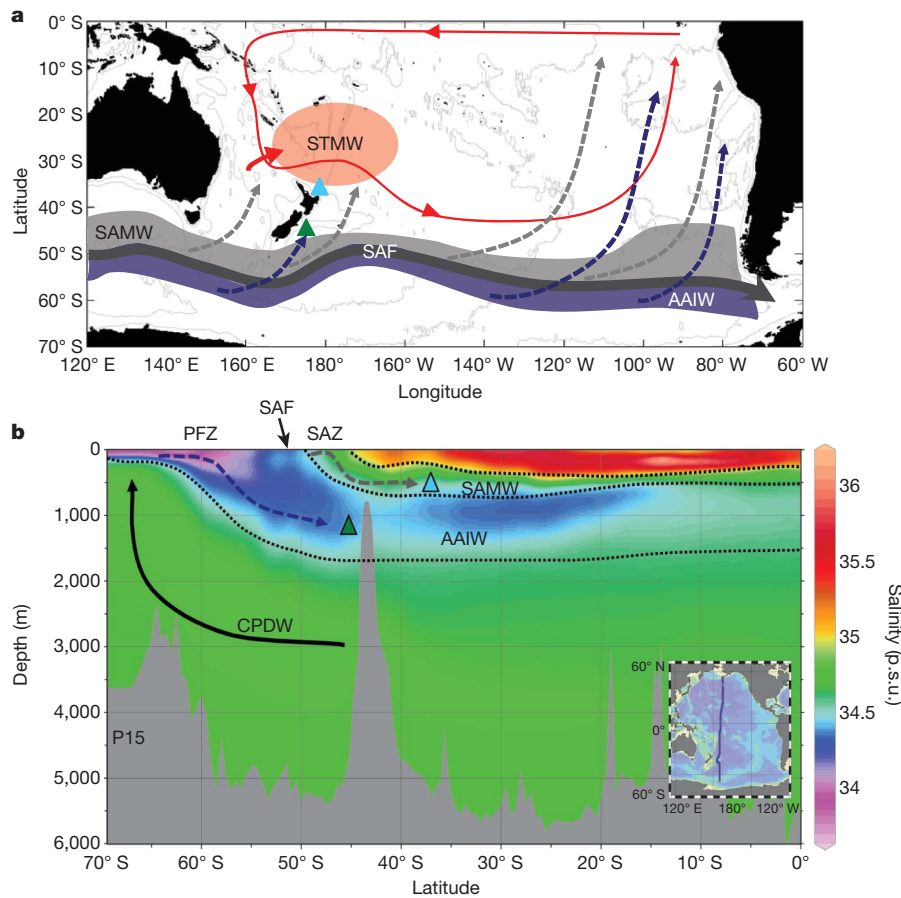


Figure 1 | Ocean circulation in the South Pacific and Southern Ocean and ambient water-mass patterns at the location of the sediment cores used in this study. **a**, Schematic presentation of major currents. The bold solid line marks the approximate location of the sub-Antarctic front (SAF), which separates cold and fresher polar surface waters, to the south, from the warmer and saltier surface waters in the sub-Antarctic zone (SAZ), to the north. SAMW forms in the SAZ (grey shaded area) and becomes entrained in the South Pacific subtropical gyre circulation (solid red line). At the equator, its chemical signal can be identified in STMW (~100–300-m water depth) in the western basin. Denser AAIW (~800–1,400-m water depth) forms south of the SAF, in the polar frontal zone (PFZ, blue shaded area), and flows northwards below SAMW. The triangles mark the core sites used in this study: RR0503-

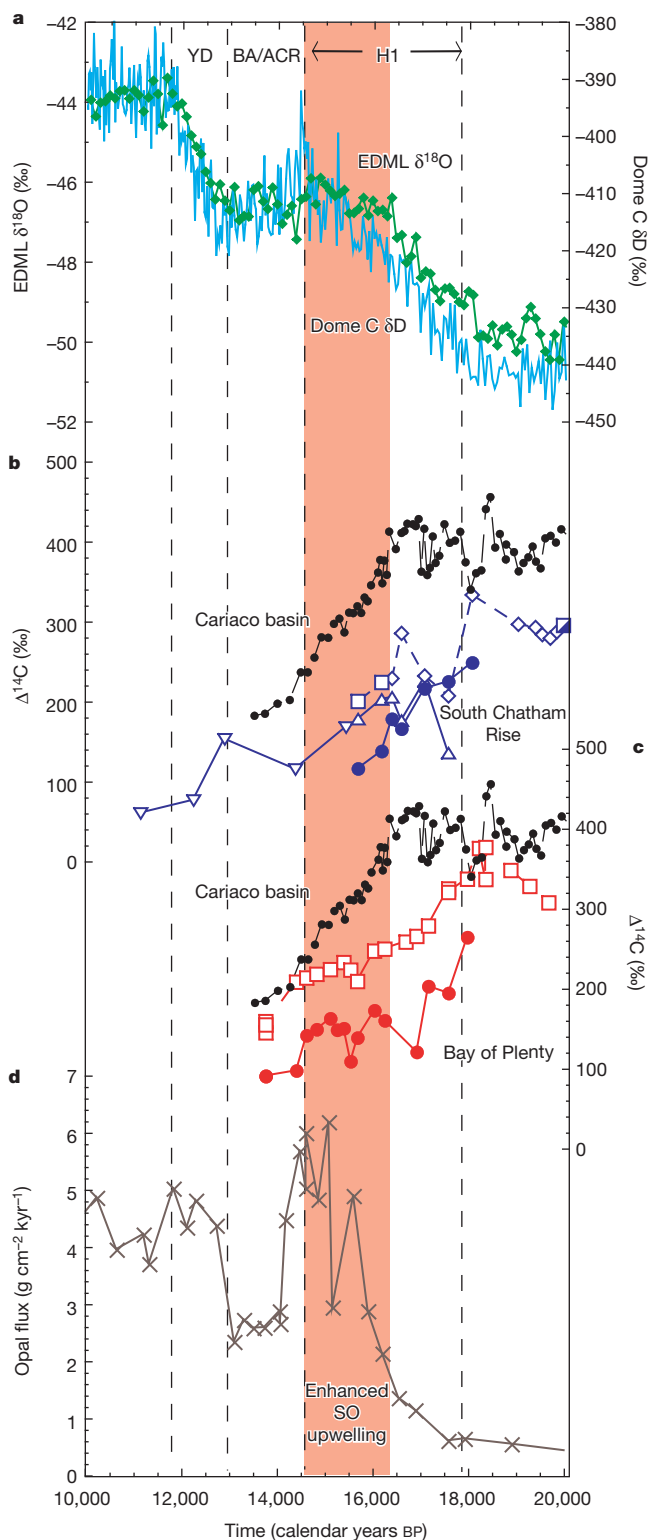
JPC64 (37° 25.34' S, 177° 00.41' E; 651 m; turquoise triangle) and MD97-2120 (43° 32.06' S, 174° 55.85' E; 1,210 m; green triangle). **b**, Wind-driven upwelling in the Southern Ocean causes shallow, mid-depth and deep-water masses to shoal. Cores RR0503-JPC64 and MD97-2120 are proximal to the formation zones of SAMW and AAIW and are positioned within the flow paths of both water masses as they are advected to the north and ventilate the South Pacific thermocline. In the Pacific, circumpolar deep water (CPDW) resides below SAMW and AAIW, providing a source for upwelled waters in the Southern Ocean. In the modern ocean, CPDW carries a strong contribution from North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW) flowing out of the Atlantic Ocean at abyssal depths. Inset, ship's track/sampling transect for the salinity vertical profile shown in the main panel. p.s.u., practical salinity units.

To assess partitioning of ^{14}C among the atmosphere, subsurface and surface water masses, we compared age-corrected water-mass $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values based on foraminifera with contemporary atmosphere values, IntCal04²⁰ and Cariaco⁷, on the Hulu cave timescale⁵ (Fig. 2). The two atmospheric ^{14}C levels are offset through the early deglaciation (Fig. 3a), which can be attributed to IntCal04 pre-dating Cariaco on the Hulu cave timescale⁶. Owing to higher sample density, we consider the Cariaco–Hulu record⁷ better suited for comparison with our marine radiocarbon records. The planktonic species *G. inflata* in core RR0503-JPC64 is well suited to tracing STMW because it inhabits the upper thermocline, at the depth of STMW. SAMW is advected rapidly, on the order of decades²¹, from the sub-Antarctic zone to the tropics, where its $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ signal is entrained upwards into STMW and recorded by *G. inflata* (Fig. 1).

During the early deglaciation, from 18 to 15.8 kyr BP, the benthic and planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values in our marine records decrease by ~170‰. In the subtropical core at 18 kyr BP, the difference between the atmospheric signal and the *G. inflata* planktonic signal is 20‰ (slightly less than the modern value; Fig. 2c). Initially, the foraminiferal $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values decrease at a greater pace than atmospheric ^{14}C , such that at 16.2 kyr BP the difference between atmospheric and planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ reaches 100–150‰ (Fig. 2b, c). After this, the planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ record

decreases more slowly whereas atmospheric ^{14}C decreases sharply, such that within the next 1.7 kyr (the period indicated by red shading on Fig. 2) the atmosphere–ocean difference is reduced almost to zero. The ^{14}C in SAMW (indicated by benthic foraminiferal $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in the Bay of Plenty core) largely mirrors the trend seen in planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$. At 18 kyr BP, SAMW is depleted by 150‰ relative to atmospheric values and decreases at a greater rate than the planktonics do until benthic ^{14}C is about 200‰ below the contemporaneous atmospheric values at 16.2 kyr BP. After this, SAMW $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ plateaus until the ocean–atmosphere offset returns, between 15.0 and 14.5 kyr BP, to the value it had 18 kyr BP. AAIW, as recorded by benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in our Chatham Rise core, displays fundamentally similar trends to the subtropical site. The planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ record is analogous to the others, but shows oscillations and changing offsets among species from 17.8 to 16.5 kyr BP (Fig. 2b). These probably reflect variations in subsurface-to-surface and ocean-to-atmosphere carbon transfer and interspecies habitat differences. (See Supplementary Information for a full discussion.)

Our marine $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ records support a southern locus as an exit route for CO_2 from a deep and isolated marine carbon reservoir during the early deglaciation, and help constrain the dynamics among the atmospheric CO_2 increase and $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ decrease and the deglacial Southern Ocean degassing. Rapid CO_2 injection into the atmosphere begins



17.8 kyr BP², whereas the drastic drop in atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ begins later, ~ 16.5 kyr BP (Fig. 3a). The marine $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ decrease starts 17.8 kyr BP, is concurrent with the initial rise in atmospheric CO_2 and leads the atmospheric ^{14}C decrease. Consequently, between 17.8 and 16.5 kyr BP the atmosphere/Southern Ocean isotopic difference increases by $\sim 50\%$. The change in offset across this time suggests that ^{14}C -depleted carbon upwelled into thermocline and surface waters in the Southern Ocean, but that air–sea exchange in the Southern Ocean was inadequate for that ^{14}C -depleted CO_2 to attain isotopic equilibration with the atmosphere. With constant air–sea mixing dynamics, the increase in atmospheric CO_2 concentration

Figure 2 | Records of radiocarbon activities, Antarctic temperatures and Southern Ocean upwelling across the last deglaciation. **a**, Antarctic ice-core $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ($[(^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O})_{\text{sample}}/(^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O})_{\text{standard}} - 1] \times 1,000$) from EDML (green¹³) and the hydrogen isotope deuterium (δD) from EPICA Dome C (light blue²), each of which is a temperature proxy, placed on the Greenland GISP2 timescale⁵. **b**, Atmospheric radiocarbon activities from the Cariaco basin (black), placed on the Hulu cave timescale⁷, and south Chatham Rise marine $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from planktonic and benthic foraminifera (blue): *Globigerina bulloides* (planktonic; up-triangles show new data (this study); down-triangles show data from ref. 17), *Globorotalia inflata* (planktonic; squares), *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (s) (planktonic; diamonds), mixed *G. bulloides* and *N. pachyderma* (planktonic; half-open square), and mixed benthics (filled circles). **c**, Atmospheric radiocarbon activities from the Cariaco basin (black), placed on the Hulu cave timescale, and Bay of Plenty $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from core RR0503-JPC64 (red): *G. inflata* (planktonic; open squares) and mixed benthic foraminifera (closed circles). **d**, Opal fluxes, a proxy for upwelling south of the Antarctic polar front, from sediment core TN057-13-4PC (53.2° S, 5.1° E) in the Southern Ocean⁴ (SO). The vertical dashed lines denote climatic intervals of the deglaciation as indicated at top: Heinrich event 1 (H1; timing as determined by reduced deep-water flux in the North Atlantic²⁴), the Bølling–Allerød/Antarctic cold reversal (BA/ACR) and the Younger Dryas (YD). The shaded area corresponds to the period of enhanced upwelling in the Southern Ocean and the rapid drop in atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$.

throughout this period would decrease surface marine $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ relative to the atmospheric value (by $\sim 10\%$)^{3,22}, whereas higher air–sea exchange rates would minimize this effect. Thus, about 40% of the marine decrease may be attributed to injection of waters greatly depleted in ^{14}C relative to the atmosphere.

Starting around 16.5 kyr BP, increased opal fluxes at latitude 53° S (Fig. 2d) suggest substantial strengthening of Southern Ocean upwelling south of the Antarctic polar front⁴ that increased marine biological productivity (also in evidence at our subpolar site; Fig. 3c). Coincident with the initiation of enhanced upwelling⁴, the rate of atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ decrease accelerated² but radiocarbon levels in STMW, SAMW and possibly AAIW levelled out (Figs 2 and 3). Vigorous mixing and deeper convection¹⁴ are plausible mechanisms to accelerate ^{14}C – ^{12}C exchange and reduce the atmosphere–ocean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ difference. A concurrent release of highly ^{14}C -depleted CO_2 from the deep ocean would reduce the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in both the atmosphere and the upper ocean. These interpretations make an implicit assumption that Pacific glacial and deglacial circulation was analogous to that today. Alternatively, it is possible that water upwelling in the Southern Ocean at this time was not significantly depleted in ^{14}C . Nonetheless, we suggest that deeper waters substantially depleted in ^{14}C were drawn to the upper layers in the Southern Ocean after 16.5 kyr BP (perhaps breaching a deep hydrologic front), and that vigorous exchange transferred the ^{14}C signal to the atmosphere. This caused the atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value to drop rapidly and the Southern Ocean/atmosphere $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ levels to become more closely aligned. At the start of the Antarctic cold reversal (~ 14.5 kyr BP), the atmosphere–ocean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ offset stabilized at the modern value (Fig. 2). This is attributed to Southern Ocean cooling that caused westerly winds to shift northwards, weakening upwelling⁴. This would have substantially damped ocean–atmosphere CO_2 and ^{14}C exchange in the region.

The relatively small maximum $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ offset among the atmosphere, surface waters and subthermocline waters in the southwest Pacific (this study) and southeast Pacific²³ indicates there was substantial isotopic exchange with the atmosphere in the course of wind-driven upwelling and outgassing in the Southern Ocean. These results depart significantly from the large $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ depletion reported from the eastern tropical North Pacific⁵ (ETNP; Fig. 3b). In the ETNP, $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ depletion began ~ 17.8 kyr BP, which precedes by ~ 1.7 kyr the onset of enhanced upwelling in the Southern Ocean⁴ that is invoked to transport this signal to the ETNP. However, the depletion there is coincident with the onset of Heinrich event 1 and the collapse of NADW formation²⁴. The position of the ETNP site in an eastern

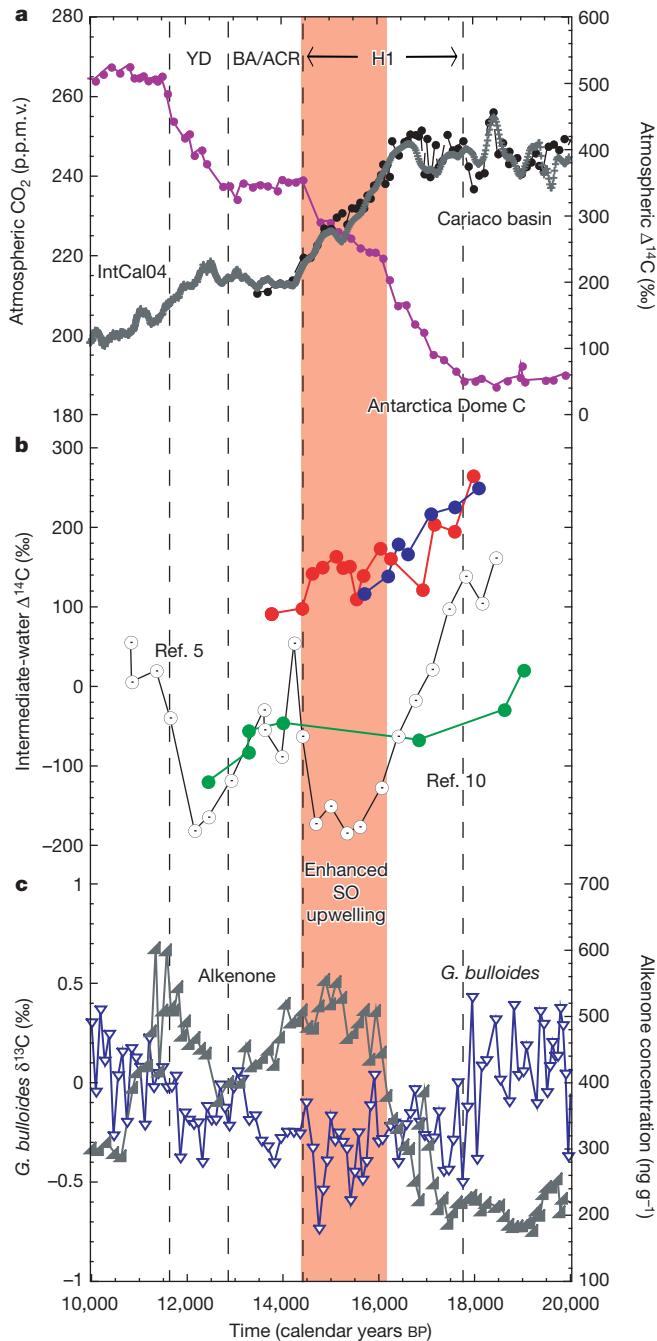


Figure 3 | Records of atmospheric CO₂, radiocarbon activities, and surface $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and productivity across the last deglaciation. The initial deglacial rise in atmospheric CO₂ shown in the Southern Hemisphere ice-core records, the decrease in surface ocean $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and the increase in alkenone productivity all coincide with the initial decrease in intermediate-water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$. **a**, Atmospheric $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from the Cariaco basin (black⁷) and IntCal04 (grey²⁰), and atmospheric CO₂ concentration from Antarctic ice core EPICA Dome C (purple²), placed on the GISP2 timescale⁵. **b**, Intermediate-water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from south Chatham Rise core MD97-2120 (mixed benthics; blue circles), Bay of Plenty core RR0503-JPC64 (mixed benthics; red circles) and the Baja California ETNP site (mixed benthics; open circles⁵), and North Pacific deep-water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (mixed benthics; green circles¹⁰). Although the three shallow sites show a decrease in $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ beginning at ~ 17.8 kyr BP, only the tropical North Pacific site shows an extreme decrease in $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$, starting at the beginning of Heinrich event 1. **c**, MD97-2120 *G. bulloides* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (blue triangles¹⁷) and alkenone concentrations (grey triangles³²) tuned to EDML. The alkenone concentrations are a measure of haptophyte productivity. The vertical dashed lines and the shaded area are as in Fig. 2.

boundary shadow zone makes subthermocline waters there sensitive to changes in steric height, thermocline depth²⁵ and internal mixing dynamics²⁶, which vary with subsurface water mass flux²⁷. These would be sensitive to Northern Hemisphere thermohaline forcing. Also significant, the timing of the benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ decrease in the ETNP coincides with an oceanic ^{14}C plateau visible in marine fossils globally (~ 16.7 – 15.3 kyr BP)²⁸, which is attributed to global thermohaline reorganization. Expansion of a deep, poorly ventilated, ^{14}C -depleted North Pacific carbon reservoir with a different exit point, possibly the equatorial Pacific, could explain the ETNP $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ value (Fig. 3b). An alternative interpretation for the $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ difference between the ETNP and the South Pacific could be that CO₂ exiting through the Southern Ocean did not fully tap into an old carbon pool.

Notably, the initial $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ decrease in marine records at ~ 18 kyr BP also coincides with the initial decrease in foraminifera $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ of the carbon isotope minimum event across the Southern and equatorial Pacific^{4,16,29,30}. This event is generally interpreted as the entrainment of poorly ventilated, nutrient-rich waters from a glacial abyssal carbon pool. However, the absolute $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ minima at these widely dispersed sites are not contemporaneous, varying by 5 kyr (refs 4, 16, 29, 30), which points to local modification of any formation signal. The carbon isotope minimum event at our Southern Ocean (south Chatham Rise) site lasts from ~ 18 to 14 kyr BP (Fig. 3c).

Marine data from the southwest Pacific suggest a two-step ventilation of deep waters contributing CO₂ to the atmosphere. The initiation of the atmospheric CO₂ increase² coincided with a nearly total collapse of NADW formation in the subpolar North Atlantic²⁴ at the onset of Heinrich event 1, which affected density balances in waters outcropping in the Southern Ocean. We suggest that this brought CO₂-rich, ^{14}C -depleted water to the surface and that this water did not fully exchange isotopically with the atmosphere. Subsequent to this far-field forcing from the Northern Hemisphere, the ocean–atmosphere exchange in the Southern Ocean also responded to local forcing. Increasing Southern Ocean warmth¹³ caused changes in wind placement^{25,31}, altering shallow-water formation and lateral pumping dynamics^{14,27}. Models indicate that entrainment of waters sourced from mid-depths such as upper CPDW fundamentally affect surface ocean productivity and CO₂ levels¹⁴. Although our data do not address the absence of a significant change in the Pacific deep-water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ signal during the interval from 16.4 to 15.2 kyr BP^{10,12}, intensified pumping from moderate depths is consistent with the lack of a significant change in Pacific deep-water $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (refs 10, 12) through the early part of the deglaciation (17.8–16.2 kyr BP). The progressive shift of westerly winds to the south may have initiated a polar loop of shallow-water formation¹⁴ that successively stripped CO₂ from mid-ocean depths before penetrating deeper into the ocean to release ^{14}C -depleted CO₂ from an older carbon reservoir. With moderate-depth waters as the main CO₂ source before the Antarctic cold reversal, the ^{14}C -depleted CO₂ released after the Antarctic cold reversal must have been from a smaller, more depleted reservoir that remains to be volumetrically constrained and chemically defined¹².

Received 19 October 2009; accepted 14 June 2010.

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Supplementary Information is linked to the online version of the paper at www.nature.com/nature.

Acknowledgements We thank the captain and crew of the RV *Revelle*, and our shipboard colleagues during the Zheng leg 3 (RR0503) cruise funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which collected the RR core. Core MD97-2120 was collected through the International Marine Past Global Change Study (IMAGES) program and with the technical support of the Institut Polaire Français Paul Emile Victor (IPEV) who made the research vessel Marion Dufresne available for core retrieval. H.J.S., E.L.S. and T.P.G., and the shore analyses, were supported by NSF awards and the Evolving Earth Foundation, and the Geological Society of America provided support for K.A.R. during her MSc. R.Z. acknowledges support from the MICINN, Spain. A portion of this work was performed under the auspices of the US Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. We especially thank M. Cook for discussions, continuing input and suggestions throughout this study.

Author Contributions K.A.R. participated in the RR0503 cruise, sampled cores, prepared sediments, speciated foraminifera for isotopic and radiocarbon analyses, performed all stable isotopic analyses and prepared figures. E.L.S. led the RR0503 cruise, sampled cores, speciated foraminifera for isotopic and radiocarbon analyses, prepared figures and wrote the paper. T.P.G. participated in the RR0503 cruise and performed all radiocarbon analyses. P.S. participated in the RR0503 cruise and identified all tephra. H.J.S. designed the study and, with T.M.H., supervised KAR during her MSc. R.Z. provided the MD core samples and supplementary data for that core. All authors contributed to the interpretation of the results and provided input on the manuscript.

Author Information Reprints and permissions information is available at www.nature.com/reprints. The authors declare no competing financial interests. Readers are welcome to comment on the online version of this article at www.nature.com/nature. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to E.L.S. (sikes@marine.rutgers.edu).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SI #1 Sample preparation and analyses

New planktonic and benthic foraminiferal radiocarbon ages were generated for late glacial and deglacial intervals from two shallow cores (**Table S1**). Core RR0503 JPC 64 (37° 25.34'S 177° 00.41'E and 651 m depth) is from the Bay of Plenty, northern New Zealand in the subtropical South Pacific and core MD97-2120 (43° 32.06'S 174° 55.85'E and 1210 m depth) is from sub-Antarctic waters on the South Chatham Rise of New Zealand. Bulk sediment samples were disaggregated from both cores with deionized water, wet sieved through a 63 μm sieve, and dried in an oven at 45°C. Prior to washing, the wet sediment from core RR0503-64 was oven-dried at 45°C to determine the sample dry weight. Single species of planktonic foraminifera were picked for both radiocarbon and stable isotopes from the >150 μm fraction. In MD-97-2120 *Globigerina bulloides*, and *Neogloboquadrina pachyderma* (s) were picked. In RR0503-64 *G. bulloides* and *Globorotalia inflata* were selected. For both cores, fossil *G. bulloides* shells were picked from the 150-250 μm and 250-350 μm sieve fractions. We then measured the length of each specimen with a reticulated ocular microscope and separated the specimens into a size bin of 267-333 μm^1 . For core MD97-2120, *N. pachyderma* (s) were picked from the 150-250 μm size fraction; for core RR0503-64, *G. inflata* shells were picked from the 250-350 μm and >350 μm size fraction and then pooled for analysis. The benthic species *Uvigerina perigrina* was picked for stable isotopes and mixed benthics were selected for radiocarbon analyses in both cores. After picking, the tests were briefly sonicated in methanol. Stable oxygen and carbon isotopes were run on individual species in the UC Davis Department of Geology stable isotope laboratory. Prior to analysis the samples were roasted *in vacuo* for 30 minutes at 375°C and then analyzed using an Isocarb common acid bath autocarbonate device attached to a Fisons Optima isotope ratio mass spectrometer. Values are reported in ‰ notation relative to the PDB (Vienna Pee Dee Belemnite) standard. Analytical precision was 0.05 ‰ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and 0.04 ‰ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ($\pm 1 \sigma$) based on repeated analyses of an in-house marble standard, UCD-SM92.

Clean foram samples for radiocarbon analyses were chemically leached, converted to CO₂ and graphitized prior to AMS-¹⁴C analysis at Lawrence Livermore Center for Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (CAMS). When samples were large enough, forams were physically cracked and sonicated in methanol prior to leaching. $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ corrections were derived from stable isotope analyses on the same samples. ¹⁴C calculations were based on the conventions of Stuiver and Polach².

SI #2 Age Models for the cores

MD97-2120

The original age model of core MD97-2120 was derived from ¹⁴C dating 0-22,000 years³ and correlating its temperature-sensitive planktonic foraminiferal trace element record with the deuterium record from the Antarctic Vostok ice core³ for older sediments. In this study we focus on the uppermost section of the record, from 10,000-22,000 ybp, and modified the originally published age model through this section by using *G. bulloides* $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between 13,000-19,000 ybp to produce a calendar –age model based on the correlation of planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ at 2 cm resolution with the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from the EPICA Dronning Maud Land (EDML) ice core⁴ (**Table S2 and Figure S1a**). This revised age model was necessary to provide a ¹⁴C -independent stratigraphy through this critical time period, so that the use of ¹⁴C as a tracer is not biased by using it as a stratigraphic tool across this short time frame. Radiocarbon dates used in this study for stratigraphy were converted to calendar ages using the planktonic ¹⁴C data and applying the Calib v. 5.0.1 and MARINE04 calibration program. This re-adjustment provides sedimentation rates that are consistent throughout the core and are ~20 to 24 cm/ky through the time interval of interest (**Table S2 and Figure S2a**). Changes in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ of MD97-2120 covary with changes in the EDML ice core. For example: the large decrease in the *G. bulloides* $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ corresponds to the initial increase in EDML $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ around 18 ka (**Figure S1a**). Importantly, the calendar ages based on the independent age scales are generally in excellent agreement with the previously published age model^{3,5}.

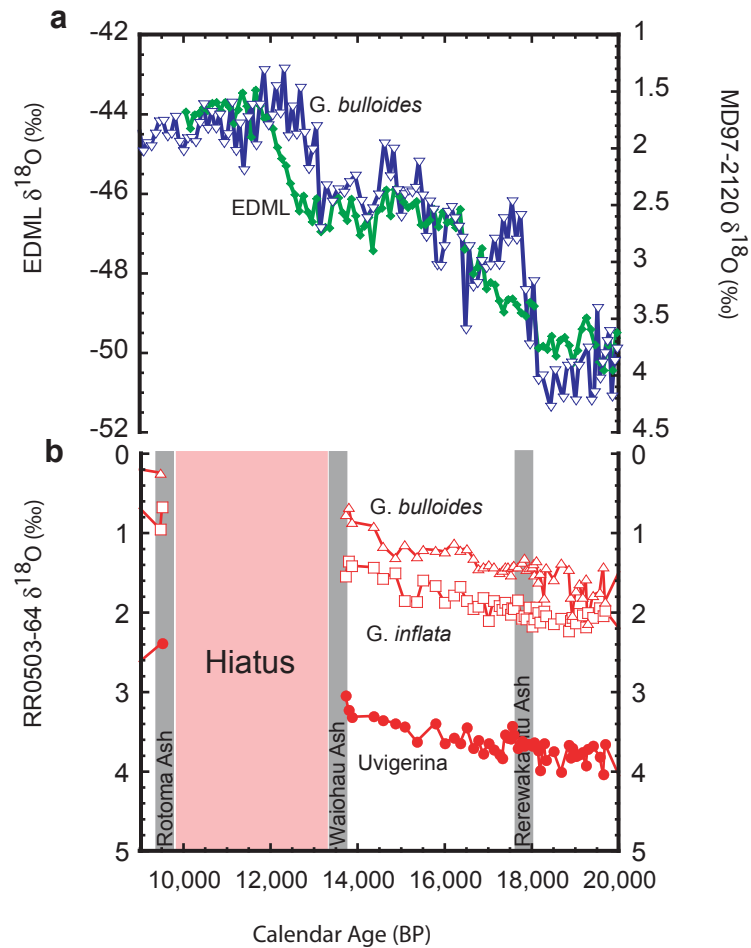


Figure S1.

(a) Antarctic ice core record of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from EDML (green) ⁴ and *G. bulloides* $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from South Chatham Rise core MD97-2120 ³ tuned to EDML $\delta^{18}\text{O}$. (b) $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from Bay of Plenty core RR0503-64. *G. bulloides* (triangles), *G. inflata* (squares), *Uvigerina sp.* (closed circles).

RR0503 JPC-64

The age model for core RR0503-JPC-64 (37° 25.34'S 177° 00.41'E and 651 m depth) in the Bay of Plenty was developed by combining calendar age model tie points from tephra chronology in the core⁶ with planktonic $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ stratigraphy. The tephra chronology is tied to established New Zealand chronologies based on ^{14}C dating of terrestrial material and statistically fit to calendar ages⁷⁻⁸ (**Figure S1b**). The presence of the Whakatane (5.5 ± 0.06 cal kyr BP) tephra at 37 cm overlying the Rotoma (9.5 ± 0.03 cal kyr BP) implies continuous sedimentation at a rate of ~13 cm/ka above this ash. The presence of the Rotoma and Waiohau (13.6 ± 0.03 cal kyr BP)⁷ tephtras directly overlying each other at 88-90 and 91-93 cm indicate a hiatus of ~4,100 years (**Figure S2b**). The timing of this hiatus is coincident with a still-stand in sea level rise between the two well known deglacial meltwater pulses. In New Zealand this is a period with widespread climate changes detected in North Island terrestrial sedimentation patterns and pollen assemblages that are interpreted to represent more “unsettled weather”. These conditions immediately follow (and stratigraphically would lie directly above) the Waiohau tephra⁹. Such conditions may have contributed to changed sedimentation conditions offshore causing the hiatus. ^{14}C samples taken through the Rotoma ash with ages substantially older than the established age of that tephra, confirm the presence of a hiatus prior to the placement of the ash (**Table S1**).

The presence of the Rerewakaaitu ash (17.6 ± 0.4 cal kyr BP)⁷ at 151-154 cm (58 cm below the Waiohau) suggests continuous sedimentation at a rate ranging from 14 to 26 cm/kyr through the time period of interest (**Table S3**). The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record of the three species (planktonics *G. bulloides*, *G. inflata* and benthic *Uvigerina*, *sp.*) between the Waiohau and the Rerewakaaitu ash indicate continuous sedimentation throughout the period of interest in this core (**Figure S1b**) and provide a stratigraphic tie point through the crucial time period in the core. In RR0503 JPC64, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ stratigraphy is at 2 cm resolution from 0-210 cm (**Table S3**). The deglacial interval of depleted radiocarbon activity that we report appears as age plateaus and planktonic-benthic reversals in the conventional age: depth relationship (**Table S1**). Mass inputs such as slumps could theoretically produce such a phenomenon, however, the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the core show no

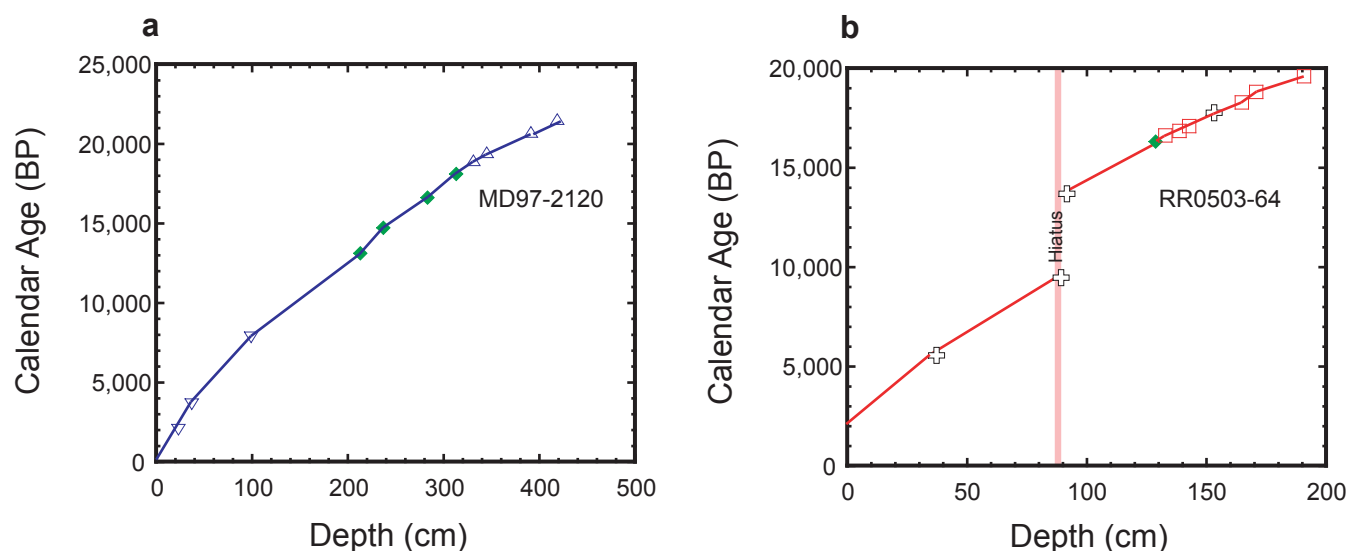


Figure S2 Age model for cores in this study

(a) Age model for core MD97-2120. Calendar age tie points for *G. bulloides* ^{14}C ages (blue triangles; this study) $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ from *G. bulloides* (upside down triangles³), *G. inflata* (squares, this study) $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ adjusted to $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from EDML (green diamonds)

(b) Age model for core RR0503-JPC64. Calendar age tie points for *G. inflata* (squares), tephra (open crosses) and $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ adjusted to $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ from EDML (green diamonds) plotted against depth in core. The presence of the Rotoma and Waihou⁷ tephras directly overlying each other at 89-90 and 90.5-91.5 cm indicate a hiatus of ~4,100 years (see supplementary information text). The presence of the Rerewakaaitu ash 7 at 151-154 cm (62 cm below the Waiohau) suggests continuous sedimentation through the time period of interest. We fit a linear age vs. depth regression for the data above and below the hiatus and corrected all *G. inflata* radiocarbon dates using a marine reservoir age (ΔR) of -50 ± 40 years, based on local modern reservoir ages¹¹

anomalous shifts (**Figure S1b**) and the sedimentation rate through this period is similar to that before (14 cm/kyr) and after (~13 cm/kyr) the hiatus (**Table S3**).

SI#3 Stratigraphic Age Model Constraints on Radiocarbon Results

The effect of stratigraphy on the paleo $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ is a valid concern especially when correlating $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ between different sources such as ice cores and microfossils from marine sediment. The choice of tie points when developing correlations becomes critical in producing a robust age model. To examine the magnitude of this effect, we developed an alternate stratigraphy for each core based on alternate, but equally viable choices of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ pattern matches to the EDML⁴ (**Table S4**) and plotted both stratigraphies against atmospheric paleo $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (**Figure S3**).

Changes to the independent age model in these cores would affect the designated age of a sample relative to the other independent data streams such as atmospheric ^{14}C and CO_2 content.

However, the chosen age model does not directly affect marine paleo- $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ calculations. The determination of the paleo- $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ for each time point in the past was calculated using internally consistent values from within the ^{14}C data. The absolute $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ is calculated according to convention² from which $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ was converted to age in radiocarbon years according to convention (using the Libby half life of ^{14}C)². Conversion to the corresponding calendar age was via the Calib v. 5.0.1 program and MARINE04¹⁰ (**Table S1**). This yields a “calibrated” calendar age. The resulting calendar age and the fraction modern are used to obtain the paleo $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$. The independently obtained age model (see above) is used as the down core age of the resulting paleo $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ values.

Changes in age determinations within the cores is governed by correlation picks. Our analysis demonstrates that the application of subtly different stratigraphies for paleo- $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ interpretations has little effect on RR0505 JPC 64 (**Figure S3 c&d**). There is a slightly greater impact of subtly different stratigraphies on core MD97-2120. The choice of correlation picks between the EDML and MD97-2120 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ affected age determinations for an individual sample depth by as few as 1 year and as many as 530 years (average 219 years). Offsets primarily affect the planktonic data younger than 15,000 years (**Figure S3a&b**). Importantly, the choice of stratigraphy does not change the ages of individual points enough to affect interpretations in this study.

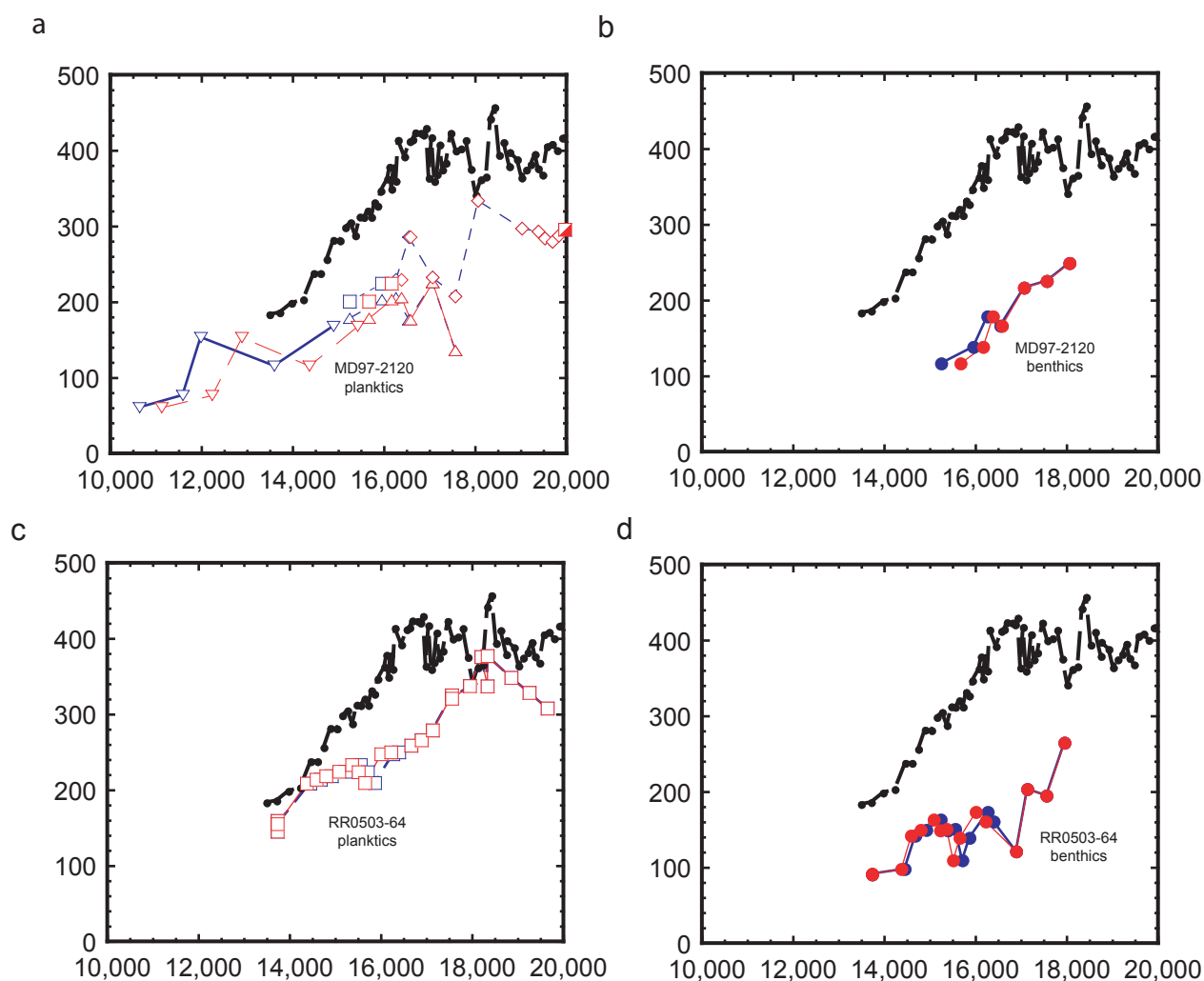


Figure S3 Effect of alternate age models on $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ calculations for the cores in this study (a) Core MD97-2120 planktonic data with stratigraphy used in this paper in red symbols (triangles; this study), *G. bulloides* (upside down triangles³), *G. inflata* (squares, this study) and the alternative stratigraphy in blue symbols. (b) Core MD97-2120 benthic data with stratigraphy used in this paper in red circles and the alternative stratigraphy, blue circles. (c) Core RR0503-JPC64 planktonic data with stratigraphy used in this paper in red squares and the alternative stratigraphy in blue squares. (d) Core RR0503-JPC64 benthic data with stratigraphy used in this paper in red circles and the alternative stratigraphy, blue circles.

SI#4 Constraints on benthic and planktonic data points at the Southern Ocean site.

$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ in our Southern Ocean site displays fundamentally similar trends to the subtropical site. However, the planktonic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ shows oscillations and variation between species from 17.8 to 16.5 ka that are not present in our other marine records (**Figure S3a and Figure 2b**). The variations between the two planktonic species on which our $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ were based suggest that conditions controlling the radiocarbon content in surface waters were highly variable through this period. *G. bulloides* and *N. pachyderma* in this region have been shown to be offset both in their season of growth and depth habitat¹¹. In several samples the planktonic *G. bulloides* and benthic $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ are essentially the same. This is indicative of deep mixing, equilibrium between surface and shallow subsurface waters, and/or rapid lateral transport of AAIW from the zone of entrainment to the Chatham Rise. For one sample at 17.5 ka, the planktonic species *G. bulloides* has more a depleted $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ than the benthics. There are several possible explanations for this that may have worked singly or in concert:

First, seasonal conditions such as sea ice extent, deep mixing and degassing may have been variable, coinciding with the initial increase in atmospheric pCO_2 ¹² and initial warming in Antarctica, and pre-dating the onset of sustained upwelling¹³ in the Southern Ocean. It has been shown that the mixed layer can deepen in some sectors and shoal in other regions of the Southern Ocean in response to changes in wind intensification which can make air sea exchange zonally heterogeneous¹⁴. These zonal differences can vary on short (interannual) timescales. These dynamics would have affected local atmosphere–ocean $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ exchange with the result that subsurface-to-surface $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ balances may have been affected. This in turn may have caused the waters (shallower than ~300 m) in which *G. bulloides* grew to have had lower $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ content than waters that were entrained further south (and to the west) into AAIW at that time. This could occur if waters that upwelled further south in the winter released their $\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ depleted CO_2 more effectively when they were entrained than the waters at the surface to the Chatham Rise in which our planktonics grew. Although we make an implicit assumption that Pacific glacial and deglacial circulation was analogous to today we cannot preclude that circulation may have been different in the past.

Second, planktonic foraminifera in this area have a narrow season of growth (up to 90% of the flux can occur in 2 weeks)¹⁵ whereas benthic foraminifera can live for over a year. The two may

be integrating different timescales into their tests. If entrainment and surface mixing conditions were variable or patchy¹⁴ across seasons, reversals could be caused by differential sampling of existing conditions by the different taxa.

Finally, differential bioturbation of the benthic and planktonic populations cannot be discounted. Although the high sedimentation rate in this core (around 20 cm/ka for this portion) should minimize biasing¹⁶, changes in abundance will have an effect on radiocarbon ages¹⁷. Below this particular sample, the abundances of *G. bulloides* were too low to obtain sufficient numbers to obtain a single species analysis.

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Table S1. Compiled radiocarbon data RR0503-64 & MD97-2120 data

CAMS #	Core	Species	Depth (cm)	Fraction Modern	±	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$ (per mil)	±	^{14}C age (yr BP)	±	Calibrated Calendar Age (yr BP)
126162	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	76-78	0.3007	0.0010	-699	1	9650	30	10553
123744	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	87-89	0.2424	0.0013	-758	1	11385	45	12946
123751	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	87-89	0.2245	0.0011	-776	1	12000	45	13149
124647	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	88-90	0.2275	0.0008	-772	1	11895	30	13368
124653	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	88-90	0.2422	0.0016	-758	2	11390	60	12718
124646	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	90-91	0.2057	0.0007	-794	1	12700	30	14269
124652	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	90-91	0.1976	0.0007	-802	1	13030	35	14131
123745	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	90-92	0.2053	0.0011	-795	1	12720	45	14316
123754	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	90-92	0.2122	0.0013	-788	1	12450	50	13941
123752	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	90-92	0.2003	0.0012	-800	1	12915	50	14019
141045	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	100-101	0.1960	0.0013	-804	1	13090	60	15041
141050	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	100-101	0.1970	0.0017	-803	2	13050	70	14208
141046	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	103-104	0.1899	0.0018	-810	2	13350	80	15341
141051	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	103-104	0.1884	0.0022	-812	2	13410	100	14899
141047	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	106-107	0.1867	0.0014	-813	1	13480	60	15510
141048	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	106-107	0.1851	0.0022	-815	2	13550	100	15104
140239	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	110-111	0.1843	0.0014	-816	1	13580	60	15658
140240	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	110-111	0.1770	0.0051	-823	5	13910	240	15567
141049	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	112-113	0.1850	0.0017	-815	2	13550	80	15100
140241	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	114-115	0.1815	0.0009	-818	1	13710	45	15844
140242	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	114-115	0.1825	0.0013	-818	1	13660	60	15229
140243	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	116-117	0.1845	0.0015	-815	1	13570	70	15643
140244	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	116-117	0.1951	0.0021	-805	2	13130	90	14375
142199	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	118-119	0.1926	0.0011	-807	1	13235	50	15196
142200	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	118-119	0.1874	0.0036	-813	4	13450	160	14926
124644	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	123-124	0.1747	0.0008	-825	1	14015	40	16253
124650	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	123-124	0.1727	0.0015	-827	1	14110	70	15842
124645	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	126-127	0.1729	0.0007	-827	1	14095	35	16355
124651	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	126-127	0.1769	0.0018	-823	2	13910	90	15554
126160	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	132-133	0.1680	0.0007	-832	1	14325	40	16651
127313	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	138-139	0.1644	0.0009	-836	1	14505	50	16880
127312	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	138-139	0.1579	0.0029	-842	3	14830	150	16209
126161	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	142-143	0.1613	0.0007	-839	1	14660	40	17122
127311	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	142-143	0.1571	0.0019	-843	2	14870	100	16835
123746	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	148-150	0.1541	0.0010	-846	1	15020	60	17791
123755	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	148-150	0.1554	0.0010	-845	1	14960	50	17698
123753	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	148-150	0.1619	0.0011	-838	1	14630	60	16529
124639	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	155-157	0.1499	0.0007	-850	1	15245	40	18095
124649	RR0503-64	mixed benthics	155-157	0.1452	0.0007	-855	1	15500	40	17895
124640	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	161-162	0.1487	0.0007	-851	1	15310	40	18396
123747	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	164-165	0.1471	0.0010	-853	1	15400	60	18249
123756	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	164-165	0.1489	0.0010	-851	1	15300	60	18395
124641	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	170-171	0.1380	0.0007	-862	1	15910	40	18846
124642	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	180-181	0.1334	0.0007	-867	1	16180	40	19002
124643	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	190-191	0.1217	0.0006	-878	1	16920	45	19638
124648	RR0503-64	<i>G. inflata</i>	200-201	0.1223	0.0006	-878	1	16875	45	19729
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	22.5	0.7250		-65		2585		2058
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	36.5	0.6157		-37		3895		3664
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	98.5	0.3903		27		7560		7869
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	168.5	0.2690		43		10550		11346
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	192.5	0.2656		176		10650		11576
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	202.5	0.2468		161		11240		12750
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	230.5	0.2066		110		12665		13945
Pahnke et al. (2003)	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	252.5	0.1945		180		13155		14824
120237	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	258-259	0.1871	0.0011	-813	1	13465	50	15221
141053	MD97-2120	<i>G. inflata</i>	258-259	0.1769	0.0008	-823	1	13915	40	15837
140228	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	258-259	0.1767	0.0010	-823	1	13925	45	15245
120238	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	270-271	0.1759	0.0010	-824	1	13960	50	15898

141052	MD97-2120	<i>G. inflata</i>	270-271	0.1648	0.0008	-835	1	14480	40	16580
140229	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	270-271	0.1662	0.0016	-834	2	14410	80	15911
120240	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	275-276	0.1746	0.0010	-825	1	14020	50	15980
124654	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	275-276	0.1488	0.0007	-851	1	15305	45	17114
120239	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	275-276	0.1620	0.0020	-838	2	14620	100	16760
120242	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	280-281	0.1905	0.0011	-810	1	13320	45	15059
124655	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	280-281	0.1524	0.0007	-848	1	15115	40	16830
120241	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	280-281	0.1513	0.0014	-849	1	15170	80	17695
120244	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	290-291	0.1640	0.0010	-836	1	14520	50	16632
124656	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	290-291	0.1433	0.0007	-857	1	15605	45	17687
120243	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	290-291	0.1602	0.0017	-840	2	14710	90	16873
120246	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	300-301	0.1988	0.0013	-801	1	12980	60	14417
124690	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	300-301	0.1412	0.0008	-859	1	15720	50	17865
120245	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	300-301	0.1740	0.0016	-826	2	14050	80	16020
124691	MD97-2120	mixed benthics	310-311	0.1286	0.0008	-871	1	16475	50	18796
120247	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	310-311	0.1397	0.0014	-860	1	15810	90	18657
120248	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	330-331	0.1302	0.0016	-870	2	16380	110	19011
120249	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	340-341	0.1252	0.0019	-875	2	16690	130	19306
120250	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	344-345	0.1213	0.0017	-879	2	16950	120	19513
120251	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	350-351	0.1205	0.0022	-880	2	17000	150	19540
120252	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	355-256	0.1232	0.0014	-877	1	16820	100	19403
118039	MD97-2120	<i>G.b & N.p</i>	360-361	0.1205	0.0028	-879	3	17000	190	19636
118040	MD97-2120	<i>G.b & N.p</i>	370-371	0.1106	0.0033	-889	3	17690	240	20234
118041	MD97-2120	<i>G.b & N.p</i>	380-381	0.1149	0.0028	-885	3	17380	200	19635
118043	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	390-391	0.1027	0.0044	-897	4	18280	350	20930
118042	MD97-2120	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	390-391	0.1057	0.0027	-894	3	18050	210	20642
118044	MD97-2120	<i>G. bulloides</i>	417.5-418.5	0.0974	0.0039	-903	4	18710	330	21591

Table S2 Age model for MD97-2120

Depth (cm)	Age (kyr)	Sedimentation rate	Species	Age Control points	Reference
22.5	2058	10.93	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003*
36.5	3664	8.72	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003*
98.5	7869	14.74	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003*
212.5	13150	21.59	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
236.5	14750	15.00	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
282.5	16650	24.21	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
312.5	18150	20.00	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
330.5	19011	20.91	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
344.5	19513	27.89	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
390.5	20786	36.14	<i>N. pachy</i> + <i>G. bull</i> [†]	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
418	21591	34.16	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*

* converted to calendar ages using Calib 5.0.1; $\Delta R = -160 \pm 40$, based on local modern reservoir ages¹⁸

[†] ^{14}C ages for both *N. pachyderma* and *G. bulloides* averaged for this stratigraphic pick.

Table S3 Age model for RR0503-JPC64

Depth (cm)	Age (kyr)	Sedimentation rate	Species	Age Control points	Reference
37	5590	6.62		Whatane tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
90	9505	13.28		Rotoma tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
90.5	13720	0.00		Waiohau tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
128.5	16350	14.07	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
132.5	16651	13.29	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
138.5	16880	26.20	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
142.5	17122	16.53	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
153	17625	15.46		Rerewhakaaitu tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
164.5	18322	22.07	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
170.5	18846	11.45	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*
190.5	19638	25.25	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study*

* converted to calendar ages using Calib 5.0.1; $\Delta R = -50 \pm 50$, based on local modern reservoir ages¹⁸

Table S4 alternate age models for RR0503-JPC64 and MD-2120

Core	Depth (cm)	Age (kyr)	Sedimentation rate	Species	Age Control points	Reference
JPC64	37	5590	6.62		Whatane tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
JPC64	90	9505	13.28		Rotoma tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
JPC64	90.5	13720	0.00		Waiohau tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
JPC64	123.5	16253	12.63	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	132.5	16651	22.61	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	138.5	16880	26.20	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	142.5	17122	16.53	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	153	17801	15.46		Rerewhakaaitu tephra	Lowe et al., 2008
JPC64	164.5	18322	22.07	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	170.5	18846	11.45	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
JPC64	190.5	19638	25.25	<i>G. inflata</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
2120	22.5	2058	10.93	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003
2120	36.5	3664	8.72	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003
2120	98.5	7869	14.74	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	Pahnke et al. 2003
2120	204.5	12050	25.35	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
2120	282.5	16650	16.96	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
2120	312.5	18150	20.00	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	EPICA 2006
2120	330.5	19011	20.91	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
2120	344.5	19513	27.89	<i>N. pachyderma</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
2120	390.5	20786	36.14	<i>N. pachy+ G. bull</i> [†]	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study
2120	418	21591	34.16	<i>G. bulloides</i>	$\Delta^{14}\text{C}$	this study

* converted to calendar ages using Calib 5.0.1; using local modern reservoir ages¹⁸

[†] ^{14}C ages for both *N. pachyderma* and *G. bulloides* averaged for this stratigraphic pick